

LSL (LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST) LICENSE EXAMINATION INFORMATION AND STUDY REFERENCES

The examination starts at 9:00 a.m. and typically requires approximately 3-4 hours to complete. All exams must be completed and turned in by 3:00 p.m. Applicant will be notified of his/her results within 3 weeks. Applicant must make a passing grade of 70% on each part before a license will be issued.

The site of the examination will be accessible to the disabled. For applicant with a disability that will require special accommodations, please notify Bureau of Plant Industry office 10 days in advance.

The Bureau of Plant Industry is providing this list of suggested topics to aid in studying for the examination. Websites (universities, extension services, and industry specific sites) may provide more detailed information.

Applicant should have knowledge of the subject matter and be familiar with the topics in this outline before taking the license exam. This is not a guarantee that all of the topics listed, or only the topics listed will be included on the license examination.

Applicant should be thoroughly familiar with Bureau of Plant Industry Regulations Governing Landscape Horticulturist. A copy of the Regulations can be found at The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Bureau of Plant Industry website, <https://www.mdac.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/11-Regulation-of-Professional-Services.pdf>. Regulations governing Landscape Horticulturist are found in Subchapter 04, pages 31-37.

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Definitions
- Licensing requirements
- Examination standards
- Licensing renewal requirements
- Violations
- Record keeping requirements
- Bond requirements
- Licensed operators
- Employees
- Equipment
- Exemptions

The Landscape Horticulturist examination is a two-part exam. **Landscape Horticulturist Exam Part I** is designed to test knowledge of plant materials used in the landscape. This exam is graded by a Mississippi State University Plant and Soil Sciences Department Professor. There are 49 questions and each question may require up to 8 plants in the answer. There is no plant material word bank available on the exam.

Only one plant from a specific genus can be used per question. You may use plant varieties on the exam. A specific plant can only be used one time. You may use the complete common or scientific name.

Example: List three large (over 8 feet) evergreen shrubs

Correct answer: *Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii' or Burford Holly

Photinia x fraseri or Red tip Photinia

Osmanthus fragrans or Fragrant Tea Olive

Incorrect answer: *Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii' or Burford Holly

Ilex vomitoria or Yaupon Holly

Photinia x fraseri or Red tip Photinia

Below are the subject areas for this exam:

1. Evergreen ground covers for use in full sun
2. Plants that produce showy red, yellow, or orange fruit in the fall or winter
3. Annuals for summer flowering
4. Shrubs for use in heavy shade under deciduous trees for year-round screen, 8 feet minimum height
5. Plants for dry sites in the landscape
6. Evergreen shrubs suitable to espalier on a brick wall
7. Broadleaf evergreen trees (40-60 feet tall) for specimen planting in a lawn
8. Turfgrasses for use in partial or full shade
9. Turfgrasses for use in full sun
10. Landscape trees that have a weeping form of growth
11. Spring flowering bulbs for display in full sun
12. Evergreen vines for use in partial shade
13. Trees suitable for use in wet sites
14. Plants not to exceed 4 feet in height for year-round affect
15. Evergreen shrubs having showy spring (Feb – May) flowers
16. Shrubs having variegated foliage
17. Ornamental grasses for full sun
18. Evergreen shrubs that grow no more than 10 feet
19. Annuals for blue spring flowers
20. Large seasonal shade trees (over 50 feet tall)
21. Plants that can be weedy (invasive) in the landscape
22. Showy summer (May – Sept) blooming evergreen shrubs
23. Deciduous plants having showy spring (Feb – May) flowers
24. Plants that will attract hummingbirds
25. Annuals for fall color
26. Herbaceous perennials for shade
27. Aromatic herbs
28. Host plants used in butterfly gardening
29. Plants that are prone to serious insect problems
30. Trees having multiple trunks
31. Evergreen ground covers for use in shade
32. Monocotyledon evergreen ground covers for use in shade, excluding turfgrass
33. Showy summer (May – Oct) blooming trees
34. Herbaceous perennials for planting in full sun
35. Evergreen woody ornamentals for alkaline soils (pH > 7.0)
36. Trees that are fast growing but are weak wooded
37. Evergreen broadleaved woody ornamentals for acidic soil (pH < 5.0)
38. Plants that are planted for their blue, violet, or lavender flowers
39. Plants that are planted for their red flowers
40. Fine textured (small or slender leaved) evergreen woody ornamentals for use in the landscape
41. Coarse-textured (large-leaved) broadleaved evergreen woody ornamentals for use in the landscape
42. Trees with striking fall color
43. Vines planted for their excellent flowers

44. Tuberous summer annuals for use in the landscape
45. Winter flowering herbaceous perennials for use in the landscape
46. Plants that are planted for their white flowers
47. Cold hardy ferns (zone 6) for use in Mississippi landscapes
48. Cold hardy palms (zone 8) for use in Mississippi landscapes
49. Plants that are planted to attract birds or other wildlife

Landscape Horticulturist Exam Part II assesses knowledge of horticultural practices and Mississippi's Landscape Horticulturist regulations. There are 80 questions formatted as multiple choice and true/false. Below are topics that may be covered:

1. Regulations governing Landscape Horticulturist
2. Turfgrasses:
 - a. Bahiagrass
 - b. St. Augustine
 - c. Centipede
 - d. Zoysia
 - e. Creeping red fescue
 - f. Kentucky bluegrass
 - g. Tall fescue
 - h. Carpetgrass
3. Examples of plants with rhizomes
4. Examples of plants with tubers
5. Examples of plants with flowering bulbs
6. Examples of plants with tuberous roots
7. Examples of plants that prefer acidic type soils
8. Invasive weeds:
 - a. Japanese honeysuckle
 - b. Kudzu
 - c. Johnsongrass
 - d. Tropical soda apple
 - e. Chinese privet
 - f. Pigweed
9. Use and prep of ball and burlap plants vs. bare-root plants
10. Fertilizer materials that have a rapid reaction and increase soil pH
11. Factor(s) that can influence soil pH, how to interpret soil pH values
12. Pros and cons of using inorganic vs. organic mulches
13. Factor(s) that should be considered when choosing a landscape plant
14. Designs of an Espalier shrub or tree
15. Primary macro nutrients
16. Secondary macro nutrients
17. Ways to conserve energy during the winter and summer months
18. USDA Plant Hardiness Zones
19. Fertilizer materials that have a rapid reaction and decrease soil pH