INFORMATION ABOUT THE LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST LICENSE EXAMINATION

Exam Content

The Landscape Horticulturist examination is a two-part exam.

Part I assesses a person's knowledge of plant materials used in the landscape. There are approximately 49 listing questions and 200 possible answers in this part. Only one plant from a specific genus can be used per question. A specific plant can only be used one time in Part I.

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

Correct: *Ilex cornuta* 'Bufordi' or Burford Holly
*Photinia x fraseri*or Red Tip Photinia
Osmanthus fragrans or Fragrant Tea Olive

Incorrect: *Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordi' or Burford Holly
Ilex vomitoria or Yaupon Holly
Photinia x fraseri or Red Tip Photinia

Part II assesses a person's knowledge of horticultural practices and Mississippi's Landscape Horticulturist regulations. There are approximately 80 multiple choice and true-false questions in Part II. The provided list of reference materials will aid in preparation for the exam.

There is no longer a set of house plans, requiring you to show correct tree and general landscape plant material placement. This information is now covered by questions found in the multiple choice and true-false exam.

Other Exam Information

The examination starts at 9:00 a.m. and all exams must be completed and turned in by 3:00 p.m. The exam will be graded and your test results will be mailed to you within three weeks. The exam typically requires approximately 3-4 hours to complete.

The site of the examination will be accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that will require special accommodations, please notify our office 10 days in advance of the examination.

YOU MUST MAKE A PASSING GRADE OF 70% ON EACH PART BEFORE A LICENSE WILL BE ISSUED.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF STUDY MATERIAL AVAILABLE FROM THE MISSISSIPPI COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR THE LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST LICENSE EXAMINATION. THE EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE.

To secure the required study material listed below, go online to: http://extension.msstate.edu/ and click on publications. If you need assistance call your local county extension office or the MSU Plant and Soil Science Department at (662) 325-2701. Additionally, we have compiled these references in one document and they can be sent via email.

IS0204	Pruning Landscape Plants
IS0372	Soil pH & Fertilizers
IS0411	Fertilizing Trees and Shrubs
IS0656	Azaleas for the Landscape
IS0965	Transplanting Trees & Shrubs in the Landscape
IS1141	Landscaping to Conserve Energy
IS1523	Caladiums for the Landscape
IS1562	Easy-To-Grow Herbs For The Landscape
IS1564	Amending the Planting Site for Landscape Plants
M1194	Mississippi's Ten Worst Invasive Weeds
P0456	Espalier Shrubs and Trees
P0666	Selecting Landscape Plants
P1322	Establish and Manage Your Home Lawn
P1736	Planting and Care of Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes and Roots
P1826	Annual & Perennial Flowers for Mississippi Gardens
P2007	Crapemyrtle – Flower of the South
P2301	Mulches for the Landscape
P2402	Natural Resource Enterprises Wildlife and Recreation – MS Recreational Gardens Establishing a Backyard Wildlife Habitat
P2727	Foundation Plantings
P2835	Roses in Mississippi – The Allure, Lore, and History of Roses

Additional study reference books, which would be helpful, are as follows:

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. 5th ed. Michael A. Dirr
Landscape Plants of the Southeast. 5th ed. R. Gordon Halfacre & Anne R. Shawcroft
Pictorial Guide to Perennials. 3rd ed. M. Jane Coleman Helmer & Karla S. Decker Hodge, (Paperback)
Identification, Selection and Use of Southern Plants: For Landscape Design. 4th ed. Neil Odenwald & James R. Turner

These additional books are available through the Mississippi State University Bookstore, (662) 325-2247, or at other major bookstores.

Revised October 23, 2020

STUDY GUIDELINES FOR LICENSE EXAMS (LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST) LSL

CATEGORY LSL: LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST EXAMINATION

SOME INFORMATION YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF BEFORE TAKING LICENSE EXAMINATION FOR LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST.

This outline may be used as a study guide for the license (Category LSL) Landscape Horticulturist. The Mississippi Bureau of Plant Industry is providing a list of suggested references and this outline as aids in studying for the license examination. The use of the World Wide Web can provide a wealth of information and may be helpful in increasing your knowledge of the listed topics. Web sites from universities, extension, and sites devoted to specific landscape horticulturist topics may provide detailed information. A copy of the Regulations Governing Landscape Horticulturists 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. **Please note that you should be familiar with the topics in this outline, but there is no guarantee that all of the topics listed, or only the topics listed will be included on any Licensing examination.**

1. You should be thoroughly familiar with Bureau of Plant Industry Regulations Governing Landscape Horticulturists. 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

2. For Landscape Horticulturist Exam Part I, this part is designed to test your knowledge of plant material used in the landscape. Only one plant from a specific genus can be used per question. You may use plant varieties on the exam. A plant can only be used one time! You may use the complete common or scientific name. This exam is graded by a professor with Mississippi State University in the Plant and Soil Sciences Department. There are 49 questions with each question requiring up to 8 plants be listed and there is no plant material word bank to use. Listed below are the subject areas for this exam.

A. List evergreen ground covers for use in full sun.
B. List plants that produce showy red, yellow, or orange fruit in the fall or winter.
C. List annuals for summer flowering.
D. List shrubs for use in heavy shade under deciduous trees for year-round screen, 8 feet minimum height.
E. List plants for dry sites in the landscape.
F. List evergreen shrubs suitable to espalier on a brick wall.
G. List broadleaf evergreen trees (40-60 feet tall) for specimen planting in a lawn.
H. List turfgrasses for use in partial or full shade.
I. List turfgrasses for use in full sun.
J. List landscape trees that have a weeping form of growth.
K. List spring flowering bulbs for display in full sun.
L. List evergreen vines for use in partial shade.
M. List trees suitable for use in wet sites.
N. List plants not to exceed 4 feet in height for year-round affect.
O. List evergreen shrubs having showy spring (Feb – May) flowers.
P. List shrubs having variegated foliage.
Q. List ornamental grasses for full sun.
R. List evergreen shrubs that grow no more than 10 feet.
S. List annuals for blue spring flowers.
T. List large seasonal shade trees (over 50 feet tall).
U. List plants that can be weedy (invasive) in the landscape.
V. List showy summer (May – September) blooming evergreen shrubs.
W. List deciduous plants having showy spring (Feb – May) flowers.
X. List plants that will attract hummingbirds.
Y. List annuals for fall color.
Z. List herbaceous perennials for shade.
AA. List aromatic herbs.
BB. List host plants used in butterfly gardening.
CC. List plants that are prone to serious insect problems.
DD. List trees having multiple trunks.
EE. List evergreen ground covers for use in shade.
FF. List monocotyledon evergreen ground covers for use in shade, excluding turfgrass.
GG. List showy summer (May – October) blooming trees.
HH. List herbaceous perennials for planting in full sun.
II. List evergreen woody ornamentals for alkaline soils (pH > 7.0).
JJ. List trees that are fast growing but are weak wooded.
KK. List evergreen broadleaved woody ornamentals for acidic soil (pH < 5.0).
LL. List plants that are planted for their blue, violet, or lavender flowers.
MM. List plants that are planted for their red flowers.
NN. List fine textured (small or slender leaved) evergreen woody ornamentals for use in the landscape.
OO. List coarse textured (large-leaved) broadleaved evergreen woody ornamentals for use in the landscape.
PP. List trees with striking fall color.
QQ. List vines planted for their excellent flowers.
RR. List tuberous summer annuals for use in the landscape.
SS. List winter flowering herbaceous perennials for use in the landscape.
TT. List plants that are planted for their white flowers.
UU. List cold hardy ferns (zone 6) for use in Mississippi landscapes.
VV. List cold hardy palms (zone 8) for use in Mississippi landscapes.
WW. List plants that are planted to attract birds or other wildlife.

3. For Landscape Horticulturist Exam Part II, this part assesses a person's knowledge of horticultural practices and Mississippi's Landscape Horticulturist regulations. There are 80 questions formatted as multiple choice and true/false.

A. See Section 1 on this sheet for the regulation sections to be covered on the exam.
B. Be familiar with the following turfgrasses:
    a. Bahiagrass
    b. St. Augustine
    c. Centipede
    d. Zoysia
    e. Creeping red fescue
    f. Kentucky bluegrass
    g. Tall fescue
    h. Carpetgrass
C. Examples of plants with rhizomes.
D. Examples of plants with tubers.
E. Examples of plants with flowering bulbs.
F. Examples of plants with tuberous roots.
G. Examples of plants that prefer acidic type soils.
H. Be familiar with the following invasive weeds:
    a. Japanese honeysuckle
    b. Kudzu
    c. Johnsongrass
    d. Tropical soda apple
    e. Chinese privet
    f. Pigweed
I. Be familiar with the use and prep of ball and burlap plants vs. bare-root plants.

J. Which fertilizer materials have a rapid reaction and increase soil pH?
K. What factor(s) can influence soil pH? Know how to interpret soil pH values.
L. Pros and cons of using inorganic vs. organic mulches.
M. What factor(s) should be considered when choosing a landscape plant?
N. Be familiar with the designs of an Espalier shrub or tree.
O. What are the primary macro nutrients?
P. What are the secondary macro nutrients?
Q. Be familiar with ways to conserve energy during the winter and summer months.
R. Be familiar with the USDA Plant Hardiness Zones.
S. Which fertilizer materials have a rapid reaction and decrease soil pH?

Created September 15, 2021

SUBPART 3-BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
CHAPTER 11- Regulation of Professional Services
SUBCHAPTER 04 - Regulations Governing Landscape Horticulturist

Definitions

400 For the purpose of these regulations, the following words, names and terms shall be construed within the meaning and purpose of MISS. CODE ANN. Sections 69-19-1 through 69-19-11.

1. "Act" shall mean MISS. CODE ANN. Sections 69-19-1 through 69-19-11.
2. "Bonafide Employee" shall be a person who receives all or part of his salary, pay or commission from a license holder and whose salary, pay or commission is regularly reported under Federal Social Security and/or income tax laws.
3. "Bureau" shall mean the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce created under the provision of Section 69-25-3, Mississippi Code 1972.
4. "Executive Secretary and/or State Entomologist" shall mean the executive secretary and director and/or state entomologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, as set forth in Section 69-25-5, Mississippi Code 1972.
5. "Horticulturist and/or floriculturist" shall mean a person receiving fees for landscaping and setting of plants or for the sale of any plants for which the seller contracts to render future services.
6. "Licensed operator" shall mean the person who shall be responsible for fulfillment of all services to be rendered by a company licensed to perform professional services covered by these regulations.
7. "Person" shall mean any individual, partnership, corporation, association, company or organized group of persons whether incorporated or not.
8. "Professional Services" shall mean any of the professional services performed as designated by the category listed under Subsection 403.02 of this chapter.

Persons Required to Secure License

401 Horticulturists and/or floriculturists must secure a license from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, in accordance with Section 69-19-9, Mississippi Code 1972. No person shall advertise in any manner to render professional services or solicit business within the meaning of the Act without first obtaining a license.

License Application; Qualifications

402 Application for license shall be submitted on a regular form furnished by the Bureau in time to be approved ten (10) days prior to regularly scheduled examinations. No application for a license shall be accepted unless the applicant shall furnish written proof that he meets one (1) of the following requirements:

1. Must be graduated from an accredited college or university with at least 15 semester hours or the equivalent in the field for which he is requesting a license;
2. Must have not less than two (2) years college or university training with special training in the field for which he is requesting a license;

3. Must be at least a high school graduate and have had, in addition, at least one (1) year's experience with a licensed operator within the past two (2) years; or
4. If the applicant does not have a high school education or its equivalence, he must be able to furnish proof that he has had at least two (2) year's experience with a licensed operator within the past three (3) years.

Examinations; License Categories

403.01 Each person required to secure a license in accordance with the Act shall be examined as follows: When the firm is under the control of one person who is solely responsible for the work, this person alone shall be required to pass the examination. When more than one person is responsible, then each shall be required to pass the examination. A person may designate an employee who is regularly and actively in charge to take the examination, and the license will be issued naming the employee as supervisor. Both the employee and the person to whom the license is issued will be held responsible for the professional services rendered.

403.02 The applicant shall take an examination which shall be written and, in general, cover the subject of the professional services designated in the application. The examination may be waived if the applicant is already licensed to perform the same professional services in a state with standards equal to those of Mississippi and, provided further, that said state recognizes such examinations given by Mississippi or if he is licensed as a landscape architect in Mississippi in accordance with Sections 73-2-1 through 73-2-25, Mississippi Code 1972.

403.03 Examination dates: Examinations shall be given once each quarter at Mississippi State, Mississippi. The dates for written examinations shall be the second Tuesday in each quarter of the calendar year. Applicants not passing the examination may take it on the next regularly scheduled examination date.

403.04 Category in which the examination is given and for which a license will be issued:
Horticultural and floricultural work - "Landscape Horticulturist" - This category includes persons engaged in advertising landscaping services and setting plants for which the seller contracts or agrees to render future services.

Plant Act Compliance

404 No license will be issued to a person to practice the professional services defined in Section 69-19-5 of the Act unless the provisions of Sections 69-25-1 through 69-25-47, Mississippi Code 1972, have been compiled with relative to horticultural and/or floricultural plants and plant products being moved and sold under proper certificate tags issued by the Bureau.

Issuance of License

405.01 If the qualifications and other requirements of the applicant are satisfactory, the Bureau shall then require that the applicant furnish a bond in the proper amount as set forth in Section 407 of this chapter in conformity to Section 69-19-9, Mississippi Code 1972. The Bureau of Plant Industry, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, shall then issue a license which shall expire three (3) years from date of issuance unless suspended or revoked for cause.

405.02 A license is not transferable. When there is a change in the status of a license holder due to uncontrollable circumstances, a reasonable period of time shall be allowed for a qualified person to meet the requirements of Section 401 of this chapter.

405.03 A license shall expire three (3) years from date of issuance; renewal shall be on a form provided by the Bureau. Failure of the licensee to notify the Bureau of an address change will invalidate the license.

Denial, Suspension or Cancellation of a License

406.01 The commissioner with the approval of the advisory board may suspend for not more than thirty (30) days, and then after opportunity for a hearing may deny, suspend, cancel or modify the provisions of any license issued under the Act if he finds that the applicant or licensee has committed any of the following applicable to him, each of which is declared to be a violation of the Act and these regulations.

1. Made false or fraudulent claims through any media misrepresenting the effect of materials or methods to be used;
2. Operated in a faulty, careless or negligent manner or knowingly operated faulty or unsafe equipment in a manner as to cause damage to property or person;
3. Refused or, after notice, neglected to comply with the provisions of the Act, the regulations adopted hereunder or any lawful order of the commissioner;
4. Refused or neglected to keep and maintain records required by the Act or to make reports when required;
5. Made false or fraudulent records, invoices or reports;
6. Used fraud or misrepresentation in making application for a license or renewal;
7. Aided or abetted any person in evading the provisions of the Act;
8. Allowed one's license to be used by an unlicensed person;
9. Impersonated any state or federal official;
10. Misrepresented for the purpose of deceiving or defrauding;
11. Made a false statement with knowledge of its falsity for the purpose of inducing others to act thereon to their detriment;
12. Performed work in a category covered by the Act for which the licensee does not hold a license;
13. Repeated inspections by inspectors of the Bureau of Plant Industry reveal that the licensee is not performing services in a satisfactory manner;
14. Failed to register agents or solicitors;
15. Convicted in any of the courts of this state of a violation of the Act or these rules and regulations;
16. Failed to correct substandard work; or
17. Failed to renew the bond that is required in Section 407 of this chapter.

406.02 Any person who is denied a license or whose license is suspended, canceled or modified by the commissioner shall be afforded an opportunity for a fair hearing before the advisory board in connection therewith upon written application to the commissioner within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice from the commissioner of such denial, suspension, cancellation or modification. The commissioner shall set a time and place for such hearing and shall convene the board within ten (10) days following receipt of the written application for a hearing. The board shall receive evidence and affirm, modify or reverse the determination of the commissioner within five (5) days.

406.03 Any person aggrieved by the determination of the board may petition the Chancery Court of the county of residence of such person or the Chancery Court of Hinds County for a review with supersedeas. The chancellor shall grant a hearing on said petition and may grant such review with supersedeas; the applicant may be required to post bond with sufficient sureties in an amount to be determined by the chancellor. Upon the review of any such decision, additional evidence may be received and considered but any record made or evidence heard before the board or commissioner may be submitted. Any such petition by either party from the determination of the chancellor shall proceed as otherwise provided by law.

406.04 A license shall automatically become invalid should the licensed operator whose name appears on the license ceases to personally supervise and be in direct charge of operations. The license shall remain invalid until some other person having been examined in accordance with these rules and regulations becomes certified as the licensed operator in his stead, except as provided for in Section 404 of this chapter.

406.05 When a license has been canceled, the licensee shall be notified in writing. If the licensee is bonded, the bonding company shall be notified of the action taken, but revoking a license shall in no way invalidate the bond for the duration of the contract entered into by the licensee.

Bond

407.01 The bond furnished the Bureau by any licensee as provided for in Section 69-19-9, Mississippi Code 1972, shall be conditioned so as to insure to the purchaser of services from said licensee the fulfillment of any contract or guarantee made by the licensee. No surety bond shall be accepted except from companies approved by the Insurance Department of Mississippi.

407.02 Persons engaged in horticultural and floricultural work (landscaping and setting of plants) may be exempt from bond requirements unless such person contracts or agrees to render future service.

407.03 An annual bond of $1,000 shall be required of any person who shall guarantee his work or contract to render service, and said bond shall be conditioned as to be valid and effective for the maximum time for which the licensee shall issue guarantees or contracts to render future service.

Inspections; Records; Reporting; Contracts

408 Licensed operators shall keep complete and accurate records of all work performed including copies of contracts issued for at least two (2) years. Such records shall be available for examination by employees of the Bureau during reasonable business hours. Such records shall include location, kind of services performed, date performed, materials used if there be any, and such other information as may be necessary for a complete record.

Identification; Operators; Employees; Equipment

409.01 Operators - All operators or owners engaged in soliciting horticultural and floricultural work or dealing with the public must be provided with an identification card to be obtained from the Bureau of Plant Industry. The licensee shall submit an I.D. card application provided by the Bureau.

409.02 Employees –

1. All employees of licensed operators who solicit business or otherwise represent the operator in dealing with the public must be provided with an identification card to be obtained from the Bureau. An employee of an operator considered as a laborer shall have an I.D. card or be accompanied by an employee who holds a valid I.D. card.
2. The operator shall submit an I.D. card application provided by the Bureau requesting I.D. cards for his employees and himself.
3. When an operator or his employee resigns or is discharged, the licensee shall return the I.D. card to the Bureau for cancellation.
4. The I.D. card shall be in the possession of the operator and his employee at all times when performing or soliciting business and will be presented on request to the person or persons for whom business is performed or solicited.
5. An I.D. card will not be issued to any person who has been employed by another operator until his previous card has been returned to the Bureau for cancellation.

409.03 Equipment - All vehicles and mobile equipment engaged in professional services covered by the Act and these regulations shall be marked for easy identification.

Bonafide Employee

410 Services or work performed under any section of these regulations must be performed only by the licensee or his bonafide employee.

Exemptions

411 Persons licensed under the "Mississippi Landscape Architectural Practice Law" are exempt from the examination requirement of Subsection 403.01 of this chapter.

Effective Date

412 These regulations are effective following approval by the Bureau of Plant Industry Advisory Board, adoption by the Commissioner and filing with the Secretary of State.

(Subchapter 04 adopted March 29, 1977; amended September 18, 1979; May 13, 1994; May 12, 1995 and August 12, 2010.)