

2025 Practicums

- Potting Nursery Stock — Each participant will be furnished a supply of plants, nursery containers or pots of appropriate size, and media. Hand pruners, a label, and a marking pen will also be provided (Personal pruners are allowed, if desired). The participants will pot the plants, one per container, using standard nursery practices. Plant division or grading of liners may be involved. One finished container will be labeled. Seven minutes will be allowed for potting up to 10 containers. An official will observe and score each participant during this practicum. Scoring criteria are presented on the “Potting Nursery Stock” scorecard.
- Written Customer Assistance — The contestant will assume the role of a customer service representative. A copy of a homeowner’s letter about a specific plant disorder or horticultural practice will be provided along with information regarding the diagnosis and control recommendation from a pest management guide. Each contestant will hand-write in ink a business letter giving the diagnosis and control information. Scratch paper will be provided for a rough draft in pencil if desired. Contestants should bring an ink pen and a pencil. Only the final draft in ink on the letterhead stationery provided will be scored. Scoring criteria are presented on the “Written Customer Assistance” score card.

Materials and Set Up

Potting Nursery Stock

Liners (rooted cuttings)

Pots (10/student)

Media

Pencils or markers (1/student)

Labels (1/student)

Pruners (1/student)

Tables

Potting Nursery Stock scorecard

Written Customer Service

Customer letter indicating problem (1/student)

Fact sheet(s) for reference (1/student)

Letterhead (1/student)

Scratch paper (1-2/student)

Extra pencils and pens

Written Customer Assistance scorecard