

NM State 4-H Conference – Horticulture Contest

I. Eligibility

- A. Read general rules.
- B. Two teams per county or a maximum of eight participants.

II. Procedure - The Horticulture Contest is composed of three sections:

- A. Identification 200 points
- B. Judging 200 points
- C. Information 100 points

- A. **Identification Section** - Contestant will be given 40 minutes to identify 40 horticulture plants or products (1 minute per specimen then rotated to the next) using live specimens grouped by the following areas:

- Flowers & Indoor Plants – specimens will consist of foliage or flowers
- Landscape Ornamentals – specimens will consist of foliage or flowers
- Fruits, Nuts & Berries – specimens will consist of the fruit
- Vegetables – specimens will consist of the edible portion

- B. **Judging Section** - Contestant will have 30 minutes to place four classes of horticulture plants or products on the basis of quality and condition. Classes will be made up of cut flowers, potted plants, container grown nursery plants, and fresh fruits or fresh vegetables. Each class equals 50 points. Judging criteria comes from the National Junior Horticulture Association.

- C. **Information Section** - Contestant will have 30 minutes to answer 50 multiple choice or true/false questions. Each question will be worth 2 points. Questions are based on the National Junior Horticulture Association Study Materials (see [links](#) below, under References). **Three** chapters are chosen annually for that year's exam:

2025 Chapters

- 1) **ENVIRONMENT & HORTICULTURE**
- 2) **VEGETABLES**
- 3) **GARDEN FLOWERS**

- The superintendent will divide the participants into groups so that not more than one participant from each team will be in the same group. The superintendent will be responsible for distributing and collecting the placing cards.
- While judging, participants will confer with no one except the group leader of their section, or the superintendent of the contest. Offenders may have their scantron pulled.
- In case of a tie, the total ID scores on this sample will be used to determine the winner.

III. References

Link to **all** study materials, including plant ID, all chapter materials, and judging guidelines. (*Note: the 2025 NM horticulture exam will only cover the three chapters listed above!*) <https://www.njha.org/horticultural-id-and-judging-study-materials-2.html>

***2025 Chapters* listed above**

IV. Awards

High Point team will receive a banner and medals. Second through fifth place teams will receive ribbons. High Point Individuals receive a medal and a plaque. Second through fifth place individuals will receive ribbons.

High Point team may attend the National 4-H Horticulture Contest, held in conjunction with the National Junior Horticulture Association Convention. In the event the High Point Team is unable to attend, the opportunity may be offered to the second place team.