



County Master Gardener Recertification Test 2009

Name: _____

To be able to work a clinic table at Spring Fair, tests need to be returned to the Extension office in hard or electronic copy (chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu) by April 22nd. You can turn them in later for summer/fall clinics. You can use the PNW Handbooks, the textbook, Landscape Plant Problems (WSU) or other university sources. Make sure you take into account where the information is coming from. These tests take some effort but they help to ensure that we have people who are good diagnosticians working our clinic tables. I am interested in how you approach these problems and where your thinking takes you as much as a correct answer. I will return your tests with comments. Thank you for your time and effort. You are truly the “cream” of the crop.



1. A client brings in some newer branches of apples with whitish soft “growths” on them. She also mentions that there seem to be big warty growths on the trunk and some larger branches that she has noticed. The tree seems reasonably productive. What is she seeing? (Hint: both conditions are related)

Is there much she can do as a homeowner?

2. Name three specific reasons why your corn rows (now 4” high) might have such big gaps in them:

What could you have done to prevent this?

3. Minimum soil temperatures for planting (or transplanting):

- ❖ Green beans:
- ❖ Broccoli:
- ❖ Tomatoes:
- ❖ Peppers:
- ❖ Basil:

Give two ways to raise the soil temperature prior to transplanting:

5. You are working with a new vegetable grower. The client is going to have a garden that is 25 feet long by 10 feet wide. She wants to broadcast an organic fertilizer and has selected a composted commercial chicken manure product with an analysis of 12-15-10. She wants to broadcast the equivalent of 4 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet of this fertilizer. About how many pounds of her chosen fertilizer will she need for her space?

How would she know, roughly, the volume to apply?

6. You have diagnosed scale insects on *Ficus benjamina*, an indoor house plant. What can you tell our client about these insects (life cycle, damage, etc.) and what management options they have?

7. A client has a plant in their herbaceous perennial border that you identify as creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). How does this plant spread and what management options does the client have?

8. A client discovers, to their horror, that they have some rats living in their compost pile.

Outside of naming their new “pets,” what can they do?

What are the potential side effects of their choices?

9. A tree appears to have been damaged by shot hole borers. Describe the damage symptoms and speculate why that tree was injured?

Will the tree recover?

10. Summer squash and winter squash are planted near each other. Will that affect the appearance or taste of the fruit produced by either? Why or why not?

11. What are some possible causes of bitterness in cucumbers?

12. You are working with a new vegetable gardener. What are the 3-5 most important things you think they need to know to be successful in their first garden?

13. What is the most likely cause of death of a 3-5 year old cherry tree?

What might have been done to prevent it?

14. What is soil crusting and how does it affect young vegetable seedlings?

Name three things you could do to get crust-sensitive vegetables to grow in soils prone to crusting:

15. Your client is concerned about very circular holes in rose leaves. What causes it and is it a problem?

16. Your ornamental maple tree has red “pustules” on some leaves. Why?

Is it a problem (why or why not)?

17. What is different about pruning everbearing raspberries and June/July bearing raspberries?

18. What is the difference between dolomite and regular agricultural lime?

Do they both raise the soil pH equally?

Why might someone choose dolomite over regular ag lime?

19. Pear slugs, which are also found on cherries and other plants, cause what kind of symptom?

Why won't B.t.k control it?

20. What is the most difficult question you had to answer for a client this past year?

What did you tell them?