



County Master Gardener Recertification Test 2016

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 27th**. If you plan to do summer/fall clinics, you can turn them in by **May 15th**. 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.

Imagine you are at an MG clinic and have only a brief time to help an individual client with a question. What are the three most important concepts you can deliver about each of these topics to help them understand the nature of the problem and their options. I don't want lists. I want three (more or less) things you would say to them to guide their thinking.

Here is an example (of a more complicated question than the ones below) of what I am looking for: *Blue spruce trees in their yard don't seem to have defined crown and look more like pincushions than Christmas trees. Often, they see dead tree tops.*

Important concepts:

The dead leaders are caused by larva of the white pine weevil that lays its eggs on the leader. The egg hatches and the larva burrow into the cambium of the leader killing it from that point up. Other upper branches develop new leaders, often five or six, when the main leader is killed. This leads to the rounded pin cushion look.

The insect is hard to stop since the timing of their egg-laying is hard to predict exactly. No homeowner external sprays are available that last long enough to control the egg-laying adult. The systemic compound imidicloprid may help but is yet unclear how effective it is and whether this use of this compound causes bee injury in any way. Application would be by mid-April. There is no resistance in Colorado blue spruce.

However, the trees do keep growing and one leader may eventually outgrow the beetle. If the early to middle-aged pincushion look is ok, leave them. If not, the chainsaw is the best option.

Now here are yours:

1. False and true dandelion both can show up in lawns, gardens, and landscape areas:
 - a. How do you tell the two plants apart? Which do you have more of in various places on your place?



- b. Which flowers first in the spring?
- c. What places are they most commonly found and what is the life cycle and reproductive strategies of both plants?
- d. What methods of control are do you use and how effective is it? What are other methods of control? Are there reasons not to control them?
- e. Are either edible?

2. What are three factors that affect the rooting depth of trees?



a. What could you do to improve rooting depth?

b. What management advice would you give a client that was concerned with toppling trees?

3. Radishes have several issues that gardeners find annoying. One is small “worms” in the radish root and the other is very fibrous radishes.

a. Do you plant radishes? Do you buy radishes?

b. What causes the “worm”. How can the gardener control it? Does it affect other crops and if so, what are the symptoms in the affected plants?



c. How can you keep the radish from becoming fibrous?

4. Herbicides drifting off target can be a big problem with neighbors. Which types of herbicides cause most of the damage?

a. How can it be prevented?

b. What are the symptoms on the leaves of affected plants?

c. Are they dangerous?

d. How can they be encouraged?

9. You see black, slimy ooze coming down the side of a deciduous tree like a Garry oak or a big leaf maple. What is it? Does it affect the tree?



10. Compare and contrast the life cycle, impact, and control of apple maggot and codling moth on apples:

11. When you talk to clientele about the brown marmorated stink bugs that are coming into their houses, what are the most important points you want to get across to them?

12. What was the most vexing garden problem you got from a client or had in your own garden last year and how did you solve it?

Extra credit:

What did you find most useful (or interesting or infuriating) about doing this test?