

CONTEST RULES
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL RANGE PLANT IDENTIFICATION CONTEST 2020

Eligibility

Teams

Each University may enter one team composed of three members. If the university is represented by more than three members, the three highest scoring individuals will be considered the team for that university. Contestants must be enrolled as fulltime undergraduates in any regular university course of study at the time of the contest or must have been enrolled as undergraduates in the fall semester or quarter immediately preceding the contest. The individual contestant must be enrolled in three full credit courses to be considered full time. There is a four (4) year limit to eligibility.

Individuals

Any undergraduate student in any regular university course of study may compete for individual honors. Team members will be automatically entered in the individual competition.

Source of Plant Specimens

Study specimens

A list of plants from the master plant list will be assigned to each participating university/college. Each university/college will be responsible for collecting and providing unmounted specimens of these plants to other participating schools. Collection data should be supplied on the label with each specimen.

Contest specimens

Plant specimens used for the contest will come from the SRM Range Plant Contest Herbarium. The chairman of the Plant Contest subcommittee of the Student Activities Committee is responsible for the herbarium. Specimens for the herbarium are supplied by colleges that participate in the contest or by any other individual with the skills to correctly identify the species being submitted. Each year the colleges are requested to supply specimens of plants; a college may supply specimens of any of the plants on the master plant list. Each specimen sent to be added to the contest herbarium must be mounted on standard

herbarium paper with the herbarium label for the plant in the lower right-hand corner. The identification of test specimens will be verified by the coaches on the pre-test preview for each contest.

Contest Procedure

1. The test will consist of 2 phases, a competitive exam and a teaching test. The competitive exam will be as before, structured in difficulty to challenge the top students. The competitive exam will run first and will consist of a maximum of 110 students (100 plant mounts and 2 sets of 5 blanks to allow bathroom breaks). The teaching test will run immediately after the competitive exam and will be similar in structure, but with specimens that are easier to identify, stations that demonstrate teaching and/or coaching techniques, and may allow proctoring and/or discussion to facilitate the learning experience. Students competing on the competitive exam will be eligible for individual awards. Individual papers from the competitive exam will be eligible to contribute to a team award. Coaches are encouraged to include competitive exam and teaching test students in accepting team awards. As established by past practice, papers from the teaching test will be marked by the coaches (but may be forwarded to the Plant Identification Subcommittee Chair for tabulation). Coaches are encouraged to help mark non award winning papers (competitive exam) from their school and all papers from other schools, as requested by the Plant Identification Subcommittee Chair or designate. Coaches are encouraged (required) to assist proctoring the teaching test. Students for the competitive exam will be recommended by the coaches, with final selections to be made by the Plant Identification Subcommittee Chair; both parties acting reasonably within the constraints of maintaining a competitive test of reasonable length while providing an environment that will encourage learning and advancement of range plant identification skills. This procedure is as per motion passed unanimously at the 2018 Coaches Critique in Sparks, Nevada.
2. A minimum of one hundred (100) plants, appearing on the master list, will be selected by one or more of the Plant Identification Contest subcommittee of the Student Activities Committee.
3. Plant specimens will be mounted on standard 11 x 16 1/2 inch herbarium paper. The specimens will not be covered with any protective material.
4. Each specimen must show sufficient characteristics to identify it. Plant team coaches will view the contest specimens beginning approximately thirty (30) minutes prior to the contest. A specimen may be removed from the contest if one-third (1/3) of the coaches present vote in favor of removing the specimen. Specimens should not be removed from the contest unless they are misidentified or lack sufficient characters for identification. If a specimen is removed from the contest there will not be a vote on the replacement specimen.

5. Minimum distance between the specimen sheets at the contest will be about twenty-two (22) inches.
6. Contestants must be registered for the SRM annual meeting and wear the appropriate name tag to enter the contest room.
7. Contestants will have fifty-five (55) seconds to write in the family or tribe, genus, and specific epithet, and to check the longevity and origin columns. Five (5) seconds will be allowed to move to the next plant. Total elapsed time per plant will be one (1) minute.
8. Contestants will have five (5) minutes at the end of the contest to check their papers (except when there are 5 or more blanks throughout the contest). Contestants will not be allowed to look at a plant a second time.
9. While the contest is in progress there shall be no conferring between contestants. Only the contestants and designated supervisors will be in the contest room during the contest.
10. Contestants will not be permitted to handle the mounts. A hand lens should be used to assist in the identification of plants but cannot touch the plant specimen during the test.
11. Specimens:
 - a. There will be no restriction on the number of duplicate mounts.
 - b. Grasses must show a spikelet. Coaches Critique (CC) - 79.
 - c. Seedlings of woody plants should show a perennial characteristic. CC - 79.
 - d. Specimens will remain in the contest when characters are destroyed by other contestants.
 - e. *Artemisia nova* must show black gland on the leaves. CC - 87-88.
 - f. Use a clean clipboard during the test.
 - g. New species on the Master List can be placed on the contest at any time. CC-97
12. If a contestant leaves the contest for the bathroom or sickness, he/she will be replaced by a proctor who will keep their space while they are gone. Another proctor will accompany them to the washroom. When they return they go back into their space, but will have missed any station missed during their absence. This procedure is dependent on adequate proctors. This procedure cannot be guaranteed every year.
13. Do not write on plant mounts or rest stations in the contest.

14. Caps and hats are not to be worn during the contest.
15. Clothing with illustrations of plants from the Master List will not be allowed in the contest.
16. Coaches should inform the contest committee of any people with disabilities that make standing difficult.
17. The top five teams must have three team members with scores over 600.

Contest Scoring

1. The Plant Contest Subcommittee and volunteers will score the contestants papers. Original test papers from high scoring individuals, award winning individual papers, or papers contributing to a team award will not be returned to the coaches or students.

2. Scoring will be as follows:

a. Ten points are assigned to each plant as follows:

Family or tribe	2
Genus	3
Specific epithet	3
Longevity	1
Origin	<u>1</u>
	10

- b. Family or tribe only correct is 2 points.
- c. Genus only correct is 3 points.
- d. Family or tribe and genus correct is 5 points.
- e. Family or tribe, genus, and specific epithet correct is 8 points.
- f. Family or tribe, genus, specific epithet, and origin correct is 9 points.
- g. Longevity will be scored separately and is not tied to genus and specific epithet.
- h. The plant must be correctly identified as to genus to get credit for specific epithet.
- i. The plant must be correctly identified as to genus and specific epithet to get credit for origin.
- j. One point will be deducted for each family or tribe, genus or specific epithet that is correctly identified but misspelled.

Or, for rapid marking:

For a total of 10 marks per line.

Cannot get Origin correct unless Species is correct, so

Species wrong is minus 4

Genus and Species wrong is minus 7

Genus, Species, and Tribe/Family wrong is minus 9

If Genus is wrong, but Species is correct, it is minus 7 (cannot have Species right if Genus is wrong)

Tribe/Family can be wrong and still get Genus and Species correct, minus 2 for these cases

Longevity is marked independently as you can tell Annual or Perennial by the growth form without identifying the sample. Longevity wrong is minus 1.

Spelling is minus 1 for each of Tribe/Family, Genus, and Species. Spelling needs to be reasonably close or they are wrong, refer to above for deductions.

Mistakes such as fendleri instead of fendleriana or Leymus instead of Elymus are not spelling mistakes and should be marked wrong.

3. Individual contestant papers will be graded until 400 points have been missed. Grading will stop at that point and the individual will be given a score of less than 600 on 1000 point contests.
4. Individual contestant papers with more than 60 points missed on the first page of the contest will not have both the test form and answer sheet marked.
5. Participants who are not designated as contestants will not have their tests graded by the subcommittee. These students will receive an answer sheet and grade their own papers.

Contest Awards

1. Team and individual awards will be given for the first five places. In the event of tie scores the paper (individual) or papers (team) receiving the highest score based solely on identification (non-identification mistakes are not deducted) will be declared the higher score. The tie will be announced as a tie, but the higher award will be given based on better identification.
2. Plaques for permanent possession will be awarded to the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth place

teams.

3. The five highest scoring individuals will each be awarded a plaque for permanent possession.
4. Each contestant will receive a certificate.

When this document is translated into other languages, the 'English version shall be the official rules. Although translation problems are not anticipated, the finer points in this set of rules may not translate correctly