

Range Plant Identification

Important Note: Please thoroughly read the General Rules at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all South Dakota FFA Career Development Events.

Purpose

The purpose of the Range Plant Identification Career Development is to provide SD FFA members with the opportunity to understand rangeland resources and develop a sense of stewardship in natural resource management.

Objectives

Identify range plants and their characteristics, including:

1. Common name
2. Life span
3. Season of growth
4. Origin
5. Grouse food/cover
6. Beef food

Event Rules

The State FFA Range Plant Identification CDE shall be sponsored by South Dakota State University's Range Club.

Each chapter may send up to two teams, with each team being composed of three or four members.

The three highest individual scores will count as the team score.

There will be a \$40 registration fee for each team to be paid before CDE Registration.

- Individuals not on a team will pay a registration fee of \$6.
- Make checks payable to SDSU Range Management Club.

Participants will judge in four sessions.

The groups will begin judging at 11:00am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, and 3:30pm.

Refer to State FFA Convention schedule if not the same as above.

All members of a particular team will be required to judge in the same group.

In order to ensure a timely progression of students through the contest, officials may allow teams to start early, if the team agrees to do so.

Event Format

The Range Plant Identification CDE will consist of a minimum of fifty (50) plant mounts.

There may be more than one mount of an individual species in the CDE.

All plants used in this CDE are from the Master Plant List.

Participants will have one minute per plant for a total of fifty (50) minutes.

Three (3) minutes at the end of the CDE will be allowed for students to make changes to their scorecards.

Under no circumstances will a participant be allowed to go back and look at a plant or plants a second time.

Participants can move through the CDE faster than this if they prefer.

Participants will not be allowed to handle the plant mounts; however, a hand magnifier with or without a battery-operated light may be used to assist in identification.

Participants may use a clean clipboard.

Scoring

Scoring will be as follows:

For each plant, the contestants need to know:

- Common Name = 4 points
- Life Span = 1 point
- Season of Growth = 1 point
- Origin = 1 point (invader would count as all or nothing with native or introduced)
- Grouse Food = 1 point
- Grouse Cover = 1 point
- Beef Food = 1 point

Therefore, the maximum total per plant is ten (10) points.

If the common name is incorrect, no points can be earned on the characteristics. A score of zero would result for that plant.

Answer sheets must be marked by:

Printing the corresponding number(from the master plant list), correctly.

Clearly filling in the bubble for each of the characteristics (i.e., life span, season of growth, origin, grouse food, grouse cover, and beef food).

There will be one, and only one, correct answer for the characteristics for each plant with the exception of Sedge, which is considered both desirable and undesirable for grouse cover. Marking either or both will result in a correct score.

In the event of two or more perfect scores, co-championships for individual placing will be announced.

Tiebreakers

In the case of a team tie, the scores from the fourth-place team member will break the tie.

In the case of an individual tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Fewest Missed Plants
2. Fewest Missed Total Characteristics
3. Fewest Missed Characteristics in the Life Span Column
4. After that, one can continue through the columns until the tie is broken. If the tie cannot be broken, declare a tie.