Montana Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.

CPP Certification Manual

For use in the Montana Certification Program
Version – Revised April, 2019

Introduction

The Montana Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA) has revised this manual as a study guide for prospective Certified Plant Professionals. Although no publication can list everything a nurseryman must know and apply, this guide covers basic information and important highlights. It also includes recommended reading lists at the end of most chapters to help readers expand their expertise.

This manual will be used as a source of questions for the MNLA Certified Plant Professional (CPP) Exam. Within each chapter there are one or more review sections. These reviews are designed to help readers apply and practice what they read. At the end of the manual there is a sample certification exam. While the questions in this manual are not identical to those in the actual certification test, they cover the same material and applications.

The CPP examination is given by the MNLA at least twice each year. The certification process consists of two parts, a 200 question written exam based on the content of this Manual, and a plant identification exam comprised of at least 50 plants. Applicants must earn a score of at least 75% to pass each exam.

In appendices at the end of this manual, you will find helpful conversion tables and references to be used for calculations.

If you ever have any questions about the CPP program, please feel free to contact the MNLA office.

Good luck!

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Acknowledgments

This manual was first printed and issued through the Idaho Nursery Association in September of 1992. A revised edition was published in July of 2002 by the Montana Nursery & Landscape Association with an emphasis on the Montana nursery and landscaping environment. A second revised edition was published in April of 2018 with additions from faculty at Montana State University.

Numerous professionals and organizations deserve appreciation and recognition for the role they played in developing and expanding the manual and certification program. Please join us in thanking them for their contributions.

2018 Revised Montana Edition
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The states of Montana and Idaho are diverse and challenging places to grow plants. Much of the horticultural expertise and research comes from Minnesota and California. In many ways, our Rocky Mountain climate is quite different. In the revision of this manual we sought to adapt the information presented in the various chapters to more closely match our conditions as well as to include new ideas and research that have come out since the 1992 version.

Horticulture is an evolving science and an experience driven art. We hope this manual provides accurate, concise, basic information that will inspire plant professionals to learn more and to find better ways of growing, selling, installing, and maintaining horticultural plants.

To those who strive for excellence in the horticulture industry, the Montana Nursery & Landscape Association applauds you and encourages your participation in the certification process as a means of seeking recognition and reward.