

Problem Solving Component of the 2003 Floriculture CDE

The team will work as a group and submit one score sheet for the team. The students will be presented various situations of nursery and landscape plants, supplies, or practices where observation and analysis of the subject and resource materials are involved in a decision-making process. A problem-solving activity is defined as: "A mental or physical activity involving the gathering or searching of information and the use of a logical solution process using commonly accepted standards and available information to solve a problem specific to a particular area of floriculture production or retailing." Each problem will describe the situation. The participants must decide on the BEST possible solution to the problem. All materials and information necessary to solve the problem will be available to the participant as they solve the problem.

Example Situation:

You are the owner of the "Flower City: florist shop. You received an order for a floral arrangement to be delivered to one of your regular customers. You give the order to one of your employees and ask that it be ready by delivery time. When the employee brings the finished arrangement to you for packing and delivery, you notice a problem with the arrangement. The arrangement before you is the arrangement made by the employee. You realize that the problem must be corrected before the arrangement can be delivered. What would you tell your employee to do the arrangement to correct the problem?

Possible Solutions:

- a. Move small flowers to the top of the arrangement and larger flowers to the bottom of the arrangement.
- b. Add a focal point to the arrangement.
- c. Use some different plant materials to add texture to the arrangement.
- d. Change the color of the flowers to make the colors compatible with each other.

Other situations may include the following:

- According to the sample label provided, a spill of this chemical must be handled by _____?
- From the information provided on these catalog pages, one bag of the designated medium will fill ____ pots of the size and shape presented.

Participants will have 10 minutes to complete this phase. Each correct answer has a value of five points.