

Virginia FFA Middle School – Plant Science Practicums 2017

Practicum 1

Each student will classify 10 plants into these four categories, garden plant, landscape plant, interior plant, and weed. Actual plants at different stages of maturity will be used. The garden, landscape, and interior plants will come from the identification sheet. The students will not have a copy of the identification sheet as a reference. The weeds will come from the following list.

Bull Thistle	Broadleaf Plantain	Cheat Grass
Chicory	Dandelion	Jimson Weed
Johnson Grass	Lambsquarter	Morning Glory
Pokeweed	Purslane	Wild Carrot
Wild Mustard	Wild Radish	Yellow Foxtail

For contest purposes, the participants will not need to identify the plant, they will place it in the proper category.

Practicum 2

Each student will use a soil pyramid to identify soil types. Students will need to calculate the percentage of sand, silt and clay particles for some of the samples. This information will be given several different ways.

1. The information may be given to the students. Ex. 20 % clay, 60 % silt, 20 % sand.
2. Students will be given information from a gravitational separation of soil particles and the participants will calculate the percentages. Ex. 12 total inches of soil, 3 inches of sand. 3 inches of silt, 6 inches of clay.

The percentages to use would be 25% sand, 25% silt, and 50% clay.

3. A graduated cylinder may be used for the students to read the measurements. Colored sand will be used to represent the different soil types. Students will measure the total amount of soil, and get the thickness of each layer and make their calculations to determine the soil type. A form will be provided for each student to record the information and a soil pyramid chart.

Students will record the information on the 2nd ID section of the scantron. Each soil type will receive a number.