Fruit Tree Pruning

Virtual Format for 2020-2021 ONLY

Contestants will create videos showing them pruning a fresh peach scaffold, canned peach scaffold, and a written examination.

Contestants

The team shall consist of three members who have received enough training so they can properly prune peaches and plum trees, with all three individual scores counting as the team score. All team members are eligible for individual awards.

Classes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Individual Points** | **Team Points** |
| Written Quiz | 100 | 300 |
| Pruning Mature Peaches (Fresh) | 100 | 300 |
| Pruning Mature Peaches (Canning) | 100 | 300 |
| TOTAL | 300 | 900 |

Tie Breaker

1. The team or individual scoring the highest fresh peach score(s) will be the winner.
2. If a tie still exists, the total score of the individual or team will be used to determine the high individual or team.

Rules

1. The contest shall consist of the following areas:
   1. A written quiz on "Pruning Deciduous Fruit Trees" by Tufts and Harris; U.C. Circ. -444, 1955. This exam will be taken while participating in a “Zoom Call” with contest monitors.
      1. Value 100 points.
      2. Time: Thirty (30) minutes
   2. Each contestant shall prune a scaffold tree in two different classes. Student will submit a video not to exceed 5 minutes. Included in the video must be three “before” pictures of the scaffold pruned, up to a 5 minute video with the contestant presenting “reasons,” on the pruning process, and three “after” pictures of the scaffold. Pictures should be similar to Page 27 in Pruning Deciduous Fruit Trees by Tuffs and Harris) Scaffold must be displayed in the pictures to capture the entire scaffold and depth. Please consider using a backdrop, like a white sheet to allow the judge to easily evaluate the scaffold. Classes will be:
      1. Fresh Peach (Mature tree 7+ years old)
      2. Canned Peach (Mature tree 7+ years old)

Pruning Deciduous Fruit Trees

MATURE TREES

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Points** | **Score** |
| **A. FRAMEWORK (20 pts.)** |  |  |
| 1. Number of Tertiary Scaffolds | 5 |  |
| 2. Spacing of Tertiary Scaffolds | 5 |  |
| 3. General Symmetry of tree | 5 |  |
| 4. Top cut made to proper lateral | 5 |  |
| **B. KIND OF PRUNING (50 pts.)** |  |  |
| 1. Kind of pruning based upon length of growth age of tree and use of fruit - severe moderate light | 25 |  |
| 2. Amount and kind of fruit wood left | 10 |  |
| 3. Amount of spacing of fruit wood | 15 |  |
| **C. THOROUGHNESS OF PRUNING (20 pts.)** |  |  |
| 1. Cuts made properly | 15 |  |
| 2. All objectionable growth removed | 5 |  |
| **D. CONDITION AND USE OF EQUIPMENT (10 pts.)** |  |  |
| 1. Condition of pruning Shears | 5 |  |
| 2. Ability to handle ladder properly | 5 |  |
| SUB TOTAL | 100 |  |
| TOTAL | 100 |  |

**Part 2. Scaffold Pruning –**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Points** | **Score** |
| **A. KIND OF PRUNING**  (**30 pts.)** |  |  |
| 1. Kind of pruning based upon length of growth age of tree  and use of fruit – severe moderate light | 15 |  |
| 2. Amount and kind of fruit wood left | 10 |  |
| 3. Amount of spacing of fruit wood | 5 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **B. THOROUGHNESS OF PRUNING**  **(15 pts.)** |  |  |
| 1. Cuts made properly | 10 |  |
| 2. All objectionable growth removed | 5 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **C. CONDITION AND USE OF EQUIPMENT** **(5 pts.)** |  |  |
| 1. Condition of pruning shears | 2 |  |
| 2. Ability to handle ladder properly | 3 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **SUB TOTAL** | **50** |  |
| **D. SPEED OF WORK (Deduct)** |  |  |
| 1. Deduct 1-10 points if not finished with pruning | 1-10 |  |
| **TOTAL** | **50** |  |