

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

RESIT/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM

EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF BACHALOR OF SCIENCE
IN HORTICULTURE

HORT 424: PLANT NURSERY MANAGEMENT

STREAMS: BSC. HORT

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: TUESDAY 17/11/2020

5.00 P.M. – 7.00 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION I AND ANY TWO IN SECTION II

SECTION I (30 MARKS)

- Q1. Describe the main sources that a nursery manager can obtain the seed for propagation purposes (8 marks)
- Q2. a). Briefly describe the nursery standards that a nursery must set and adhere to be able to operate profitably (3 marks)
- b). Explain why commercial tomato, capsicum, cauliflower and cabbage hybrids seedlings should be raised in trays (4 marks)
- Q3. a). Discuss the strategies farmers can adopt to revamp their production nursery and optimize profits (6 marks)
- b). In many situations farmers observe a continuous drop in soil pH conditions. Outline the possible sources of acidity in their nursery (3 marks)
- Q4. Water recycling minimizes production cost in the nursery. Describe some of the treatments a nursery operator can adopt to purify water for recycling purposes (6 marks)

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SECTION II (40 MARKS)

- Q5. a). Discuss the factors nursery operators should put into consideration when selecting nursery plants for exhibition (10 marks)
- b). Discuss how a nursery operator can achieve a compact root system for trees and advanced plants grown in the open ground (10 marks)
- Q6. a). A Community Based Organization is planning to start a nursery. Describe the criteria they can use in selecting sustainable nursery plants (12 marks)
- b). Proper establishment of nursery stock is pegged on quantity and quality media. Discuss practices that can be adopted to improve the nursery soil (8 marks)
- Q7.a). Advise nursery operators on the requirements that must be met by a plant container to facilitate optimal growth of seedlings (10 marks)
- b). Discuss how nursery plant inspection can be conducted to identify any possible problems with the plants (10 marks)
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