

Career

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ISA Certified Arborist Certification Exam*



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Question: 1

What is the typical means Of attaching common. seven-strand cable to hardware?

- A. Dead-end grips
- B. Cable Stops
- C. Metal swages
- D. Eye space

Answer: D

Explanation:

The typical means of attaching common, seven-strand cable to hardware is an eye splice. The eye splice is created by wrapping the end of the cable around the bend in the thimble, separating the strands, and then wrapping them around the cable.

Question: 2

In which of the following are the classification terms listed from general to specific?

- A. Genus, family, order, class
- B. Order, class, phylum, kingdom
- C. Class, order, family, genus
- D. Family, class, order, genus

Answer: C

Explanation:

Class, order, family, and genus are placed in order from general to specific. The full taxonomic hierarchy is kingdom, phylum (sometimes called division), class, order, family, genus, and specific epithet. Arborists often use mnemonics, like Keeping Precious Creatures Organized For Grumpy Scientists, to keep these terms in order. At the highest classification level, all trees are in the plant kingdom. At the phylum level, trees are divided into those that have vascular tissue and those that do not. There are two classes of tree: monocotyledons, which have one seed per leaf, and dicotyledons, which have two. Trees are then further divided by order and family. Trees within the same family tend to have similar fruit and/or flowers. The final two terms, genus and specific epithet, comprise the species name.

Question: 3

Hardiness is the tree's ability to withstand extremely___ temperatures.

- A. moderate
- B. temperate
- C. cold
- D. variable

Answer: C

Explanation:

Hardiness is the tree's ability to withstand extremely cold temperatures and other adverse conditions such as drought and flooding. Moderate and temperate temperatures are not a factor when measuring plant hardiness. Temperature extremes are generally damaging to plants, while temperature fluctuations within the acceptable range usually do not cause damage to plants, though they can affect physiological processes. Hardiness is an often overlooked characteristic when trees are being selected for transplanting. To improve the ability of arborists to select appropriately hardy trees, the US National Arboretum has created a series of maps indicating the various hardiness zones in North America.

Question: 4

In arboriculture, a witch's broom is a branch that has foliage only at its very end.

- A. a collection of spindly roots.
- B. a pattern of leaf spots.
- C. a cluster of weak secondary shoots.

Answer: D

Explanation:

In arboriculture, a witch's broom is a cluster of weak secondary shoots. A witch's broom is likely to occur after topping or any other aggressive pruning. These shoots are demanding of the tree's resources and produce no branches that will be successful in the long term.

Question: 5

When installing eye bolts or threaded rods in a tree, about how much larger in diameter should the drilled hole be than the hardware?

- A. 1/64 - 1/32 inch
- B. 1/16 - 1/3 inch
- C. 1/4 - 1/2 inch
- D. 3/4 - 1 inch

Answer: B

Explanation:

When installing eye bolts or threaded rods in a tree, the drilled hole should be between about one-sixteenth inch to one-eighth inch larger than the hardware. This extra diameter makes it possible for the hardware to expand slightly or move a bit without damaging the tree internally. It is always important to drill the hole perpendicular to the section of the tree to which it is connected and such that the hardware will come out straight and not at an angle. This installation practice will increase the longevity of the hardware and the bolt.

Question: 6

Which Of the following is another name for the outermost rings Of the xylem?

- A. Phloem
- B. Sapwood
- C. Cambium
- D. Heartwood

Answer: B

Explanation:

Another name for the outermost rings of the xylem is sapwood. Xylem is the system of vascular structures and wood fibers that provides structural support and transports water and minerals up through the tree. The phloem is the tissue that moves food through a vascular plant. Phloem, which is also known as bast, is composed of fibers, parenchyma, and sieve tubes. The cambium is the thin layer of cells that produce new tree tissue on each side, externally on the bark and internally in the wood tissue. The heartwood creates a chemical barrier against insects and disease, as well as providing structural support. Not every tree has heartwood.

Question: 7

A tree that leans toward an area of sunlight is displaying a(n)

- A. phytotoxicity.
- B. trait.
- C. phototropism.
- D. assimilation.

Answer: C

Explanation:

A tree that leans toward an area of sunlight is displaying a tropism. A tropism is any movement of a plant in response to a stimulus. There are many different types of tropism. A movement toward the sun would be a heliotropism, while a movement away from the sun would be a Para heliotropism. Trees also display hydrotropism, a movement towards water, and geotropism, a movement towards the center of the earth caused by gravity. In some conditions a plant may perform a thermo tropism, which is a movement toward a source Of heat other than the sun.

Question: 8

Which of the following types Of organic mulch will break down most slowly?

- A. Leaves
- B. Bark
- C. Lawn cupplings
- D. Straw

Answer: B

Explanation:

Of the given types of organic mulch, bark will break down most slowly. The rate of decomposition of a given fertilizer also depends on the climate. In a warm or wet climate, mulch will decompose at a faster pace. An arborist should be conscious of the rate at which mulch will break down, because in some situations it is inconvenient to replace the mulch frequently. When spreading organic mulch, it is better for the material to be broad than deep. At most, the pile of mulch around the tree should be four inches deep. Also, the mulch should not be placed up against the base of the trunk, as this can lead to rot and fungal infections.

Question: 9

When removing a dead branch, where should the final cut be made?

- A. Just outside the collar Of living tissue
- B. Afoot outside the collar Of living tissue
- C. Just inside the collar of living tissue
- D. Afoot inside the collar of living tissue

Answer: A

Explanation:

When removing a dead branch, the final cut should be made just outside the collar of living tissue. When removing heavy or large limbs, the arborist should use the three-cut method. The first cut is made one or two feet out on the branch. The arborist will usually make a slight undercut before lopping off the end of the branch from the top. The point of this first move is to drastically reduce the weight of the branch so that the remaining cuts may be made with more precision. After these two cuts have reduced the limb to a stub, the final cut is made just outside the collar of living tissue. The tree will be less damaged by a cut that leaves the tissue beamed.

Question: 10

Which of the following is NOT a part of nutrient cycling?

- A. Organic material decomposes and nutrients are released into the soil.
- B. Trees die and their bodies disintegrate in the soil.
- C. Tree roots absorb nutrients from the soil.
- D. The nutrients in the soil are drawn into the atmosphere through transpiration.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The drawing of the soil's nutrients into the atmosphere through transpiration is not a part of nutrient cycling, which is the process through which nutrients infuse the soil and are unshed by living organisms. In this case trees, The soil is full of nutrients, which it obtains from decomposing plants. After some time in the soil the nutrients are delivered to new plant life, and the cycle continues.

Question: 11

Which of the following is a hybrid?

- A. *Nepenthes x hookeriana*
- B. *Acer saccharum*
- C. *Comus florida f. rubra*
- D. *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*

Answer: A

Explanation:

Nepenthes x hookeriana, or Hooker's pitcher-plant, a hybrid. This is denoted by the *x* which should not be placed in italics. A hybrid is a plant that is bred from two different species. Typically, the plants used to produce a hybrid are in the same genus.

Question: 12

Why does pest resurgence occur?

- A. Environmental conditions encourage a sharp increase in the pest population.
- B. Indiscriminate pesticide use kills pests and their predators, but when the pesticides cease to be used the predators take longer to respond than the pests.
- C. The pest adapts to the particular pesticide being used.
- D. The arborist does not use enough pesticide.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Pest resurgence occurs because indiscriminate pesticide use kills pests and their predators, but when the pesticides cease to be used, the predators take longer to respond than the pests. A

pest resurgence often occurs after large-scale and blanket use of pesticides. The arborist should keep in mind that many pests have almost no checks on their population growth and will proliferate exponentially in the absence of natural predators. A similar phenomenon, known as secondary pest outbreak, occurs when the elimination of both pest and predator creates a vacuum into which a new pest may enter and thrive. Arborists should attempt to avoid pest resurgence and secondary pest outbreaks by using narrow-spectrum pesticides in a targeted fashion.

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