

Pioneers and Milestones in Horticulture

Horticulture · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which 17th-century polymath authored 'Sylva, or A Discourse of Forest-Trees', the first major horticultural work commissioned by the Royal Society?

A) John Evelyn

B) Robert Hooke

C) Christopher Wren

D) Francis Bacon

2. In 1893, which botanist successfully performed the first recorded commercial hybridization of a strawberry variety, the 'Marshall', revolutionizing the berry industry?

A) Luther Burbank

B) Marshall P. Wilder

C) George Darrow

D) Charles Hovey

3. The Wardian case, invented in 1829 by Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward, was primarily designed to solve which major horticultural problem?

A) Protecting plants from frost

B) Transporting live plants over long sea voyages

C) Automating indoor irrigation

D) Preventing soil-borne fungal pathogens

4. Which scientist is credited with the 1934 discovery of Indole-3-acetic acid (IAA), the first identified natural plant auxin, fundamentally changing plant growth regulation?

A) Fritz Went

B) Kenneth Thimann

C) Julius von Sachs

D) Ernst Haeckel

5. Before the widespread use of plastic, what was the name of the traditional 19th-century glass structures used to protect tender plants from frost?

A) Orangeries

B) Cloches

C) Cold frames

D) Hotbeds

6. In the history of orchidology, who was the first person to successfully raise an orchid from seed to flowering maturity in captivity in 1856?

A) John Dominy

B) William Cattley

C) Joseph Paxton

D) Charles Darwin

7. What is the name of the 19th-century horticultural invention that allowed for the mass transportation of banana plants from Southeast Asia to the Americas?

A) The Wardian case

B) The refrigerated shipping container

C) The steam-powered greenhouse

D) The kokedama

8. Which English gardener and landscape architect invented the 'ha-ha', a sunken fence used to maintain views while keeping livestock out of ornamental gardens?

A) Capability Brown

B) Charles Bridgeman

C) Humphry Repton

D) Gertrude Jekyll

9. The first successful in-vitro plant tissue culture was achieved in 1902 by which German botanist, often called the 'father of plant tissue culture'?

A) Gottlieb Haberlandt

B) Wilhelm Pfeffer

C) Eduard Strasburger

D) Hans Driesch

10. What was the first commercial application of the 'Green Revolution' semi-dwarf wheat varieties, originally developed by Norman Borlaug in Mexico?

A) 1940s Pakistan

B) 1950s India

C) 1960s Mexico

D) 1970s China

11. The 'Poinsettia' was introduced to the United States in 1825 by Joel Roberts Poinsett; what was his primary professional role at the time?

A) Botanist

B) US Minister to Mexico

C) Nurseryman

D) Plant collector for the Smithsonian

12. Who is credited with the invention of the 'lawn mower' in 1827, originally inspired by the cutting mechanism used in textile mills?

A) Edwin Budding

B) Thomas Green

C) James Sumner

D) William Davis

13. Which 18th-century horticultural advancement allowed for the cultivation of exotic tropical fruits in Northern Europe, specifically at the Chelsea Physic Garden?

A) The heated glasshouse (stove house)

B) The hydroponic system

C) The vertical garden

D) The mist propagation chamber

14. In 1944, which research team identified the 'Miracle-Gro' precursors, marking one of the first successful commercial liquid water-soluble fertilizers?

A) Otto Warburg

B) Horace Hagedorn and Otto Stern

C) Justus von Liebig

D) Norman Borlaug

15. The first recorded use of 'Heirloom' seeds as a distinct category of non-hybridized, open-pollinated plant varieties dates back to which movement?

A) The 1970s organic gardening revival

B) The 19th-century Victorian plant exchange

C) The 1930s Dust Bowl relief efforts

D) The 18th-century botanical exploration era