

Pioneers and Milestones in Horticulture

Horticulture · Practice Test · 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