

LESSON 1 – ASSIGNMENT

PLANT REVIEW WORKSHEETS

With each assignment you will be required to prepare plant reviews. Each plant should be named, described and illustrated. Each plant collection should include two trees, two shrubs, one native plant, one non-native, one climber and one indoor plant.

As part of each assignment for this course you will be required to prepare EIGHT different specimen reviews per assignment. A sample worksheet is included in the following pages (each worksheet holds two plants).

**A TOTAL OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY DIFFERENT SPECIMEN REVIEWS
WILL BE SUBMITTED OVER THE WHOLE CORE UNITS**

Please note: Lessons 13 and 14 which are submitted as one, require 16 plant specimens.

Naming the plant

Include the common name, scientific name; and the plant family name if possible.

If you cannot provide one of these, write a note to the tutor explaining that you attempted to find the information and why you could not.

Your tutor will often be able to help at least partly identify the odd unidentified plant; if you submit an illustration and good description (ideally presenting not only a leaf, but also a flower, fruit or seed head),

Describing the Plant

You should record any information that might be important to selecting and using this plant for a landscape design e.g.

- Height How high can it grow in your locality?
- Width.... How wide can it grow in your locality?
- Flowers...What colour and when does it flower?
- Leaf colour, shape, texture.. What colour are the leaves when and mature? Are the leaves round, feathery, lobed, spiky? Are the leaves fine or coarse textured?
- Scent.... Are the flowers scented?
- Animal Attraction.... Does the plant attract birds, butterflies, bees? If so what part of the plant (flower or fruit) ?
- Hardiness.... Is it frost tender? How does the wind affect it?
- Culture.... Are there any special things the plant requires? How hard should it be pruned and how often? Does it need good drainage? How often should it be fertilised?..etc.
- Pests and Diseases.... List any pests and diseases that are particularly bad for this plant.
- Maintenance... Are there any maintenance requirements for the plant such as pruning or raking fallen leaves in winter?

Write approximately up to half a page for each plant.

Illustrating the Plant

This may be done any of the following ways:

- Submit a photograph or drawing of parts of the plant
- Send a scan of a photograph or drawing (Do not send large graphics files over the internet. Consult your student manual for details)
- Refer to a web site page location where you have found the plant illustrated on the internet.

- Submit a photograph of a pressed specimen (Note: Do not send pressed specimens across state or national borders. To do so may be illegal and in breach of Quarantine Regulations).

ACS has a website that contains a plant directory you can access this site on www.acsgarden.com there are many more sites that also have plant directories you might use

Some students find it helpful to compile a herbarium to aid plant identification skills. Refer to the 'Pressing Plants' booklets. Do not send in the plant herbarium but keep it for your personal use as a resource for future reference.

EXAMPLE OF A PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHEET

Plant No. 1.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Plant Family..... | Sketch Or Photo |
| Genus..... | |
| Species..... | |
| Common Name..... | |
| How & Where to Plant it..... | |
| Height..... Spacing..... | |
| Hardiness | |
| Appearance | |
| Uses | |
| Culture | |
| Pest & Disease | |
| Harvest & Post Harvest | |

Plant No. 2.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Plant Family..... | Sketch Or Photo |
| Genus..... | |
| Species..... | |
| Common Name..... | |
| How & Where to Plant it..... | |
| Height..... Spacing..... | |
| Hardiness | |
| Appearance | |
| Uses | |
| Culture | |
| Pest & Disease | |
| Harvest & Post Harvest | |

NOTE: This is a sample only! Change it as needed to suit your situation.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write a report of up to 600 words describing, in your own words, the scientific system by which plants are classified. Your report should include a discussion on the significance of the binomial system.
2. Explain why common names of plants should not be used to correctly identify plants. (Write 200 words maximum)
3. List ten genera in the Proteaceae family.
4. Give the scientific names of ten different species not mentioned elsewhere to date in this subject. For each, indicate which name is the genus, which is the species and (if applicable) which is the variety or cultivar.
5. Prepare your 8 plant review sheets and hand up.