# NCLC PLANT PROBLEMS DIAGNOSIS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

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# How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

### 1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

### 2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

### 3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

### 4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

### 5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

### 6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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# Questions

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**1. Bacterial leaf spot shows which lesion characteristics?**

A. Angular, vein-bound lesions with no water-soaked spots

B. Water-soaked oily spots with a yellow halo and angular, vein-bound lesions

C. Red stippling along veins

D. Small necrotic spots with a smooth margin

**2. Diplocarpon rosae is the pathogen responsible for which disease?**

A. Black knot

B. Black root rot

C. Botrytis flower blight

D. Black spot of rose

**3. Which disease is associated with Douglas-fir and named as a needlecast?**

A. Rhizosphaera needlecast

B. Ploioderma Needlecast

C. Pinewood Nematode

D. Rhabdocline needlecast

**4. Which pest has a host list including Ash, Dogwood, Sycamore, Sweetgum, and Rose?**

A. Whiteflies

B. Yellow Necked Caterpillar

C. Verticillium wilt

D. Volutella blight

**5. Entomosporium leaf spot is caused by which pathogen name?**

A. Entomosporium maculata

B. Entomosporium mespili

C. Entomosporium levis

D. Entomosporium rubrum

**6. Euonymus scale is listed with which plant as a host?**

A. Tulip

B. Rose

C. Euonymus

D. Lavender

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**7. Dollar Spot is a disease that primarily affects which plant group?**

A. Turf
B. Trees
C. Shrubs
D. Lawn ornaments

**8. How does Chestnut blight spread?**

A. By wind-blown seeds
B. By nematodes
C. Via spores
D. By grafting

**9. Mimosa webworm uses which plants as hosts?**

A. Mimosa and Oak
B. Mimosa and Camellia
C. Mimosa and Rose
D. Mimosa and Thornless Honeylocust

**10. Elm bark beetle is which species?**

A. Hylurgopinus rufipes
B. Xanthogaleruca luteola
C. Cynipid Gall Wasp
D. Spaeropsis sapinea

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# Answers

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1. B
2. D
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. C
9. D
10. A

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# Explanations

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## 1. Bacterial leaf spot shows which lesion characteristics?

A. Angular, vein-bound lesions with no water-soaked spots

B. Water-soaked oily spots with a yellow halo and angular, vein-bound lesions

C. Red stippling along veins

D. Small necrotic spots with a smooth margin

*Bacterial leaf spot shows water-soaked, oily-looking spots that often appear with a pale yellow halo around them. As the disease progresses, the spots stay bounded by the leaf veins, creating angular, vein-bound margins because the bacteria spread primarily between cells but don't cross major veins. This combination—the moist, oil-like appearance, the yellow halo, and the angular borders along veins—best matches what you'd expect from bacterial leaf spot. Other patterns, like red stippling along veins or small necrotic spots with smooth margins, don't align with this bacterial disease presentation.*

## 2. Diplocarpon rosae is the pathogen responsible for which disease?

A. Black knot

B. Black root rot

C. Botrytis flower blight

D. Black spot of rose

*Diplocarpon rosae is the fungus that causes black spot on roses. It mainly Infects the leaves, creating round to irregular black spots on the upper leaf surface, often with a yellow halo. Under moist conditions, the undersides can show a velvety or speckled appearance from fungal fruiting bodies. As spots expand and leaves bunch together, the foliage yellow and can drop, weakening the plant. The pathogen overwinters in infected fallen leaves and is spread by rain splash to new leaves, thriving when cool, humid weather returns. Because of that lifecycle, management focuses on removing and destroying infected leaves, improving air circulation around plants, avoiding overhead watering, and applying labeled fungicides at times when conditions favor disease. The other options refer to diseases caused by different pathogens with distinct symptoms: black knot affects Prunus species with dark branch galls; black root rot involves root pathogens and causes wilting and poor root health; Botrytis flower blight is caused by Botrytis cinerea and rots blossoms rather than leaves.*

## 3. Which disease is associated with Douglas-fir and named as a needlecast?

A. Rhizosphaera needlecast

B. Ploioderma Needlecast

C. Pinewood Nematode

D. Rhabdocline needlecast

*Rhabdocline needlecast is the disease associated with Douglas-fir and is named for the fungal pathogen Rhabdocline. This fungus specifically infects Douglas-fir needles, causing them to turn brown and shed, often after wet spring conditions. The host specificity is why this one fits a question about a Douglas-fir needlecast. The other options target different hosts or diseases: Rhizosphaera needlecast mainly affects spruce; Ploioderma needlecast affects true firs; Pinewood nematode causes pine wilt and is not a needlecast.*

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## 4. Which pest has a host list including Ash, Dogwood, Sycamore, Sweetgum, and Rose?

A. Whiteflies

B. Yellow Necked Caterpillar

C. Verticillium wilt

D. Volutella blight

*A pest with a broad host range is likely to attack many ornamental trees and shrubs, not just one species. Whiteflies are small sap-sucking insects that infest a wide variety of plants, including common woody ornamentals and roses. They tend to settle on the underside of leaves, feeding and reproducing quickly in warm conditions. This ability to attack ash, dogwood, sycamore, sweetgum, and rose fits whiteflies well, since they aren't specialists on a single host but rather show up on many different plants in the landscape. The other options describe diseases or a different kind of insect with a less matching host pattern, so they don't align as cleanly with this specific mix of hosts.*

## 5. Entomosporium leaf spot is caused by which pathogen name?

A. Entomosporium maculata

B. Entomosporium mespili

C. Entomosporium levis

D. Entomosporium rubrum

*Entomosporium leaf spot is caused by Entomosporium mespili. The species name mespili comes from the host genus Mespilus (medlar), reflecting the specific fungus historically linked with that plant. This exact name is used in standard references for this disease, making it the correct choice. The other names correspond to different, non-matching species within the same genus and do not represent the pathogen typically cited for Entomosporium leaf spot.*

## 6. Euonymus scale is listed with which plant as a host?

A. Tulip

B. Rose

C. Euonymus

D. Lavender

*Euonymus scale is a scale insect that specializes on Euonymus plants. The pest is commonly named after its preferred host, so listing Euonymus as the host is the best match. When you see Euonymus scale, you'd typically find it on Euonymus species like the common ornamental shrubs, making that host association the most informative cue for monitoring and management. The other plants listed—tulip, rose, lavender—are not the usual hosts for this particular scale, so they don't fit as the expected host.*

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## 7. Dollar Spot is a disease that primarily affects which plant group?

A. Turf

B. Trees

C. Shrubs

D. Lawn ornaments

*Dollar Spot is a leaf-fungal disease that targets turfgrasses—the grasses used for lawns, golf greens, and other manicured turf. The telltale signs are small circular, tan to straw-colored spots on the leaf blades, which appear under warm, humid conditions with moisture on the leaves. Since these symptoms occur on grass leaves rather than on woody plants or decorative plant groups, the plant group most affected is turf.*

## 8. How does Chestnut blight spread?

A. By wind-blown seeds

B. By nematodes

C. Via spores

D. By grafting

*Chestnut blight spreads mainly through fungal spores produced by the pathogen. These spores are carried by the wind (and can be moved by rain splash) from infected cankers to wounds on healthy trees, where they germinate and infect the tree tissue, leading to new cankers. Seeds aren't involved in spreading the fungus, so wind-blown seeds don't account for the spread. Nematodes don't carry this disease, and while grafting can move infected material, the natural and primary spread mechanism is spores traveling through the environment to new hosts.*

## 9. Mimosa webworm uses which plants as hosts?

A. Mimosa and Oak

B. Mimosa and Camellia

C. Mimosa and Rose

D. Mimosa and Thornless Honeylocust

*Mimosa webworm has a host range that includes mimosa trees (Albizia julibrissin) and honeylocust trees (Gleditsia triacanthos), including thornless cultivars used in landscapes. The larvae feed on the foliage of these hosts, which is why those two plants are the typical pairing you'd expect. The other plants listed—oak, camellia, and rose—are not known hosts for this pest, since they belong to different families and aren't usually targeted by the mimosa webworm. So, pairing mimosa with thornless honeylocust reflects the pest's real-world host preferences.*

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## 10. Elm bark beetle is which species?

A. Hylurgopinus rufipes

B. Xanthogaleruca luteola

C. Cynipid Gall Wasp

D. Spaeropsis sapinea

*Elm bark beetles are wood-boring beetles that live under the bark of elm trees and can spread diseases or other problems from tree to tree. The species that is classically referred to as the elm bark beetle is Hylurgopinus rufipes. It is the native elm bark beetle associated with elms in North America. The other options are not bark beetles: Xanthogaleruca luteola is the elm leaf beetle (a leaf feeder), Cynipid Gall Wasps are gall-formers on trees, and Spaeropsis sapinea is a fungal pathogen. So the best match for the elm bark beetle is Hylurgopinus rufipes.*

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# Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://nclcplantproblemsdiagnosis.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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