

Virginia Master Naturalist Program Basic Training

Plants/Botany

Assessment Ideas

Written assessment question ideas:

1. Choose a plant species that is native to your county.
 - a. What characteristics does this plant have that you can use to identify it?
 - b. In what habitat does this plant typically grow?
 - c. To what family does this plant belong?
 - d. Describe something about the ecology of this plant, such as what eats it, what pollinates it, ecological functions it serves, etc.
2. List some of the adaptations of plants to:
 - a. Dry habitats
 - b. Wet habitats
 - c. Different modes of pollination
 - d. Seed dispersal
3. Describe or draw the three basic patterns of leaf arrangement that plants have.

Practical assessment activity ideas:

1. Use a key (such as in the Newcomb's Wildflower Guide or the Flora of Virginia manual or app) to identify an unknown plant sample.
2. Using a sample plant or photo, identify the major parts of a flowering plant, including roots, leaf blade, petiole, sepals, petals, stamen, pistil.
3. Give a 2 minute informal talk about (a) why invasive plants are a conservation concern or (b) your favorite native plant species or family.
4. Identify one approved project in the chapter that relates to plants **or** propose an idea for a new project on this topic.



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