

FORESTRY
Department D, Division 320
Superintendent – Ashtyn Vivion

General Information

1. The official reference for all forestry projects is the [Tree Identification Manual \(4-H 332\)](#) which was recently revised and is available for purchase from UNL Marketplace. Other helpful forestry references include Trees of Nebraska (EC 92-1774-X), [Leafing Out \(4-H431\)](#) and Plant a Tree (EC 17-11-80).
2. Display "boards" must be made from wood or wood composite, e.g. plywood, fiberboard, or masonite, 1/4" to ½" thick and no larger than 24" x 24". Display boards may be coated, e.g., painted or varnished, on both sides to prevent warping.
3. Display "posters" must be made from a material, e.g. foam board or poster board, that will stand upright without buckling, and be no larger than 24" x 24".
4. Display "books" must measure no more than 16" x 16".
5. At least 5 of the 10 samples in Class 2, 3, 4, and 5 must be from the list of 60 species described in 4-H 332. Samples must be from 10 different tree species. For example, Emerald Queen Maple and Crimson King Maple are both varieties of the same species (Norway Maple), and thus have the same genus and species name, i.e. *Acer platanoides*. All samples must be from trees, NO shrubs. If more than 10 samples are included in the display, only the first 10 samples from the current year will be judged.
6. Due to emerald ash borer infestation, no true ash species (Green Ash, White Ash, Black Ash, or Blue Ash) may be included in any collections. Inclusion of a true ash species will result of the project being disqualified.
7. Remember that other general labeling standards apply. For example, scientific names are always italicized or underlined. Also, the first letter of a Genus name is always capitalized. The first letter of a species name is always lower case. When required, always indicate complete scientific names (Genus and species) and common names, (e.g. Norway Maple) even when "variety names" are included. For example, the scientific name of Emerald Queen Maple is *Acer platanoides* and the common name is Norway maple. "Emerald Queen" may be included as the variety name, but variety names are not required.
8. How well the exhibitor follows written directions is an important factor in judging.
9. All static exhibits must have received a purple ribbon at the County Fair to advance to the State Fair.
10. Scoresheets, forms, contest study materials, and additional resources can be found at <https://go.unl.edu/forestry>.

Division D320, Forestry Classes

D320001* **Design-Your-Own Exhibit** - Prepare an educational about some aspect of trees, forests or forest products. Possible topics include paper recycling, wild forest fire, forest products,

forest wildlife, or forest pests. The only requirement is that the display be no larger than 24 inches by 24 inches by 24 inches. Photographs, drawings, samples, charts, posters, etc. can be used but, include enough information to adequately explain the topic. Your display should be substantially different from other display classes. Be as creative as you like.

D320002* **Leaf Display** - The leaf display must include samples of “complete leaves” from at least 10 different tree species. The display must include at least two samples of simple leaves, compound leaves, and conifer leaves (needles, scales, etc.) Leaves should be pressed, dried and mounted.

Collection: Whenever possible, collect leaves from mature trees. Collect leaves any time after they have reached full size, usually beginning in early summer. Leaf samples should be in good condition and representative of the average leaves on the tree. Keep in mind that shaded leaves are often much larger than normal. Carefully remove leaves from the twig with the entire petiole or rachis (if compound) intact. After collection, fresh leaf samples can be temporarily stored within the pages of an old magazine, but they should be properly pressed and dried for display. Be sure to record pertinent information during collection. All collection must be done by the exhibitor.

Mounting - Leaves may be displayed in a notebook or on a display board. Any method may be used to mount leaves but be sure all their features can be clearly identified.

Labeling - The label for each sample must include:

1. Common Name
2. Scientific Name
3. Leaf type
4. Leaf arrangement (for broadleaf trees)
5. Leaf composition (for broadleaf trees)
6. Collector’s name
7. Collection date
6. Collection location (be specific – include county and other relevant information)

If a twig is included with a sample, indicate “twig included” on the label. For example, the twig may be included with an eastern cedar sample because the leaves are very small and difficult to remove from the twig.

Supplemental information, e.g. general uses, common products, fall color, etc. may be included to enhance educational value.

D320003* **Twig Display** - The twig display must include twig samples from at least 10 different tree species. The display must include twig at least two samples of opposite and alternate leaf arrangements from broadleaf trees.

Collection - Twig samples should be collected during the dormant season (November – April) when the buds mature. Twig samples must be at least 6 inches long and exhibit

buds. Leaves must be removed and side branches must be trimmed to less than 1 inch in length. All collection must be done by the exhibitor.

Mounting - Twigs must be mounted on a display board. Any method, e.g. wire, glue, tape, staples, plastic bags, may be used to mount twigs, but be sure all their features can be clearly identified. The non-terminal must be cut at a slant so the pith can be seen.

Labeling - The label for each sample must include:

1. Common Name
2. Scientific Name
3. Leaf Arrangement (for broadleaf trees)
4. Collector's Name
5. Collection Date
6. Collection Location (be specific, include county and other relevant information)

Supplemental information, e.g., general uses, tree characteristics, etc., may be included with the display to enhance its educational value.

D320004* **Seed Display** - The seed display must include seed samples from at least 10 different tree species.

Collection - Tree seeds should be collected at the time of year when they are mature, which varies widely depending upon tree species. For example, Silver maple seeds mature in May while red oak acorns do not mature until September. Seed Samples should be free of insect or disease symptoms. Remember to display seeds, and not fruit. For example, the seed from a honey locust is enclosed in a pod. Remove and display the seed, not just the pod. It is acceptable to display the fruit with the seed, but clearly label each. All collection must be done by the exhibitor.

Mounting - Seeds may be displayed in a variety of ways e.g. mounted on a display board, displayed in jars in a rack, etc. but they must be securely mounted and easily viewed. Be as creative as you like.

Labeling: The label for each sample must include:

1. Common Name
2. Scientific Name
3. Type of Fruit, if known (e.g. samara, pod or legume)
4. Collector's Name
5. Collection Date
6. Collection Location (be specific, include county and other relevant information)

Supplemental information, e.g. maturity date, average number of seed in the fruit, etc.,

may be included to enhance educational value.

D320005* **Wood Display** - The wood display must include wood samples from at least 10 different tree species.

Preparation - Samples may be of any shape, e.g. sections from a board, wood cylinders turned on a lathe, horizontal or vertical cross sections of a small log with bark attached, etc. but all samples should be the same shape, e.g. all wood cylinders or all sections of a board. Each sample can be no larger than 4 inches by 4 inches by 4 inches. Cut surfaces should be sanded to show the grain. Treating the samples with a clear finish (no stain) is optional. All collection must be done by the exhibitor.

Mounting - Samples may be displayed in a variety of ways e.g. mounted on a display board, displayed in a box or rack, etc. but they must be securely mounted and easily viewed. Be as creative as you like.

Labeling: The label for each sample must include:

1. Common Name
2. Scientific Name
3. Wood Type (softwood or hardwood)
4. Collector's Name
5. Collection Date
6. Collection Location (be specific – include county and other relevant information)

Supplemental information, e.g. common products, wood density, etc. may be included to enhance educational value.

D320006* **Cross Section Display** - a disc cut from a tree species listed in 4-H 332. The sample must be collected by the exhibitor within one year of the state fair judging day. The disc must measure 6 to 12 inches in diameter and 1 to 3 inches thick. The bark should be firmly attached, which may be difficult if the tree was dead when the disc was cut. Sand at least one side of the disc so the grain can be easily seen. If the disc is treated with a clear finish, both sides must be treated to minimize warping. As the disc dries, some cracking or checking can be expected and is allowed.

Labeling - The following parts must be clearly and accurately labeled on the cross section with pins, paper tags or some other form of identification.

1. pith
2. heartwood
3. sapwood
4. one growth ring (beginning and end)
5. cambium
6. bark

A separate label attached the back of the disc must include:

7. Common Name

8. Scientific Name
9. Tree Classification (softwood or hardwood)
10. Age (of the cross section)
11. Collector's Name
12. Collection Date
13. Collection Location (be specific, include county and other relevant information)

D320007* **Parts of a Tree (ages 8-11 only)** - Prepare a poster, no larger than 24 inches x 24 inches that clearly identifies the main external parts of any tree:

- a) Trunk
- b) Crown
- c) Roots
- d) Leaves
- e) Flowers
- f) Fruit
- g) Buds
- h) Bark

Identifying other internal parts, e.g. phloem, xylem, cambium, annual ring, pith, etc. is optional. Attach a separate label on the back of the poster that includes the exhibitor's name and age.

D32008* **Living Tree Display** - a living tree seedling grown by the exhibitor from seed in the display container. The seed must be from a species listed in 4H332. The seedling must be 60 days to 1 years old (on judging day). The display container must contain at least 8 inches of soil (potting mix or suitable natural soil), have drainage hole(s), and a drain pan to catch drainage water.

Labeling - A waterproof label must be attached and include:

1. Common name
2. Scientific name
3. Seed treatments (if any)
4. Planting date
5. Emergence date
6. Exhibitor's name

Supplemental information about the tree, e.g. where the seed was collected, growth measurements, uses for that species, etc., may be included in an attached notebook, poster, etc. Supporting information will be an important factor in judging.

D320099 **Other Forestry Exhibit** (Ag & Misc. scoresheet) – Not eligible for State Fair or County Fair Division Awards. Must meet guidelines stated in project manual.

*State Fair eligible