

671 How Does Your Garden Grow? Interview Questions

Use two or three of these or similar standard questions as *part* of the interview judging process.

1. What is the difference between an annual and a perennial flower?
Annuals are plants that complete their life cycle in one year by growing from seed to flower to seed. Perennials are plants that live at least three years. They have a cold-tolerant root system and plant base that enables it to survive the winter and return year after year. (pages 39-40)
2. What factors should you consider when choosing which plants to grow?
Do the plant's light and soil requirements match your site condition? Do the plants match your theme? Are the plants going to be the appropriate size? Do the plants fit the locations you have in mind? Is the level of care suitable? (pages 18-19)
3. When scoping out a site for your garden, what are three things that you should examine the soil for?
*Soil should be loose and easy to work.
The soil needs to drain water well.
A soil test should be performed to determine if the soil's pH and nutrient levels are adequate. (page 12)*
4. Did you pinch back your plants? Why?
Pinching helps your plants sprout new shoots for more flowers. (page 28)
5. Did you use fertilizer? How much? What was the analysis?
Answers will vary. (page 23)
6. Why are weeds undesirable in flower beds?
Weeds compete with flowers by using up water, soil nutrients, space, and sunlight. (page 37)
7. What purpose does mulch serve?
Deters weeds, aids in retaining moisture, and keeps the soil from eroding. (page 40)
8. Did you use mulch? If so, what did you use?
Answers will vary.
9. What four things should you look for when buying plants to make sure that they are of good quality?
The plant should 1) have healthy leaves and strong, sturdy stems (not wilted), 2) be labeled with the plant name, 3) have no signs of insects or diseases, 4) NOT be overgrown or flopping over. (page 22)
10. How long should you wait to plant your flowers after the frost-free date?
Two weeks. (page 22)

