



**MERU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

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University Examinations 2011/2012

SECOND YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DIPLOMA IN  
AGRICULTURE

**AGR 0222: HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION**

**DATE: DECEMBER 2011**

**TIME: 1½ HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

**QUESTION ONE – (30 MARKS)**

- (a) Blossom end-rot is a common disease in tomatoes;
- (i) State the two possible causes of this disease. (2 Marks)
  - (ii) Give two symptoms of the disease. (2 Marks)
- (b) (i) How does low temperatures effect chillies production? (1 Mark)
- (ii) Give the storage conditions required for prolonged storage of chillies. (2 Marks)
- (c) (i) What is horticulture (2 Marks)
- (ii) Give three characteristics of modern horticulture. (3 Marks)
- (d) Rose flower is the most popular flower in the world. Give three major ways of using Rose flowers in the world. (3 Marks)
- (e) Cut flowers deteriorate immediately they have been homestead. What are the five causes of this deterioration? (5 Marks)
- (f) Powdery Mildew is a serious threat to flower farming in Kenya;
- (i) Name the causal agent (1 Mark)
  - (ii) Give three symptoms of this disease (3 Marks)
- (g) (i) Give the three objective of post harvest technology of harvested fruits. (3 Marks)
- (ii) What are the three causes of post harvest losses in mature-fruit vegetables like tomatoes? (3 Marks)

**QUESTION TWO – (15 MARKS)**

You have been approached by the local French beans farmers to teach them how they can produce high yields of high quality beans for export market. Explain how you can produce them from land preparation up to harvesting. (15 Marks)

**QUESTION THREE – (15 MARKS)**

Explain all the post harvest handling techniques undertaken in cut Rose flowers. (15 Marks)

**QUESTION FOUR – (15 MARKS)**

Explain how you can establish and manage a tomato nursery bed up to transplanting. (15 Marks)

**QUESTION FIVE – (15 MARKS)**

- (a) Give a brief description of the four branches of horticulture. (8 Marks)
- (b) What are the five aims of encouraging farmers to venture in horticulture farming? (5 Marks)
- (c) Name any two diseases of French beans. (2 Marks)