



# UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

2016/2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION

THIRD YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN  
HORTICULTURE

ACH 302: HERBS AND SPICES

**DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2016**

**TIME: 8:30-10:30AM**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Answer Question ONE and ANY other TWO Questions**

**QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)**

- a) Discuss with examples the differences between herbs and spices (4 marks)
- b) Explain the importance of temperature in parsley seed production (1 mark)
- c) Describe the three (3) types of foliage characteristics in Parsley (3 marks)
- d) Outline three (3) characteristics of a formal herb garden (3 marks)
- e) Explain the cause of the characteristic smell in green coriander herbs (1 mark)
- f) Describe three (3) essential oils obtained from parsley (3 marks)
- g) Describe four (4) quality indicators of pimento spice (4 marks)
- h) Discuss the post-harvest care of allspice (5 marks)
- j) As a horticultural farmer, you have received an order from one of your clients to supply them celery stalks that are crispy, tender and of mild flavour. Explain how you can achieve this specification (6 marks)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

- a) Successful drying of herbs is an art that enables removal of about 70% of water without losing the essential volatile oils. Describe how this is achieved (6 marks)
- b) Describe how you would take care of indoor potted herbs to ensure their healthy growth in your living room (7 marks)
- c) Describe the useful products of cinnamons and cassia (7 marks)

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

- a) Demonstrate the best practice of harvesting herbs that ensures they retain as much volatile oils as possible. (6 marks)
- b) Explain the procedure you would use to check the drainage of a herb garden site and how you would correct it (14 marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

- a) Discuss the choice of herbs during establishment of a herb garden (8 marks)
- b) Discuss the uses of coriander as a herb and a spice (12 marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Assume you have been contracted by the County Government of Embu to establish a herb garden outside the Governor's office. Discuss how you would go about it.

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