

How to Get Your Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Certification

Commercial landscapers often desire or are asked by their clientele to apply pesticides to the properties they maintain. Unless a landscaper is a Pest Control Operator (PCO), or has one on staff, he or she is severely limited as to which materials can be used, and where those materials can be applied. This includes applying pesticides to edge fences and control weeds or diseases in plant beds.

To legally apply **any** pesticide each applicator must be certified as a Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance (LCLM) applicator. Even though anyone can purchase a large array of pesticides at home supply centers and most department stores without a license, neither landscapers nor their employees may apply them without the LCLM certification.



There are several requirements that must be met before anyone can become a LCLM certified applicator:

- must be at least 18 years old
- must provide proof of 6 hours of training in the subjects of basic pesticide knowledge, Florida pesticide regulations, and plant beds and ornamentals before applying
- study for the exam - Know the material that the exam comprises
- must provide a passport-style photo if using a paper application
- submit completed application with \$150 fee
- successfully pass the LCLM exam
- provide proof of insurance
- If you are a convicted felon do not apply for any exams until you have proof that your civil rights have been restored.

Landscape maintenance companies are not allowed to make any application of pesticides to the turf, this includes weed and feed products. PCOs can make pesticide applications to turf.

Limitations

LCLM applicators may only use pesticides that are labeled with the signal word “Caution”. The only sprayers that may be used are 3-gallon hand sprayers or 5-gallon backpack sprayers. Sprayers cannot be powered equipment, they must be hand operated.

LCLM applicators are not allowed to apply pesticides to turf. If the applicator has the Limited Urban Fertilizer Application certification, he/she can apply fertilizer, but not any fertilizer that contains a pesticide. Because weed-and-feed type fertilizers contain pesticides LCLM applicators are not allowed to apply them.

Although the LCLM certification does not allow all the privileges of the PCO license, it is still valuable. The certification does allow the applicator to choose from a few pesticides to help control weeds in plant beds and ornamental plantings. If the plant beds or ornamentals are diseased, LCLM applicators can treat the plantings if the pesticides have the signal word of “Caution”. They may also use herbicides in the plant beds and to maintain a neat appearance around fences and other areas.

It is never too early to start studying for the exam, so get the materials and start now.

Study Materials

The first 2 materials must be purchased from the IFAS Extension Bookstore. The contact information is here: <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/t-contact.aspx> . The remaining materials are accessible from the included links .

Applying Pesticides Correctly, available in two formats, SM 1 or SM 69, at <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/c-76-pesticides-exam-study-materials.aspx>

Ornamental & Turfgrass Pest Management, available in two formats, SM 7 or SM 74, at <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/c-76-pesticides-exam-study-materials.aspx?pagenum=2>

Chapter 482 F.S. available at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/Chapter482/All>

Chapter 5E-14, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) available at <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=5e-14>

Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida, available at http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/gibmp_manual_web_2_17_11.pdf

Several questions on the exam will refer to a pesticide label. A label will be provided. Here is one that you can use to familiarize yourself with the sections of a label and the information on the label <http://www.cdms.net/LDat/Id3N2005.pdf>

Exam Process

The LCLM exam is comprised of 80 multiple choice questions. All the questions are taken from the study materials. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) now allows for the LCLM exam to be taken on state-provided computers at several Extension office locations. The examinee is provided his or her score as soon as the exam is finished. The time to receive the certification is greatly reduced because exams don't have to be sent to FDACS to be scored and the possibility of human error while entering information is eliminated. Use this link for signing up to use the computer: <https://pesticideexam.ifas.ufl.edu/>. The exams are also available via a paper exam booklet. Utilizing the paper exam takes considerably longer to finish the licensing process. This is the link for the LCLM application from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, it contains much of the information found in this document: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/23511/484250/limited_landscape_pkt.pdf

You must apply to take the exam after you have met the qualifications and finished studying. There are 2 options for this process. (1) You can attend the required training, study the materials, apply for the examination, receive an admission slip from the FDACS, and then go to an Extension office and take the exam. (2) You can attend a workshop that is designed to give you the required training, accept your completed application, and administer the exam all on 1 day. Many have found the second option to be easier because the exam is given when the training is finished. Contact our office for information on our next workshop.



All users of pesticides must read and follow the label. This includes making sure that the product is labeled for use where you want to use it.



Homeowners

Individual homeowners are exempt from certification and can apply any non-restricted use pesticide labeled for home use on his or her own property. These products have a federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) label that must be read and accurately followed for the application to be legal and safe. A homeowner also has the option to have his/her yard worker make the applications. The yard worker must not provide the equipment or chemicals, advertise, or make any claims that he or she is in the pest control business. Yard workers are limited to handheld equipment only. See section 482.211 (11) of Chapter 482 F.S. for more information on the yard worker exemption <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2010/482.211> .

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*For more information on pesticides, training calendars, and exams,
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<http://www.pbcgov.com/coextension/agriculture/safety/>

Homeowners are exempt from certification. Federal law requires that they read and follow all pesticide label directions. Homeowners should never use a pesticide in or around their home that is not labeled for home use.