

How to Get Your Limited Urban Fertilizer Certification

Since January 1, 2014, any person applying commercial fertilizer to an urban landscape in the state of Florida has been required to have the Limited Urban Fertilizer Certification (LUFC). This law was enacted to protect Florida's water resources from the environmentally harmful effects of nutrient (primarily nitrogen and phosphorus) runoff from landscapes receiving fertilizer inputs.

Definitions

“Commercial fertilizer application” refers to the application of fertilizer for monetary payment (or other benefit of value) to property that is not owned by the person or firm applying the fertilizer, or the employer of the applicator.

“Urban landscape” refers to pervious areas (pervious means areas or surfaces where water can pass through) within residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, highway rights-of-way, or other non-agricultural lands that are planted with turf or horticultural plants. For the purposes of the LUFC, the definition of agriculture is found in s. [570.02](#) F.S.



Rule 5E-14.117(18), Florida Administrative Code, states:

Applicants for limited certification for urban landscape commercial fertilizer must submit a copy of the training certificate issued pursuant to Section 403.9338 F.S., with their completed Application for Limited Certification for Urban Landscape Commercial Fertilizer, FDACS-13677 Rev 08/09 and the application fee of \$25.00.

To earn the LUFC certificate, you must first successfully complete the Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) training course. The GI-BMP training certificate requirement is met in 1 of 3 ways:

- attend a training course in person (and pass the GI-BMP exam);
- take the training course online (and pass the GI-BMP exam);
- obtain the DVD version of the GI-BMP, watch the presentation, and schedule your exam at one of the County Extension offices.

Information for the above 3 options for GI-BMP trainings can be found at: <https://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu/>. You will need to pass the post-test with at least a score of 75%. This exam is graded in Gainesville and the GI-BMP training certificate, if earned, will be mailed to you.

Once you have earned the GI-BMP training certificate, you will need to submit an application for your LUFC to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Include a copy of your GI-BMP training certificate and a \$25.00 check or money order made out to 'FDACS'.

FDACS Application for LUFC

http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/38149/852766/limited_fertilizer_pkt.pdf

Study Materials

GI-BMP Manual

http://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/BMP_manual.htm

GI-BMP DVDs

<https://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu/dvd/info.faces>



Homeowners

Individual homeowners are exempt from LUFC certification and can apply fertilizer on their own property (homeowners are not required to have a GI-BMP certification). However, it is strongly recommended that homeowners follow the procedures as outlined in the GI-BMP manual. A homeowner also has the option to have their yard worker make the fertilizer applications for them, but the homeowner must supply the application equipment and the materials being applied. See section 482.1562 (9) of chapter 482 F.S. for more information on the yard worker exemption <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2010/482.1562>

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*For more information on pesticides, training calendars, and exams,
contact:*

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<http://www.pbcgov.com/coextension/agriculture/safety/>

While homeowners are exempt from certification, they are encouraged to follow the recommendations of the University of Florida/IFAS "Florida-Friendly Landscape Program" and label instructions when applying fertilizers. <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>