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# Guide to Taking the FRUIT AND NUTS Pesticide Applicator Certification Examination (Category #02)

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To become a certified fruit and nuts pesticide applicator, one must pass a core written examination and pass the category-specific written examination. This handout describes the **fruit and nuts** written examination.

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**EXAMINATION CONTENT:** The questions on this examination will be specific to the fruit and nuts category. The question content may be of an applied nature for some topics such as calibration, IPM, and general pesticide management practices. In general, questions about fruit and nuts will be asked in the following categories:

## Pests

- Specific pest identification
- Symptoms and signs of damage
- Habitat/life cycle of specific pests
- Biology of pest, relationship to control
- Population dynamics
- Vector aspects and relationships
- Specific chemical management practices
- IPM practices for control of specific pests including biorational approaches

## Pesticides

- Specific product(s) for control of target pests
- Resistance management
- Integration with other control practices
- Unique formulations and applications
- Specific label instructions/limitations
- Tank mixtures

## Laws and Regulations

## Target Site

- Specific crop, animal, structure, etc.
  - Potential phytotoxicity/other damage to target site
  - Specific label restrictions/limitations
  - Any IPM considerations
  - Regulatory issues relevant to specific commodities, sites, and other target areas
  - Regulatory issues relating to specific commercial/public categories
  - Pesticide recordkeeping
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**STUDY MATERIALS:** The above topics are covered in a pesticide education packet, which includes the following materials<sup>1</sup>. **Please note that all these study materials, including the Pesticide Education Manual, can be used when taking this exam.**

## General Manuals

- Pennsylvania Tree Fruit Production Guide
- Mid-Atlantic Orchard Monitoring Guide, NRAES
- Commercial Berry Production and Pest Management Guide
- Pesticide Education Manual (included in the **Core** education packet)

## Other Information

- EPA Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides
- New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Recommendations for Grapes, Cornell University and The Pennsylvania State University

## Application Equipment

- Air Blast Orchard Sprayers

- Spray Drift Control

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all the materials listed are published by The Pennsylvania State University.

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**SAMPLE QUESTIONS:** The fruit and nuts category examination questions are in a multiple-choice format with a single correct answer. The following 10 questions are samples of the questions that will be on the examination. After each question, the difficulty level (easy, medium, difficult) and the content area are indicated in parentheses. The answer key is found at the end of this document. Each examination will contain 50 questions. A maximum time limit of three hours will be given to complete the exam.

1. The most common way for tomato ringspot virus to spread from one orchard to another is: (easy, diseases)

- A. By wind blown seed of weeds such as dandelion
- B. By runoff water from heavy rains
- C. Carried on orchard equipment such as tree planters, mowers, and vehicles
- D. Carried on the feet of animals such as deer, voles, doves, etc.

2. Sticky traps are best used: (easy, insects)

- A. As a means of controlling most moth and butterfly adults where small fruits are grown
- B. To monitor population levels of specific insects
- C. As a means to control a specific species of insect
- D. To control fungal spore levels

3. Weed control in strawberries include the following measures: (easy, weeds)

- A. Pre-plant cover cropping
- B. Use of labeled herbicides
- C. Cultivation

D. Pre-plant cover cropping, use of labeled herbicides, and cultivation

4. Sharpnosed leaf hopper is an important insect pest in: (medium, insects)

- A. Strawberries
- B. Raspberries
- C. Blueberries
- D. Blackberries

5. Which herbicide should not be mixed, stored, or applied in galvanized metal or unlined steel tanks? (medium, pesticides)

- A. Simazine
- B. Glyphosate
- C. 2, 4-D
- D. Paraquat

6. Control of Botrytis on grapes is best accomplished through: (medium, target site)

- A. Cultural practices
- B. Chemical procedures
- C. Cultural and chemical procedures
- D. Resistant varieties

7. Do commercial or custom pesticide applicators have any responsibilities under the EPA Worker Protection Standard? (medium, laws and regulations)

- A. No, the WPS does not apply to commercial applicators
- B. Commercial applicators are responsible for providing worker training on all agricultural establishments to which they apply pesticides
- C. The WPS prohibits commercial applicators from applying highly toxic pesticides to establishments where workers are present without written permission of the owner/operator
- D. Commercial applicators must inform their customers about the application

including location of treated area, date and time of application, product name, REI, type of notification, etc.

8. What is residue tolerance? (difficult, laws and regulations)

- A. Amount of pesticide that is lethal to an average (150 pound) person
- B. The maximum amount of a pesticide that wildlife can tolerate before showing poisoning symptoms
- C. Maximum amount of a pesticide residue that may legally remain in or on one food or feed at harvest
- D. Maximum amount of a pesticide that can legally occur in groundwater

9. Sooty blotch and flyspeck diseases on apple occur under the following conditions: (difficult, diseases)

- A. Dry, cool weather in bloom
- B. Wet period before bloom
- C. Wet period during late spring and summer
- D. Wet period during bloom

10. Under what circumstances would a federal permit be required to kill migratory birds? (difficult, vertebrates)

- A. Robins and cardinals feeding on ripening food
- B. Feral pigeons roosting on buildings
- C. Blackbirds and grackles contaminating storage areas with their droppings
- D. Starlings and pigeons creating a potential health hazard with their excrement

Click here to check your answers with our [answer key](#).

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**ORDERING OTHER STUDY MATERIALS:** [Study materials](#) for the category-specific certification examinations are available from The Pennsylvania State

University for a fee. For pricing and ordering information, contact the Publications Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802-2602. If mailing an order, please include a check or money order in U.S. currency, drawn on a U.S. bank, made payable to The Pennsylvania State University. Visa and MasterCard orders are also accepted by calling toll-free 1-877-345-0691 (or 865-6713 in the State College area). Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm EST.

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**EXAMINATION SCHEDULES:** Certification examinations are given by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's regional office personnel. To find the schedules for the certification examinations, please check the Penn State Pesticide Education Program's web site at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/examfr.html>. This site also indicates the exam fees and what things you should take to the exam. The blue sheet inside this Guide lists the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regional offices' addresses and telephone numbers. The sheet also provides information on how to access recertification meetings, which are needed to maintain your certification.

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**ANSWER KEY:**

Q - A	Q - A	Q - A	Q - A	Q - A
1. A	3. D	5. B	7. D	9. C
2. B	4. C	6. C	8. C	10. A

Click here to go back to the [Sample Questions](#).

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Where trade names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services appear in the study

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