
Guide to Taking the FOREST PEST CONTROL Pesticide Applicator Certification Examination (Category #05)

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

EXAMINATION CONTENT: The questions on this examination will be specific to the forest pest control 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 forest pest control 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 materials¹. **Please note that all these study materials, including the Pesticide Education Manual, can be used when taking this exam.**

General Manuals

- Diagnosing Injury to Eastern Forest Trees
- Pesticide Education Manual (included in the **Core** education packet)

Product Labels

- Dimilin 25W Label, Uniroyal Chemical Company, Inc.
- Dimilin 25W Material Safety Data Sheet, Uniroyal Chemical Company, Inc.
- Foray 48B Label, Abbott Laboratories

Other Information

- Herbicides and Forest Vegetation Management
- Introduction to Weeds and Herbicides
- Reducing Decay Losses in High-Value Hardwoods, USDA Forest Service

- Forest Integrated Pest Management, PA Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry

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

SAMPLE QUESTIONS: The forest pest control 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 likelihood of outbreaks of any particular forest insect pest can best be minimized by: (easy, pest)

- A. Periodic spraying with the appropriate insecticides
- B. Managing the forest to encourage a mixture of tree species
- C. Managing natural enemies
- D. Carefully monitoring population levels of all insect pests

2. At what application rate should Foray 48B insecticide be used to control spruce budworm? (easy, pesticides)

- A. 0.7-1.3 pt/acre
- B. 1.0-2.7 pt/acre
- C. 1.3-5.0 pt/acre
- D. 1.3-6.7 pt/acre

3. Decays are the most important diseases in Pennsylvania's hardwood forests. In general, they cannot be "controlled" as such, but rather are managed. What do most decay fungi require to attack a tree successfully: (easy, target site)

- A. Weakened tree
- B. Insect vector
- C. Wounds
- D. Drought conditions

4. This insect attacks the tops of European white birch causing individual branch death. Larvae mine directly into the cambium and often girdle the branch. What insect causes this problem? (medium, insects)

- A. Periodical Cicada
- B. Bronze birch borer
- C. Birch Leafminer
- D. Engraver beetles

5. Which of the following herbicides is the most toxic to mammals? (medium, pesticides)

- A. Oust
- B. Garlon
- C. Roundup
- D. Amitrol-T

6. Once a pest in a forest stand is brought under control, what should the manager do periodically to determine the status of the pest population within the stand? (medium, IPM)

- A. Scout and monitor the stand regularly to determine pest levels
- B. Regularly release parasitoids and predators to keep the pest population at low levels
- C. Regularly spray a biological pesticide to suppress any chance of a major pest outbreak
- D. Immediately thin the stand to eliminate potential host trees for the particular pest(s)

7. In pine plantations, Lophodermium needle cast disease can be reduced by avoiding planting sensitive species on what kind of sites? (medium, target site)

- A. Hot, dry sites
- B. Gently sloping hillsides
- C. Pine populations that include the alternate host (spruce)
- D. Areas with poor weed control and low lying areas with abundant moisture

8. Signs giving evidence that a tree is being attacked by the Armillaria shoestring root rot fungus include: (difficult, pests)

- A. Conks on the side of the tree
- B. Ooze coming out of tree cracks
- C. Honey-colored mushrooms, rhizomorphs ("shoestrings"), and mycelial fans
- D. Many lichens on the tree trunks

9. You have an 175 acres of hardwood forest that is infested with gypsy moth. How much Dimilin 25W will you need to apply to this tract of land to achieve control? (difficult, pesticides)

- A. Between 75 and 150 ounces
- B. Between 100 and 150 ounces
- C. Between 175 and 700 ounces
- D. Between 700 and 1400 ounces

10. Twin stump sprouts frequently present a thinning problem during stand improvement work. In order to manage decay in the stand, twin sprouts over 3 inches in diameter with the union well above the ground-line should be managed how? (difficult, target site)

- A. Either cut both or leave both uncut
- B. Cut either one--it doesn't matter which
- C. After cutting the smaller sprout, wait two years to cut the other
- D. Cut the smaller one only

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

ORDERING OTHER STUDY MATERIALS: [Packet information](#) 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. All sales are final.

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/>. 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.

ANSWER KEY:

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

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