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# Guide to Taking the **LAWN AND TURF** **Pesticide Applicator Certification Examination** **(Category #07)**

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

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**EXAMINATION CONTENT:** The questions on this examination will be specific to the lawn and turf 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 lawn and turf 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

- Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests, The Entomological Society of America
- Pesticide Education Manual (included in the **Core** education packet)

## Weed Information

- Moss in the Lawn
- Introduction to Weeds and Herbicides
- Weed Management in Turf

## Turfgrass Information

- Managing Turfgrass Diseases
- Pest Control Suggestions for Turfgrass Insect and Mite Pests
- Developing an Integrated Turfgrass Pest Management Program

## Vertebrate Pests

- Moles
- Voles

## Application Equipment

- Spray Drift Control
- Boom Sprayers
- Calibrating Turfgrass Chemical Application Equipment, The Ohio State University

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

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**SAMPLE QUESTIONS:** The lawn and turf 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. Which group of chemicals is NOT regulated under federal and state pesticide laws? (easy, laws and regulations)

- A. Repellents and insect growth regulators
- B. Wetting agents and stickers
- C. Insecticides and acaricides
- D. Rodenticides and avicides

2. The most susceptible turfgrass species to Pythium blight is: (easy, diseases)

- A. Perennial ryegrass
- B. Kentucky bluegrass
- C. Creeping red fescue
- D. Tall fescue

3. The pest density at which management action should be taken to prevent an increasing pest population from reaching the economic injury level is called:  
(easy, insects)

- A. The developmental threshold
- B. A degree day
- C. The economic threshold
- D. Biological control

4. What is an example of mechanical control methods for vertebrate pests that are damaging turfgrass? (medium, vertebrates)

- A. Turfgrass varieties that tolerate animal damage
- B. Odor repellents
- C. Trapping and relocating the offending pest
- D. Use of federally-approved poison baits in selected areas

5. Which would NOT normally present a significant hazard associated with the use of herbicides? (medium, target site)

- A. Drift to nontarget species
- B. Cross contamination of other agricultural chemicals in storage
- C. Problem with herbicide residues in application equipment
- D. Acute toxicity hazard to pollinating and other beneficial insects

6. When using a dosage rate of 1/4 pound of herbicide 2E (2.0 lb/gal) per 10,000 square feet, how much herbicide is needed to treat 40,000 square feet? (medium, pesticides)

- A. 0.5 gallon
- B. 1 gallon
- C. 2 gallons
- D. 4 gallons

7. The factor affecting the rate of application with a boom sprayer is: (medium, application equipment)

- A. Travel speed
- B. Area of field to be treated
- C. Time of day
- D. Size of spray tank

8. Which turfgrass insect tunnels under sod, mounds of soil are present, and mounds appear as loose soil, 1-3 inches in diameter, with an 0.25-0.50 inch open hole nearby? (difficult, insects)

- A. Annual bluegrass weevil adults
- B. Billbug larvae
- C. Hairy chinch bugs
- D. Green June beetle grubs

9. Dead or dying roots covered with dark brown stands of fungus, called "runner hyphae" are characteristic of plants affected by: (difficult, diseases)

- A. Fairy ring
- B. Red thread
- C. Take-all patch
- D. Brown patch

10. When should fenoxaprop-ethyl be applied for crabgrass control? (difficult, weeds)

- A. Following application of phenoxy compound
- B. Prior to crabgrass germination

- C. When crabgrass is visible in the stand
- D. Following application of a urea based fertilizer

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:**

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

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

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