

Licensing of Agricultural Tree Crop Pesticide Applicators in Florida¹

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This document explains the licensing and regulation of persons who apply pesticides to agricultural tree crops in Florida, as regulated by the Florida Pesticide Law (Chapter 487), and administered by the Florida Department of Consumer Services.

Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control

All persons who apply or supervise the application of restricted use pesticides to agricultural tree crops must have a pesticide applicator license issued by the Bureau of Compliance Monitoring/Pesticide Certification Section. The Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control category is regulated by the Florida Pesticide Law (Chapter 487).

Category Certification Standards

Applicators seeking a license in this category must demonstrate practical knowledge of:

- agricultural tree crops and associated pests;

- the chemical control measures that pertain to the prevention or control of such pests;
- the equipment or methodologies used to safely and effectively implement such measures;
- the potential for pesticide residues on such crops;
- preharvest application intervals;
- post-application reentry interval restrictions;
- phytotoxicity;
- pesticide-related soil or water problems;
- potential for pesticide-induced environmental contamination; and
- non-target injury and community problems that may result from the improper use of pesticides in agricultural tree crop production.

Applicators in this category shall also demonstrate practical knowledge of:

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The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. UF/IFAS does not guarantee or warranty the products named, and references to them in this publication does not signify our approval to the exclusion of other products of suitable composition. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow directions on the manufacturer's label.

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- the procedures and equipment used to apply pesticides with irrigation water through an irrigation system;
- calibration of equipment for applying pesticides with irrigation water;
- proper design, use, and maintenance of anti-siphon devices and check valves to prevent pesticide contamination of water supplies;
- proper interpretation of pesticide label or labeling requirements for products registered for chemigation; and
- appropriate use of personal protective equipment associated with this type of application.

License classification

Certified agricultural tree crop pest control applicators may be licensed as either public applicators or commercial applicators. These are the major differences:

- A public applicator is a licensed applicator employed by a public or governmental agency. The license is only valid when performing work for the public or governmental agency. The public applicator fee for a four-year license is \$100.
- A commercial applicator is a licensed applicator who is licensed to apply restricted-use pesticides on any property provided they are certified in the category for which the applications are made. A commercial applicator is usually a contract applicator. The commercial applicator fee for a four-year license is \$250.

Examinations

Persons must successfully complete two examinations before they can apply to the Department for a license. These examinations are a Core examination and an Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control category examination. The Core examination may be taken at any University of Florida IFAS County Extension Office. The Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control examination may be taken at a

University of Florida IFAS County Extension Office that offers category examinations. No special qualifications must be met to take the examination. There is no fee to take the examinations.

Study materials

Manuals and study materials for Core and Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control applicators who will be taking exams may be obtained from the UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore by calling 1-800-226-1764 or on-line at <http://www.ifasbooks.ufl.edu/merchant2/>. The content of the Core exam is based upon the manual, *Applying Pesticides Correctly* (Figure 1). The content of the Agricultural Tree Crop exam is based upon the manual, *Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control* (Figure 2). Sample labels may be obtained from suppliers of pesticide products.

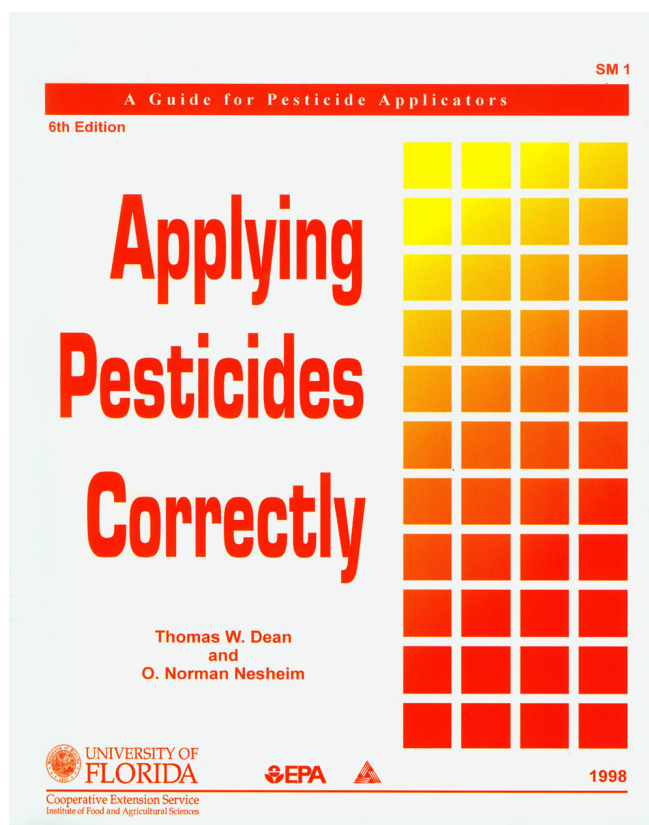


Figure 1. SM 1: Applying Pesticides Correctly

Recertification

Applicators must recertify every four years. To recertify, applicators may take the examinations again or attend training and obtain 8 continuing education

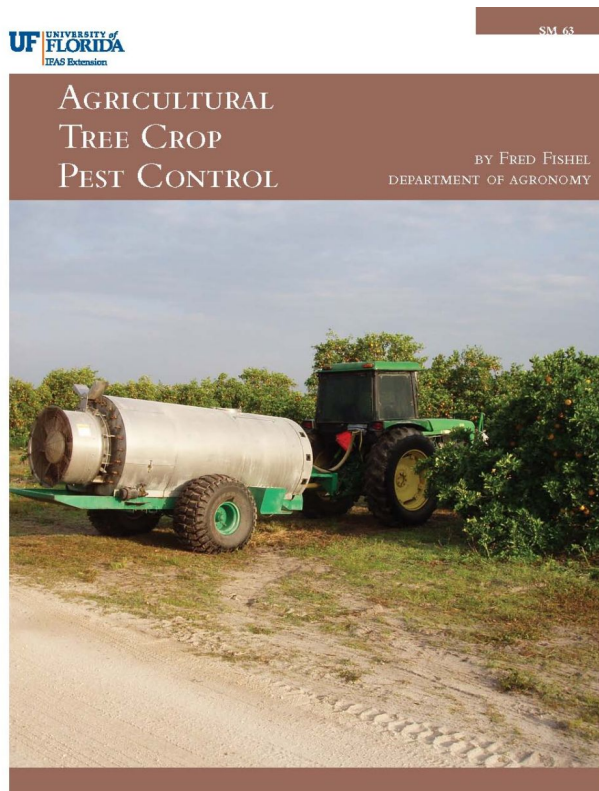


Figure 2. SM 63: Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control

units (CEUs) approved for the Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control category and 4 CEUs approved for the Core category. Core CEUs can't be used to meet the required Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control CEUs. No substitutions of other types of CEUs are allowed. Opportunities to earn CEUs may be found at <http://www.flaes.org/>.

Restricted use pesticides applied in the Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control category

Table 1 lists Florida's restricted use pesticides that are applied in the Agricultural Tree Crop Pest Control category and the reason for the restricted classification. A complete listing of all restricted use pesticides in Florida may be viewed at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI073>.

Additional information

Fishel, F.M. 2005. Restricted use pesticides. UF/IFAS EDIS Fact Sheet PI-36, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI073>.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Bureau of Compliance Monitoring, Pesticide Licensing Section, 3125 Conner Drive, Bldg. 8, L-29, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650, Phone: 850-488-3314, <http://www.flaes.org/complimonitoring/index.html> (accessed June 20, 2006).

Florida Statutes, Chapter 487. Florida Pesticide Law. http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=Ch0487/ch0487.htm

University of Florida/IFAS Pesticide Information Office, P.O. Box 110710, Bldg. 164, Gainesville, FL 32611-0710, Phone: 352-392-4721, <http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/> (accessed June 20, 2006).

Table 1. Restricted use pesticides (RUPs) for Agricultural Tree Crops in Florida.

Pesticide common name	Criteria for RUP
Abamectin	Toxic to fish, mammals, and aquatic organisms. Highly toxic to bees
Aldicarb	Accident history
Azinphos-methyl	Human inhalation hazard, acute toxicity, hazard to avian, aquatic and mammalian species
Bifenthrin	Toxic to fish and aquatic organisms
Chlorpyrifos	Avian and aquatic toxicity
Dichloropropene	Acute inhalation toxicity and carcinogenicity
Diflubenzuron	Hazard to wildlife
Ethoprop	Acute dermal toxicity
Fenamiphos	Acute dermal toxicity, avian acute oral toxicity, acute inhalation toxicity
Fenpropathrin	Environmental concerns: toxic to fish and aquatic organisms
Methidathion	Residue effects on avian species
Methomyl	Acute toxicity
Methyl bromide	Acute toxicity and accident history
Oxamyl	Acute oral toxicity, acute inhalation toxicity, avian oral toxicity
Oxydemeton-methyl	Reproductive effects
Paraquat	Human toxicological data, other hazards - use and accident history