

Getting your Michigan Commercial Certified Pesticide Applicator License



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Based on ideas from Ginny Wanty, Ginny Sines, Randy Butters, John Stone's www.ipm.msu.edu/pesticide_education_safety/certification, and myself, mostly from late 2013. If things have changed since then, please [let me know](#)! For date this file last updated, please see page footer. For information on programming or other green subjects, please see a list of [this document's sister docs](#).

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1 Introduction

Herbicides are often the quickest way to get rid of invasive plant species "biological pollution".

There are lots of reasons to become licensed. Among them:

- Because the law says to.
- You want to use Restricted-Use pesticides.
- You want to learn the real stuff behind what you are doing.
- You want to learn the recordkeeping:
 - recordkeeping that is the law,
 - recordkeeping that is a good idea, and
 - recordkeeping that will keep you out of trouble.

These instructions are for **Michigan**.

TODO: Complete this doc.

TODO: Instructions for other states.

2 Acquire study materials

Until someone changes John Stone's www.ipm.msu.edu/pesticide_education_safety/certification:

- Acquire **E3008KITC Michigan Commercial Applicator Core Training Manual (New, 2008)** 2007-Dec, \$30 print-only from MSU Extension <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins2/product/national-applicator-core-training-manual-michigan-commercial-applicator-addendum-1087.cfm>, composed of:
 - **E3009 National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual** (seems to also be available free, and great for Searches, at www.scmac.org/PDF/CoreManual2.pdf), **and**
 - **E3008 Michigan Addendum for Commercial Pesticide Applicator** (an apparent old reference is available free [good for searches] at www.stewartfarm.org/phragmites/pdf/coremanual.pdf).
- Acquire **E2043 Right-of-Way Pest Mgt: Commercial Pesticide Applicators - Category 6**, 2010-June (2013-04-08?), \$7, print-only, from MSU Extension <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins2/product/rightofway-pest-mgt-commercial-pesticide-applicators-category-6-369.cfm>.

I don't know how this compares to www.ipm.msu.edu/uploads/files/RightorWay_EntireSlideSet.pdf (newer than 2013-04-08?).

- Acquire **E2045 Forest Pest Management, Category 2: A Guide for Commercial Applicators**, 2000-09, \$16, print-only, from MSU Extension www.ipm.msu.edu/pesticide_education_safety/training_manuals/forest_pest_management.
Or without Appendix E, free, from www.ipm.msu.edu/uploads/files/TrainingManuals_Forest/Forest_WholeManual.pdf.
This mostly reinforces the Core, plus a list of pests of Christmas Trees. If I worked in that industry, I would have paid attention. As I don't, at the last minute, I crammed a few of their pests, enough to say the _____ bug is for Spruce trees, or whatever. There were a few questions on Christmas Trees; I knew enough to get some of these right. Combined with high scores on the Core, one can easily pass the test.
- If you work for the government, acquire **E2055 Regulatory Pest Management (Government Employees only)** www.ipm.msu.edu/uploads/files/TrainingManuals_Regulatory/ReducedSize.pdf.
- Optional, acquire **E2784 Safe Transport, Storage and Disposal of Pesticides**, \$1.40, print-only, from MSU Extension <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins2/product/safe-transport-storage-and-disposal-of-pesticides-593.cfm>.
I don't know how this compares to free www.ipm.msu.edu/uploads/files/StorageandHandling.pdf.
I don't know how this compares to the free last two links in www.ipm.msu.edu/pesticide_education_safety/resources/certification_slide_sets (pics, pics and text).
- Optional, acquire **E2837 Community Spray Programs - Guidelines, Legal Requirements**, \$0.50, print-only, from MSU Extension <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins2/product/community-spray-programs-guidelines-legal-requirements-639.cfm>.

3 Prepare for tests

- Start **studying** the above documents. Meanwhile ...
- Find a State of Michigan Certified Pesticide Applicator exam **near you** at www.michigan.gov/pestexam.
- **Register** for the exam at www.michigan.gov/mda > "Licensing, Certification & Registration" > "Pesticide Applicators' Certification Examination Schedule". It will point you to www.michigan.gov/pestexam.
- Finish **studying** the documents above, and preparing your pesticide recordkeeping system for the future.
- **Fill out** application www.michigan.gov/documents/mda/Pesticide_Applicator_Cert_Reg_App_251926_7.pdf, including that you want to take exam parts:
 - *Michigan Commercial Core* certified pesticide applicator.
 - *Category 2 Forest Pest Management*.
 - *Category 6 Right-of-Way Pest Mgt.*
 - *Category 9 Regulatory Pest Management* (if you are a government worker).
 - *Category 10 Demonstration & Research*.
- If you get bored, read www.michigan.gov/mda > Licensing > Pesticides, application, MI regulation 636 and maybe 637.

4 Take the tests

- Take **\$75** exam as above.
Stand there while they grade it, and get any paperwork they give you.
- If you **pass**:
 - Update your **resume** and **LinkedIn**.
 - Update your pesticide **recordkeeping system** that you have this certification.
 - **Scan** the letter and card, and keep a copy in your pesticide folder.
 - Set up a Recurring Task, for every **3 years**, to update your license.
 - If you intend to **apply pesticides for hire**, you must also acquire a [Pesticide Applicator's Business License PABL](#). It also needs to be renewed periodically.

-End.- [send comments to the author](#)