Self-Study Reference Materials for Insect, Rodent, Plant Disease, And Weed Control Exams

All Categories

General Standards Core Manual

Individuals who are not currently commercially certified in any state must pass the general standards certification examination before a license and/or permit can be issued. The general standards certification study manual is available for a fee from:

Beverly Catchot
Mississippi State University Extension
Department of Agricultural Science and Plant Protection
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9775
Phone: 662-325-0795
Fax : 662-325-8837
Email: bdc12@msstate.edu
Website: https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification

Regulations Governing Commercial Insect, Rodent, Plant Disease, and Weed Control Work

Chapter 11 of the Regulation of Professional Services, Subchapter 01. Available online at:
https://agnet.mdac.ms.gov/agManage/uploads/1641.pdf.

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Mississippi State University Extension Publications (Additional Study Material)

Subject to current availability. Mississippi State University Extension Service publications can be accessed online by going to https://extension.msstate.edu/, clicking on "Publications" and searching for the title of the publication you are interested in. Extension web sites can also be an excellent source for information when preparing for specific exams.

One useful way to study is to prepare a list of the pests that are important in the commodity area to which you are testing and use online web resources to learn about the biology, identification, habits, damage, and control methods for each pest.

P1322 Establish and Manage Your Home Lawn
P1858 Insect Control of Commercial Turf
P1861 Greenhouse Tomatoes: Pest Management in MS
P1874 Forest Herbicide Safety: Environmental Concerns & Proper Handling
P1962 Pesticides – Benefits and Risks
P2086 Management of Sports Fields in Mississippi
P2154 Spiders: Brown Recluse & Black Widow
P2331 Control of Insect Pests in and Around the Home Lawn
P2336 The Southern House Mosquito and Related Species
P2347 Insect Pests of the Home Vegetable Garden
P2369 Insect Pests of Ornamental Plants in the Home Landscape
P2407 Control of Argentine Ants and Odorous House Ants in the Home
P2429 Control Fire Ants in Your Yard
P2443 Control Household Insect Pests
P2471 Insect Control Guide for Agronomic Crops
P2472 Insect Pests of Roses
P2483 Integrated Pest Management in the Home Landscape
P2493 Control Fire Ants in Pastures, Hayfields and Barnyards
P2494 Control Fire Ants in Commercial Fruits, Nuts and Vegetables
P2530 Mosquitoes, West Nile, and Other Encephalitis Viruses: What You Can Do to Protect Yourself
P2568 Protect Your House from Termites
P2597 Control Fleas on Your Pet, in Your House, and in Your Yard
P2652 Insect Pests of Houseplants
P2699 Identification Guide to Adult Mosquitoes in Mississippi – no longer available as a .pdf, must contact local Extension office to request a bound copy.
P2717 Fall Armyworms in Pastures and Hayfields
P2736 Good Agricultural Practices for Pecans in Mississippi
P2765 What Homebuilders Need to Know About Termites
P2858 Disease and Insect Control for Homegrown Peaches and Plums
P2896 Signs and Symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer
P2938 Crape Myrtle Bark Scale Identification and Control
P3999 PEST SNAPSHOT: Formosan Subterranean Termite
P4054 Preparing for Your Mississippi Wood Destroying Insect License Exam

Recommendation: All Insect, Rodent, and Plant Disease Control Examinations

The Bureau of Plant Industry recommends, as preparation for exams, to be proficient in entomology, principles of pest control, insect identification, insect damage identification and if applicable plant disease. identification. Numerous textbooks and websites are available and will aid in preparation for these exams. The Bureau encourages thorough training and study, before attempting these exams.

Category WDI (Wood Destroying Insect Control), Category UPL (Control of Insect Pests of Utility Poles) And Category GRC (General Pest and Rodent Control)

* Truman's Scientific Guide to Pest Control Operations – by G. W. Bennett, J. M Owens, and R. M. Corrigan. Book can be obtained from various online sources. (Useful for Category WDI and GRC exams)

* Category VII(A) – Structural Pest Control Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals. (Useful for Category WDI and GRC exams)

* Mississippi State University Extension Publication #P4054 – Preparing for Your Mississippi Wood Destroying Insect License Exam

* Mississippi State University Extension Publication #P3999 – PEST SNAPSHOT: Formosan Subterranean Termite

* Training Manual for Registered Technicians – Available from Mississippi State University, Box 9775, Mississippi State, MS 39762-9775, Phone 662-325-5829 (Useful for Category WDI and GRC exams)

* The Mallis Handbook of Pest Control – by A. Mallis, D. Moreland, and S.A. Hedges. Book can be obtained from various online sources. Use the 8th ed. or higher. (Useful for Category WDI and GRC exams)

* Subterranean termites – their prevention and control in buildings. USDA, Forest Service. Available online at: https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/misc/misc_hg064.pdf. (Useful for Category WDI exam)

Category HCP (Horticultural Pest Control)

* Category III – Ornamental and Turf Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

* Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests, 2nd Ed. Entomological Society of America
  - https://entsoc.org/pubs/books/handbooks

* Cranshaw, Whitney. *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs*. Princeton University Press, 2004.

* Johnson, Warren T., and Howard H. Lyon. *Insects that Feed on Trees and Shrubs*. Comstock Publishing Associates, 1991.

* Vittum, Patricia J., et al. *Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada*. Comstock Publishing Associates, 1999.

* Fermanian, Thomas W., et al. *Controlling Turfgrass Pests*. Pearson, 2002.

* Tufts, Craig. Foreword. *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America*, by Arthur V. Evans, Sterling, 2007.

Category ORP (Orchard Pest Control)

* Select from appropriate Mississippi State University Extension Service Publications
  - P2369

* Select from appropriate Mississippi State University BugWise Newsletters
  - No. 2 – Pecan Phylloxera
  - No. 8 – Peach Tree Borers, Raspberry Crown Borers and Grape Root Borers

* Southeastern Peach, Nectarine and Plum Pest Management and Culture Guide
  - https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1171&title=southeastern-peach-nectarine-and-plum-pest-management-and-culture-guide

Category DAP (Domestic Animal Pest Control)

* Category I(B) – Agricultural Animal Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

Category FUM (Fumigation Pest Control)

* The Mallis Handbook of Pest Control – by A. Mallis, D. Moreland, and S.A. Hedges. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

* Category VIIB – Fumigation Pest Control Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

* Labels for registered fumigants, safety data sheets and training manuals or safety information may be obtained from the registrants or online.

Category AGP (Agricultural Pest Control)

* Category 1A – Agricultural Plant Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

* 2025 Insect Control Guide for Agronomic Crops (P2471) on Mississippi State University Extension's website https://extension.msstate.edu/.

Category MBF (Mosquito and Biting Fly)

* Truman's Scientific Guide to Pest Control Operations – by G. W. Bennett, J. M Owens, and R. M. Corrigan. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

* Identification and Geographical Distribution of the Mosquitoes of North America, North of Mexico – by R. F. Darsie Jr. and R. A. Ward. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

* Select from appropriate Mississippi State University Extension Service Publications
  - P2336
  - P2530
  - P2699

* Category VIII – Public Health Pest Management Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

* The entire manual is not used for studying only the pertinent sections listed below will assist in review for exam.
  - Introduction
  - How Arthropods Affect Humans
  - Host-Vector Relationships
  - Mosquitoes
  - Mosquito Biology and Life Cycle
  - Mosquito Breeding Sites
  - Mosquito Surveillance
  - Mosquito Control
  - Other Biting Fly Control

* Mississippi State Department of Health
  - https://msdh.ms.gov/

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - https://www.cdc.gov/

Recommendation: All Weed Control Exams

The Bureau of Plant Industry recommends, as preparation for exams, to be proficient in botany, principles of weed science and weed identification. Numerous textbooks and websites are available and will aid in preparation for these exams. The Bureau encourages thorough training and study, before attempting these exams.

Category AGW (Agricultural Weed Control)

*Category I(A) – Agricultural Plant Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

* Weed Control Guidelines for Mississippi
  - https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/P1532_web.pdf.

*Weeds of the South. Edited by Charles T. Bryson and Michael S. DeFelice. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

Category AQW (Aquatic Weed Control)

* Weed Control Guidelines for Mississippi
  - https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/P1532_web.pdf.
  - Refer to chapter titled "Aquatic Weeds" for studying.

*Category V – Aquatic Pest Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

Category ROW (Right-of-Way Weed Control)

* Weed Control Guidelines for Mississippi
  - https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/P1532_web.pdf.
  - Refer to chapter titled "Woody Plants" for studying.

*Category VI – Right-of-Way Pest Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

*Category II – Forest Pest Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

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*Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses (Golf Courses-Lawns-Roadsides-Recreational Areas-Commercial Sod). Co-authored by various Cooperative Extension Services. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

*Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses – by James H. Miller and Karl V. Miller. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

*Weeds of the South. Edited by Charles T. Bryson and Michael S. DeFelice. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

Category HCW (Horticultural Weed Control)

* Weed Control Guidelines for Mississippi
  - https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/P1532_web.pdf.
  - Refer to chapter titled "Turf" for studying.

*Category III – Ornamental and Turf Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

*Category VII (3) – Industrial Weed Certification Training Manual. Available from Mississippi State University Extension https://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-certification/category-manuals.

*Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses (Golf Courses-Lawns-Roadsides-Recreational Areas-Commercial Sod). Co-authored by various Cooperative Extension Services. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

*Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses – by James H. Miller and Karl V. Miller. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

*Weeds of the South. Edited by Charles T. Bryson and Michael S. DeFelice. Book can be obtained from various online sources.

*Color Atlas of Turfgrass Weeds, A Guide to Weed Identification and Control Strategies by L.B. McCarty, J.W. Everest, D.W. Hall, T.R. Murphy, and F. Yelverton. Book can be obtained from various online sources.