

Frequently Asked Questions: Core Exam

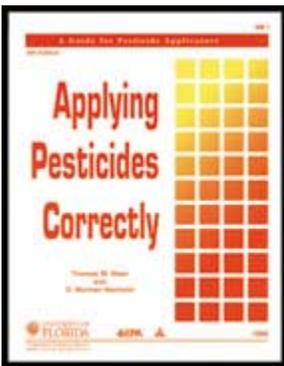
Note: The Core exam was changed April 2007. This information is current as of March 2008. If you are using this information six months or more after this time, check current licensing info at www.prohort.net to be sure this is still current.

Contact: Mary Beth Henry
Hillsborough County Extension Agent I
Hillsborough County Extension Service
5339 County Rd 579
Seffner, FL, 33584-3334
813-744-5519 x 103
813-744-5776 fax
E-mail: mbhenry@ufl.edu

Who needs to take this exam?

The "Core" or General Standards exam is required in addition to a specific category exam for most Florida pesticide licenses. Exceptions include the Limited licenses: Limited Structural, Limited Lawn and Ornamental, Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance which use the Core manual, but combine Core and category questions into one exam.

What book do I need?



The exam study manual is:
"Applying Pesticides Correctly" (SM-1)
6th Edition, issued in 1998, also called the
"Core" manual, \$7.00.

Note: Manuals are periodically updated. Be sure you are using the most current edition, which has an orange and yellow cover as of March 2008.

How do I get the book?

By cash or check only:

Hillsborough County Extension currently has this book available for purchase through the office by **cash or check only**. Please make checks payable to the **Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee**. Call to verify availability and to be sure someone will be available to handle your purchase.

By credit card or check:

Exam study manuals are available from the IFAS Bookstore in Gainesville, either by **ordering online or by calling 1-800-226-1764**. If you order with a credit card, you should receive the books within 4-5 days. The link below the manual goes directly to the manual on the bookstore website. To get to the IFAS Bookstore homepage click on this link: www.ifasbooks.ufl.edu/merchant2/merchant_mv then click on the "**Pesticides**" link on the left, then click on the "**Books**" link and scroll down to find specific manuals.

Are there study guides available?

Yes, a Core study guide is available at http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/study_guides.htm. The study guide includes sample questions and terms which you are likely to see on the exam.

When are the exams?

Hillsborough County Extension administers pesticide applicator exams the second Tuesday of every month. Exams begin at 9:00 A.M., and registration is not required. You must bring a picture ID, such as a driver's license to verify your ID. Appointments for other times are available by contacting Mary Beth Henry at (813) 744-5519 x 103. Other counties administer exams on different days, and some by appointment only, contact the Extension Office in your county for more details. See solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/index.html for details on an Extension office near you

How long will it take to get my results?

Exams are scored by the Bureau of Compliance Monitoring in Tallahassee. Currently the process takes about a month. You can check your score online at www.safepesticideuse.com/complimonitoring/index.html. Note you must enter a password on your application in order to have your score available online. Results will also be sent by mail to the address listed on your application.

How much does it cost?

There is no fee to take this exam. The cost of licenses vary depending on the category and certification- i.e. Public vs. Commercial certification. See the details of costs by clicking on the license you are interested in at www.prohort.net.

Note: This is a State of Florida exam issued by the Bureau of Compliance Monitoring (BCM), a division of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). If you need more information, or have a problem call the Bureau by phone at 850-488-8731 or by fax at 850-488-8498 8-5 Monday through Friday.

How do I get to Hillsborough County Extension at 5339 CR 579, Seffner, FL, 33584?



From the South:

Go North on I-75 to I-4.
Go East on I-4 County Road 579, Exit # 10 (the next exit).

Turn right (South) on CR 579 about 3/4 of a mile. Extension Service will be on the left - a low yellow building.

From the North:

Go South on either I-75 or I-95.
Go East on I-4 to County Road 579 (Exit #10).
Turn right (Go South) on CR 579 about 3/4 of a mile. Extension Service will be on the left - a low yellow building.

From the East:

Go West on I-4 to County Road 579 (Exit #10).
Turn left (Go South) on CR 579 about 3/4 of a mile. Extension Service will be on the left - a low yellow building.

From the West:

Go East on I-4 past Tampa to County Road 579 (Exit #10). Turn right (Go South) on CR 579 about 3/4 of a mile. Extension Service will be on the left - a low yellow building.

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For a general explanation of who needs to take the Core exam, where to get the manual, and testing sites and dates see the Core Exam FAQ included in this study guide and available at http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/study_guides.htm.

Exam basics

The Core or General Standards exam is taken in addition to a category to get a Florida Pesticide applicators license. It is designed to ensure that every licensed pesticide applicator has a basic understanding of pesticides. The Core exam is one of the easier exams, but is very important for the protection of the public and the applicator. Most people pass this exam the first time. There is no cost to take this exam, and if you do not pass, you may take it again.

In order to get a license you must pass this exam in addition to a category exam, for example the Private applicator or Ornamental and Turf exam. You must have passed the Core exam within a year of the category exam in order to use it towards the license.

What is the exam like?

The exam has 50 questions in multiple choice format. It is not timed, there are no math questions, and a label is not included. The test is scored electronically, so be sure you understand how to fill out the answer sheet when you get to the exam. You must score at least 70% to pass, which means you can get 15 wrong and still pass.

When do I find out my score?

See Core Exam FAQ

How do I use this study guide?

This study guide is not designed to be a substitute for reading the reference material, Applying Pesticides Correctly. For information on getting the reference material see Core Exam FAQ. It is designed to help you focus your study time and test your understanding of what you have read. Proper application of pesticides is your best interest, and protects the public from possible harm. In short, there is no short cut to understanding the material!

How can I prepare for exam day?

Read the reference material, and use this study guide, which includes reference page numbers, to check how well you understand. There may also be an exam prep class in your area. You can find out about these by contacting your local Extension office. See Core Exam FAQ for information on finding the Extension office nearest you.

A little preparation goes a long way towards easing the anxiety of taking any exam. Time spent on understanding the material will help you to enter that exam room with confidence, so relax, put your mind to it and conquer the Core exam!

Try to plan some interruption free time surrounding the exam to help you mentally prepare. Eat a decent breakfast before the exam, and don't fill up on too much caffeine!

Terms and Concepts to Know:

Restricted use pesticide
Action Threshold
Pesticide resistance
Eradication
Suppression
Elimination
Prevention
Biological Control

Active ingredient
Persistence
Allergic effect
Continuous pest
Adjuvant
Residue
Drift

Understand these concepts:

WALE-mixing order
Signal Words and level of hazard
Exceptions to the label
Heat Stress
Which Bureau and laws regulate pesticide applicators?

Acute vs. Chronic
Formulation symbols
Public vs. Commercial certification
Choosing PPE, ensuring proper fit

Practice these:

1. What is the difference between a continuous pest and a cyclical pest? (Unit 1 pg. 3)
 - a. A continuous pest is nearly always present and requires regular control.
 - b. A cyclical pest requires control intermittently
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. None of the above

2. Suppression is: (Unit 1 pg. 5)
 - a. The same as eradicating a pest problem
 - b. Preventing a pest problem to begin with
 - c. Reducing pest levels to acceptable populations
 - d. Less common than eradication

3. An action threshold is: (Unit 1 pg. 5)
 - a. The same as an injury threshold
 - b. When a pest is detected
 - c. The same for every pest
 - d. The pest population when action must be taken to prevent unacceptable injury

4. Identifying the pest is the _____ step in IPM. (Unit 1 pg. 7)
 - a. First
 - b. Last
 - c. Unnecessary
 - d. Record keeping

5. Biological control: (Unit 1 pg. 9)
 - a. Uses pesticides to control the biology of pests
 - b. Uses natural enemies against a pest
 - c. Is the same as cultural control
 - d. Uses host resistance against a pest

6. Rotating chemical classes of pesticides applied is important to: (Unit 1 pg. 11)
 - a. Use up chemicals in stock
 - b. Leave a persistent residue
 - c. Prevent pest resistance to chemicals
 - d. Deciding which adjuvant to use

7. A restricted use pesticide may only be purchased and used by certified pesticide applicators because of: (Unit 2 pg. 19)
 - a. Risks to the environment
 - b. Risks to people
 - c. They may only be used in emergencies
 - d. Both a and b

8. What does the active ingredient of a pesticide do? (Unit 2 pg. 20)
- Allows the product to stick to plant leaves
 - Controls the pest
 - Makes it easier to apply the product
 - Counteracts other ingredients when mixing products
9. A skull and crossbones and the word _____ on the label, mean the product can cause acute illness by exposure to the skin, swallowing, or inhaling. (Unit 2 pg. 23)
- Signal
 - Caution
 - Danger
 - Warning
10. The Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals Directions section of a label is likely to tell you: (Unit 2 pg. 24)
- The pH of the active ingredient
 - The environmental hazards of the product
 - The proper PPE required
 - The chemical structure of the product
11. It is not illegal to: (Unit 2 pg. 26)
- Wear more PPE than required by the label
 - Mix a fertilizer with a pesticide if the label does not prohibit it
 - Mix pesticides if the label does not prohibit it
 - All of the above
12. It is illegal to apply a pesticide to: (Unit 2 pg. 26)
- A site not listed on the label
 - Water
 - A pest not listed on the label
 - Native plants
13. The statement, "It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." will appear: (Unit 2 pg. 26)
- Only on restricted use products
 - On products with the signal word "Danger"
 - On aquatic pesticides
 - On every pesticide label
14. Emulsifiable Concentrates (EC) are _____ based products. (Unit 3 pg. 35)
- Water
 - Soap
 - Oil
 - Vinegar
15. Oil based products are: (Unit 3 pg. 35)
- No longer on the market
 - Easily absorbed by skin
 - Likely to cause damage to plant leaves under certain conditions
 - Both b and c

16. What is the symbol for a granular formulation? (Unit 3 pg. 39)
- G
 - WP
 - EC
 - WSP
17. A fumigant: (Unit 3 pg. 41)
- Is the same as a dust formulation
 - Forms a poisonous gas when applied
 - Is the least toxic formulation
 - Is unable to penetrate cracks or compacted material
18. A soluble powder: (Unit 3 pg. 41)
- Does not dissolve in water
 - Does not require mixing
 - Forms a true solution when mixed
 - Needs constant agitation
19. Drift is: (Unit 4 pg. 51)
- The offsite movement of pesticides through soil
 - The offsite movement of pesticides through the air
 - Worse when wind speeds are low
 - Cased by improper mixing
20. A _____ pesticide is most likely to vaporize. (Unit 4 pg. 51)
- Systemic
 - Persistent
 - Volatile
 - Dry
21. Residue is: (Unit 4 pg. 54)
- The loss of pesticides through the air
 - Illegal on fruits and vegetables
 - Pesticides present in underground water bodies
 - Pesticides remaining in the environment after application
22. A persistent pesticide: (Unit 4 pg. 54)
- Resists breaking down and remains in the environment
 - Creates organic matter in the soil
 - Cycles through plant
 - Quickly converts to other compounds in the environment

23. Tolerance is: (Unit 4 pg. 58)
- The legal amount of pesticide left on treated food
 - Illegal in Florida
 - The number of pesticide applications allowed per year
 - Caused by inappropriately applied chemicals
24. Leaching is: (Unit 5 pg. 65)
- The off site movement of pesticides through the air
 - Worse in fine textured clay soils
 - The movement of pesticides downward through the soil
 - Less of a problem in coarse textured sandy soils
25. Soil organic matter _____ leaching. (Unit 5 pg. 65)
- Decreases
 - Increases
 - Does not effect
 - Creates
26. _____ and _____ determine the hazard level of a pesticide. (Unit 6 pg. 75)
- Formulation and pH
 - Mixing and loading
 - Susceptibility and acute effects
 - Toxicity and exposure
 - Simon and Garfunkel
27. Which type of pesticide exposure is most common? (Unit 6 pg. 76)
- Dermal (through the skin)
 - Oral (swallowing)
 - Ocular (through the eyes)
 - Chronic
28. The acute effects of pesticide exposure happen: (Unit 6 pg. 78)
- Over long periods of time
 - Within 24 hours of exposure
 - Through the skin
 - When skin is exposed to light.
29. An allergic effect happens: (Unit 6 pg. 82)
- When a person swallows pesticides
 - When a person has a reaction to a substance that does not cause the same reaction in most people
 - When a person accidentally spills a pesticide
 - When a person becomes a licensed applicator
 - When a person is faced with taking an exam

30. Inducing, vomiting and other first aid measures in the event of a pesticide poisoning, depend on the specific instructions on the pesticide label. Any first aid measures should be taken after: (Unit 6 pg. 85)

- a. Midnight
- b. Removing all clothing
- c. Finishing the application
- d. Stopping the source of pesticide exposure

31. Heat stress could be confused with pesticide poisoning because both have symptoms such as: (Unit 6 pg. 86)

- a. Dizziness
- b. Shortness of breath
- c. Confusion
- d. All of the above

32. True or False-

You are always legally required to wear chemically resistant gloves when working with pesticides. (Unit 7 pg. 93)

False- You are only legally required to wear any PPE which is specified on the label. You may not need chemical resistant gloves depending on the pesticide.

You may choose to wear more PPE than is required by the label, but you must at least wear what is required by the label.

33. Chemically resistant PPE is available. The kind of chemically resistant PPE needed is most influenced by: (Unit 7 pg. 95)

- a. The active ingredient
- b. The solvent used to mix and apply the active ingredient
- c. The color of the pesticide
- d. The pH of the water

34. The solvent used to carry a pesticide's active ingredient greatly affects the kind of chemically resistant PPE needed because: (Unit 7 pg. 95)

- a. Only water fully dissolves most pesticides
- b. Strong solvents, such as xylene, may penetrate less chemically resistant PPE
- c. Granular pesticides can not penetrate PPE
- d. Oil based formulations do not require mixing

35. Solvents: (Unit 7 pg. 95)

- a. Do not vary with application
- b. Prevent pesticides from leaching
- c. Prevent pesticides from injuring crops
- d. Dissolve a pesticide's active ingredient

36. Mixing and loading pesticide concentrates often requires a chemical resistant suit or apron because: (Unit 7 pg. 98)
- The risk of acute pesticide poisoning is higher when handling concentrated pesticides
 - Each applicator should practice wearing different PPE
 - Equipment may have pesticide residues
 - Pesticide concentrates may stain clothing
37. If you remove your gloves to wash them after applying a pesticide you: (Unit 7 pg. 99)
- Are wasting time
 - Are wasting gloves
 - Are exposing your hands to pesticides
 - Are likely to drop them
38. Doing a fit test on a cartridge respirator is the only way to be sure that it will operate correctly. What are the two main types of fit tests? (Unit 7 pg. 107)
- Detection by taste smell or irritation
 - Using a chemical with and without a respirator
 - Measuring the amount of a test substance which enters the facepiece.
 - Both A and C
39. Some fumigants may not require the use of chemically resistant gloves because: (Unit 7 pg. 110)
- Fumigants are relatively non-hazardous.
 - Fumigants are liquids.
 - Gloves can be cumbersome to work in.
 - Gloves may trap poisonous gasses near skin.
40. An adjuvant: (Unit 8 pg. 132)
- Should always be added to pesticides
 - Is the same as a pesticide's active ingredient
 - Are additives designed to help a pesticide work better, or be easier to use
 - Can only legally be added by the pesticide manufacturer
41. Describe the WALE plan. (Unit 9 pg. 141)
42. Wearing clothing that has been exposed to large amounts of pesticide concentrate is: (Unit 9 pg. 148-150)
- Not a good idea even if it has been thoroughly washed
 - No big deal
 - Risking exposure to pesticides, it's better to throw out the clothing
 - Both a and c
43. Calibration is: (Unit 10 pg. 162)
- Easy to determine without measuring chemicals or water
 - Unnecessary for pesticide applications
 - Only performed by equipment manufacturers
 - The only way to be sure equipment is applying chemicals at the desired rate

44. Pesticide storage areas: (Unit 11 pg. 179)
- Can double as a break room in some circumstances
 - Should be able to lock
 - Need to be kept unlocked for inspection at any time
 - Should be located near a well
45. Which materials may catch fire if used to clean up oxidizing chemicals? (Unit 11 pg. 188)
- Sawdust
 - Kitty litter
 - Absorbent crystals
 - Sand
46. Applicators need to be prepared to clean up spills or equipment with water, detergent and _____. (Unit 11 pg. 190)
- Ammonia
 - Dish soap
 - Lye
 - Bleach
47. A farmer growing strawberries on his own land or land he rents only needs a pesticide applicator's license if he needs to use: (Unit 12 pg. 203)
- Herbicides
 - Insecticides
 - Restricted use pesticides
 - No license is required; the government can't tell you what to do on your own property
48. People who apply pesticides as part of their employment with a governmental department need: (Unit 12 pg. 203)
- No license, the government can do what ever it wants
 - A public applicators license
 - A commercial license
 - A Pest Control Operator ID Card
49. Which government agency regulates pesticide applicators? (Unit 12 pg. 198)
- Hillsborough County Extension
 - Water Management Districts
 - Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection
50. The private certification is for those applying pesticides to agricultural commodities on: (Unit 12 pg. 203)
- Public property
 - Property they own or rent
 - Not required on your own property
 - Necessary for applying any pesticide

51. True or False

A private applicator may be hired to apply pesticides, but only to his neighbors' property. (Unit 12 pg. 203)

False- A private applicator may not apply pesticides for hire.

52. Which Florida laws govern pesticide applicators? (Unit 12 pg. 199-203)

- a. Florida Mosquito Control Law
- b. Structural Pest Control Act
- c. Florida Pesticide Law
- d. All of the above