

Kansas Commercial Pesticide Applicator (1A) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Control options for the management and control of rangeland weed species include which of the following?**
 - A. Chemical control**
 - B. Mechanical control**
 - C. Biological control**
 - D. All of the above**

- 2. Which insect causes 1-2 percent field-wide white heads due to larval feeding in the stem?**
 - A. Army Cutworms**
 - B. Wheat Head Armyworms**
 - C. Wheat Stem Maggots**
 - D. False Wireworms**

- 3. The key characteristic to identifying insects belonging to the order Thysanoptera (thrips) is:**
 - A. Fringed wings**
 - B. Chewing mouthparts**
 - C. Sucking mouthparts**
 - D. None of the above**

- 4. Damage in corn usually occurs within the first two weeks of planting and mainly in eastern Kansas. Identify the insect.**
 - A. corn rootworm**
 - B. black cutworm**
 - C. Japanese beetle**
 - D. wireworm**

- 5. One of the most destructive pests of peach trees is:**
 - A. Peach Tree Borer**
 - B. Plum Curculio**
 - C. Diamondback Moth**
 - D. Gypsy Moth**

- 6. Which of the following are examples of woody plants?**
- A. Sericea lespedeza and ironweed**
 - B. Broomweed and sunflower**
 - C. Sumac and yucca**
 - D. Mullein and thistle**
- 7. Which factor is important in the management of fruit insect and mite pests?**
- A. Plant health**
 - B. Overwatering**
 - C. Overfertilization**
 - D. None of the above**
- 8. Which of the following insects is a common vector of plant viruses:**
- A. Grubs**
 - B. Aphids**
 - C. Moths**
 - D. Flies**
- 9. Cucumber beetle larvae destroy which part of vegetable plants?**
- A. Fruit**
 - B. Underground parts**
 - C. Leaves**
 - D. Blossoms**
- 10. Summer crops such as corn, sorghum, and soybeans tend to increase:**
- A. Summer annual weeds**
 - B. Winter annual weeds**
 - C. Biennial weeds**
 - D. Perennial weeds**

Answers

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1. D
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. C
7. A
8. B
9. B
10. A

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Explanations

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1. Control options for the management and control of rangeland weed species include which of the following?

- A. Chemical control**
- B. Mechanical control**
- C. Biological control**
- D. All of the above**

Integrated weed management in rangeland uses multiple control methods together because different weeds and different growth stages respond best to different approaches. Chemical control uses herbicides to selectively kill or suppress unwanted plants, and it's most effective when applied at the right growth stage and with the right product to minimize impacts on desirable forage. Mechanical control involves physical removal or disruption, such as mowing, tillage, or pulling, which can reduce weed vigor or prevent seed production, though it may disturb the soil or favor some weeds if used alone. Biological control relies on natural enemies like insects or pathogens to suppress weed populations, offering long-term suppression with fewer chemical inputs but requiring careful selection to avoid non-target effects. Using all of these options in an integrated plan helps manage various species, reduces the risk of resistance, and supports healthier rangeland with fewer environmental drawbacks.

2. Which insect causes 1-2 percent field-wide white heads due to larval feeding in the stem?

- A. Army Cutworms**
- B. Wheat Head Armyworms**
- C. Wheat Stem Maggots**
- D. False Wireworms**

When larval feeding is happening inside the stem, grain development is interrupted, so the heads don't fill properly and stay pale or white. That specific symptom pattern—field-wide white heads from larvae feeding inside the stem—is best explained by wheat stem maggots. The maggot stage develops inside the stem, tunneling and consuming internal tissues, which blocks nutrients to the developing head and leaves a white, underfilled head at harvest. You can confirm by inspecting stems at the base or near the head: cut a stem lengthwise to look for internal tunnels or evidence of a larva inside and for frass. The adults are small flies, but the telltale sign in the field is those white, underdeveloped heads caused by feeding from within the stem. Other insects listed don't produce this exact pattern. Army cutworms mainly chew foliage or seedlings and don't cause white, stem-internal head filling. Wheat head armyworms target the heads themselves but feed in the spikelets rather than inside the stem tissues. False wireworms affect roots or soil-connected tissues rather than the stem interior of the head.

3. The key characteristic to identifying insects belonging to the order Thysanoptera (thrips) is:

- A. Fringed wings**
- B. Chewing mouthparts**
- C. Sucking mouthparts**
- D. None of the above**

Fringed wings are the defining feature of thrips. These insects have very narrow wings with long, hair-like fringes along the edges, a distinctive look that gives the order its name and makes them recognizable even at small sizes. While thrips do feed using specialized piercing-sucking mouthparts, that trait isn't as useful for quick identification as seeing the fringed wings. So the presence of fringed wings is the best clue to identify insects belonging to this order.

4. Damage in corn usually occurs within the first two weeks of planting and mainly in eastern Kansas. Identify the insect.

- A. corn rootworm**
- B. black cutworm**
- C. Japanese beetle**
- D. wireworm**

Early-season stand loss in corn is typically caused by a pest that feeds on young seedlings at the base, severing plants at or just below the soil surface. The black cutworm fits this pattern best: its larvae attack seedlings soon after emergence and cut them off at the soil line, producing the characteristic "cut" seedlings you'd see within the first two weeks after planting. This kind of injury is also more common in eastern Kansas where spring conditions favor cutworm outbreaks. Other pests don't match this injury pattern as well. Rootworms damage roots and affect the plant later in the season, not by cutting the seedlings at the surface. Japanese beetles feed on leaves rather than causing stem cuts at the base. Wireworms can injure seeds and roots but don't typically produce the clean, at-soil-surface cutting of young plants that defines this scenario.

5. One of the most destructive pests of peach trees is:

- A. Peach Tree Borer**
- B. Plum Curculio**
- C. Diamondback Moth**
- D. Gypsy Moth**

Peach tree health is most at risk when a pest attacks the tree's interior and vascular system. The peach tree borer is a trunk and branch borer; its larvae bore into the wood and feed in the area that transports water and nutrients. This direct attack on the tree's transport tissues can girdle limbs or even kill young trees, leading to significant losses in vigor and yield. Because the damage occurs inside the trunk and main branches rather than just on fruit or leaves, the peach tree borer is considered one of the most destructive pests for peach trees. Plum curculio mainly damages fruit by feeding on and scarring the skin and laying eggs under the surface, not the tree's internal transport system. Diamondback moth targets leaves on crucifers, not peach trees. Gypsy moth defoliates trees but typically affects a broad range of hardwoods and not peach trees specifically.

6. Which of the following are examples of woody plants?

- A. Sericea lespedeza and ironweed
- B. Broomweed and sunflower
- C. Sumac and yucca**
- D. Mullein and thistle

Woody plants have stems that become lignified and persist year after year, forming wood. Sumac grows as a woody shrub or small tree, and yucca has a woody, persistent structure in many species, so both fit this category. The other options are made up of herbaceous plants with soft, non-woody stems that typically die back or fade after the growing season.

7. Which factor is important in the management of fruit insect and mite pests?

- A. Plant health**
- B. Overwatering
- C. Overfertilization
- D. None of the above

Healthy, vigorous plants are less vulnerable to pest outbreaks, making plant health a central factor in managing fruit insect and mite pests. Pests tend to establish and cause more damage on stressed plants, so cultural practices that support plant health—adequate irrigation, balanced nutrition, proper pruning, weed control, and good sanitation—help reduce pest pressure. Overwatering can stress roots and create conditions that favor certain pests and diseases, while overfertilization, especially with nitrogen, often produces lush, tender growth that is more attractive to mites and other pests. By keeping plants healthy, natural defenses are strengthened and the likelihood of severe fruit pest damage decreases, which is why plant health is emphasized in pest management.

8. Which of the following insects is a common vector of plant viruses:

- A. Grubs
- B. Aphids**
- C. Moths
- D. Flies

Plant viruses are spread mainly by insects that feed on plant sap and move from plant to plant as they probe and feed. Aphids are the best answer because their piercing-sucking mouthparts take up virus particles from an infected plant during brief feeding probes and they can rapidly disperse to healthy plants, spreading many types of viruses. They are capable of transmitting viruses in both non-persistent and persistent ways, and their numbers and ability to fly make them frequent and efficient vectors in fields and gardens. Grubs are root-feeding larvae and don't typically transmit viruses between living plants. Moths and flies aren't considered the common vectors for plant viruses in crop situations.

9. Cucumber beetle larvae destroy which part of vegetable plants?

A. Fruit

B. Underground parts

C. Leaves

D. Blossoms

Cucumber beetle larvae are root feeders that live in the soil. They chew on roots and the crown near the soil surface, which interrupts the plant's ability to take up water and nutrients. This underground feeding leads to stunted growth, wilting, and reduced vigor, often before you see much above-ground damage. That's why the part of the plant affected by the larvae is the underground parts. Adults, by contrast, feed on above-ground tissue like leaves, blossoms, and sometimes fruit, so they're responsible for damage to those areas rather than the roots.

10. Summer crops such as corn, sorghum, and soybeans tend to increase:

A. Summer annual weeds

B. Winter annual weeds

C. Biennial weeds

D. Perennial weeds

Warm-season crops grow during the warm part of the year, so weeds that complete their life cycle in one growing season—summer annuals—tend to dominate. These weeds germinate in spring or early summer, grow quickly under the crop canopy, and produce seeds before harvest, leaving a large seed bank for the next season. That pattern fits fields planted to corn, sorghum, and soybeans, so summer annuals increase in these systems. By contrast, winter annuals germinate in fall and finish in spring, biennials take two years to reproduce, and perennials survive year after year through roots or rhizomes; their life cycles aren't as tightly aligned with the warm-season cropping window, so they don't rise as much under these crops. Examples of summer annuals include pigweed, foxtail, and crabgrass.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://kscommpesticideapp1a.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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