Kansas Turf Pest Control 3B Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

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

1. Where is common chickweed commonly found?

A. In full sun along sidewalks.

B. In the shade of trees and shrubs, especially on the north side of buildings.

C. In saline coastal areas.

D. In wet, marshy basins.

2. Dutch elm disease moves from diseased to healthy trees by which mechanisms?

A. Elm bark beetle feeding only

B. Elm bark beetle feeding and through natural root grafts

C. Wind-dispersed fungal spores only

D. Soil movement of pathogens only

3. The cottonwood borer is a pest of which tree group?

A. Poplar

B. Pine

C. Willow

D. Birch

4. Which statement is true? Mealy bugs create a white waxy material shortly after feeding; Thrips do not have fringe on wings; Whiteflies feed by chewing leaves; Symphylids are not mistaken for springtails.

A. Mealy bugs create a white waxy material shortly after feeding.

B. Thrips do not have fringe on wings.

C. Whiteflies feed by chewing leaves.

D. Symphylids are not mistaken for springtails.

5. Thrips can be identified by which wing feature?

A. Fringe of hairs on wings

B. Feathered wings

C. Scaled wings

D. Hinged wings

6. Two spotted spider mites overwinter as which life stage?

A. Adult females

B. Eggs

C. Larvae

D. Adult males

7. Which herbicide works strictly by contact and desiccates treated plants but they will regrow from the crown?

A. Diquat

B. Monument

C. SedgeHammer

D. Finale

8. Brown patch is a _____ disease.

A. Summer disease

B. Spring disease

C. Winter disease

D. Fall disease

9. Pendimethalin can be used on all Kansas lawn species except which?

A. Bentgrass.

B. Bermudagrass.

C. Zoysia.

D. Tall fescue.

10. Conks are?

A. Roots

B. Shoots

C. Fruit bodies of wood decay fungi

D. Spores

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Where is common chickweed commonly found?

A. In full sun along sidewalks.

B. In the shade of trees and shrubs, especially on the north side of buildings.

C. In saline coastal areas.

D. In wet, marshy basins.

Common chickweed is a cool-season weed that loves shaded, moist spots. It tends to form low, spreading mats in areas where sun is limited and soil stays damp, such as under trees, around shrubs, or along the north side of buildings where shade persists and temperatures stay cooler. That combination of partial shade and moisture is ideal for its growth, whereas full sun along sidewalks tends to be too hot and dry for it. Coastal saline environments and wet marsh basins present different conditions and plant communities, so they're not where chickweed is most commonly found. So the shaded, north-facing spots around buildings and under tree canopies are the typical habitat for common chickweed.

2. Dutch elm disease moves from diseased to healthy trees by which mechanisms?

A. Elm bark beetle feeding only

B. Elm bark beetle feeding and through natural root grafts

C. Wind-dispersed fungal spores only

D. Soil movement of pathogens only

Dutch elm disease spreads between trees mainly through two pathways: elm bark beetles carrying fungal spores as they feed on and move through trees, inoculating healthy trees in the process; and natural root grafts that connect neighboring elm roots, allowing the fungus to move directly from an infected tree to a healthy one. So, beetle-mediated transmission plus root graft spread together account for how the disease moves. Wind-dispersed spores or soil movement aren't the primary routes between trees, which is why those options don't capture the real mechanism.

3. The cottonwood borer is a pest of which tree group?

A. Poplar

B. Pine

C. Willow

D. Birch

The main idea here is host preference: pests are typically linked to specific tree groups. The cottonwood borer specializes on poplars, especially cottonwoods, which belong to the genus Populus. These trees provide the soft, fast-growing wood the beetle's larvae bore into, so the insect is considered a pest of the poplar group. It does not commonly attack pine, willow, or birch, which are different genera with different wood characteristics and defenses.

4. Which statement is true? Mealy bugs create a white waxy material shortly after feeding; Thrips do not have fringe on wings; Whiteflies feed by chewing leaves; Symphylids are not mistaken for springtails.

A. Mealy bugs create a white waxy material shortly after feeding.

B. Thrips do not have fringe on wings.

C. Whiteflies feed by chewing leaves.

D. Symphylids are not mistaken for springtails.

Mealybugs produce a white, waxy covering around their bodies, which often appears soon after they start feeding. That waxy material is a giveaway in the field and helps distinguish mealybugs from other pests, making this statement the correct one. The wax isn't just cosmetic—it's part of their protective secretions and can make infested plant parts look powdery or cottony. Thrips actually have fringed wings, not plain, smooth ones, so the claim about lacking fringe is incorrect. Whiteflies feed by piercing and sucking plant sap, not by chewing leaves, so that statement isn't true either. Symphylids and springtails can look similar to the untrained eye, so they are often mistaken for one another, which makes the claim that they are not mistaken for springtails inaccurate.

5. Thrips can be identified by which wing feature?

A. Fringe of hairs on wings

B. Feathered wings

C. Scaled wings

D. Hinged wings

Thrips are identified by a fringe of long hair-like structures along the edges of their wings. This fringe gives the wings a delicate, fringed appearance and is the most distinctive feature you'll use to recognize them. The other wing descriptions don't fit thrips: scaled wings are typical of butterflies and moths, while hinged wings are not a defining trait of thrips, and "feathered" wings aren't the characteristic look for these insects. So the fringe of hairs on the wings is the hallmark identifying feature.

6. Two spotted spider mites overwinter as which life stage?

A. Adult females

B. Eggs

C. Larvae

D. Adult males

Overwintering refers to how a pest survives cold months so it can rebound when conditions improve. For the two-spotted spider mite, adult females persist through winter in protected spots such as leaf litter, under thatch, or within crevices. These females are already mature and have energy reserves, so they can resume feeding and start laying eggs as soon as temperatures rise, giving the population a rapid start in spring. Eggs, while also part of the life cycle, are more vulnerable to desiccation and freezing and would take longer to rebuild populations since they must develop through immature stages before reproducing. Males and larvae don't provide the same reliable overwintering stock, so the stage best suited to survive harsh conditions and kick off new generations is the adult female.

7. Which herbicide works strictly by contact and desiccates treated plants but they will regrow from the crown?

A. Diquat

B. Monument

C. SedgeHammer

D. Finale

Understanding how a herbicide moves and acts inside a plant helps predict what happens after application. A true contact desiccant does its work only where it touches the plant, drying out the treated tissue, and it doesn't move much within the plant. If the crown or root isn't destroyed, the plant can regrow from those structures. Diquat fits this pattern exactly. It acts on contact to desiccate the tissues it touches, with little internal movement, so untreated parts of the plant can survive. That's why you see desiccation on the treated sections while the crown can send out new growth later. The other products don't match this strictly contact-desiccant behavior: they either move within the plant (systemic action) or have soil/residual effects, so they don't kill only what they touch and then allow regrowth from the crown in the same way.

8. Brown patch is a _____ disease.

A. Summer disease

B. Spring disease

C. Winter disease

D. Fall disease

Brown patch is most active under warm, humid conditions typical of summer. The fungus Rhizoctonia solani that causes it thrives when daytime temperatures are in the warm range and leaf wetness persists from dew or irrigation. That combination—heat plus moisture—drives rapid patch expansion in summer on cool-season grasses, which is why this disease is described as a summer disease. In cooler seasons, conditions aren't as favorable for Brown patch, and the turf is either not growing as rapidly or is dormant, so the disease is less likely to develop. So the season most responsible for Brown patch is summer, making that the correct characterization.

9. Pendimethalin can be used on all Kansas lawn species except which?

A. Bentgrass.

B. Bermudagrass.

C. Zoysia.

D. Tall fescue.

Pendimethalin works as a preemergent herbicide, creating a barrier that prevents germinating weed seeds from emerging by disrupting cell division in the developing shoots. It's labeled for use on a wide range of Kansas lawn species, including bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, and tall fescue, making it a versatile option for many turf types. Bentgrass, however, is particularly sensitive to pendimethalin, and this turf is not listed for use with the product. Because of that sensitivity, applying pendimethalin to bentgrass can cause injury or discoloration, so the species that cannot safely receive pendimethalin is bentgrass. If bentgrass is present in a Kansas lawn, an alternative preemergent should be chosen.

10. Conks are?

A. Roots

B. Shoots

C. Fruit bodies of wood decay fungi

D. Spores

Conks are the fruiting bodies of wood-decay fungi. These shelf- or hoof-shaped growths appear on trunks, limbs, or stumps and are the visible part of the fungus that colonizes and decays wood. They function to produce and disseminate spores, which is how the fungus spreads, but the conk itself is the reproductive structure, not a root, shoot, or spores. Their presence signals internal decay and potential structural weakness in the tree, which matters in turf settings where trees are near lawns or play areas. Managing them involves assessing tree safety and, if needed, removing decayed wood or consulting an arborist for options.

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://ksturfpestcontrol3b.examzify.com

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