

Maryland Pesticide Applicator Category 3: Ornamental and Turf Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. Which factor helps increase lace bug infestation risk on azaleas?**
 - A. Stress from full sun (azaleas prefer shade).**
 - B. Excessive irrigation.**
 - C. Strong wind exposure.**
 - D. High soil salinity.**

- 2. What may cause loss of pressure in sprayers?**
 - A. Frozen water in regulators, valves, or booms.**
 - B. Low battery.**
 - C. Clogged filters.**
 - D. Leaking hoses.**

- 3. What visible symptom appears first on leaves affected by boxwood leafminer?**
 - A. Water-soaked appearance that develops into blisters on the lower leaf surface.**
 - B. Yellowing of the entire leaf.**
 - C. Holes in the leaf from feeding.**
 - D. Leaves curling downward.**

- 4. How many generations of Euonymus scale occur per year in Maryland?**
 - A. One**
 - B. Two (partial third possible)**
 - C. Three**
 - D. Four**

- 5. What is the ideal soil pH range for most Maryland turfgrasses?**
 - A. 5.5-6.5.**
 - B. 6.8-7.5.**
 - C. 4.0-5.0.**
 - D. 7.0-8.0.**

- 6. Which approach reduces drift by selecting equipment and conditions?**
- A. High pressure and small nozzles**
 - B. Low wind and high boom height**
 - C. Large nozzles, low pressure, low boom height, no wind**
 - D. Any nozzle if rate is low**
- 7. Why is crown pruning recommended after transplanting?**
- A. To encourage flowering**
 - B. Reduces transpiration until roots reestablish**
 - C. To increase root growth rate**
 - D. To remove dead branches**
- 8. Which options describe ways perennials can spread?**
- A. Seeds**
 - B. Rhizomes**
 - C. Stolons**
 - D. All of the above**
- 9. Which of the following is NOT a biotic disease agent?**
- A. Fungi.**
 - B. Bacteria.**
 - C. Nematodes.**
 - D. Water stress.**
- 10. What is a symptom of iron deficiency?**
- A. Yellow tissue between veins, veins stay green**
 - B. Yellowing of older leaves first**
 - C. Browning/scorching leaf margins**
 - D. Wilting**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which factor helps increase lace bug infestation risk on azaleas?

- A. Stress from full sun (azaleas prefer shade).**
- B. Excessive irrigation.**
- C. Strong wind exposure.**
- D. High soil salinity.**

When a plant is stressed, its defenses against pests weaken and it often has more tender growth that pests like lace bugs love to feed on. Azaleas thrive in shade, so exposure to full sun creates heat and moisture stress that weakens the plant and makes it easier for lace bugs to establish and multiply. That combination—azaleas under sun stress showing diminished defenses and more attractive new growth—explains why light exposure is the factor that most increases infestation risk. Other conditions like too much irrigation, strong wind, or high soil salinity can stress a plant, but they don't align as clearly with lace bug risk on azaleas. The sun-induced stress specifically targets the plant's tolerances and defense capacity in a way that directly facilitates lace bug problems.

2. What may cause loss of pressure in sprayers?

- A. Frozen water in regulators, valves, or booms.**
- B. Low battery.**
- C. Clogged filters.**
- D. Leaking hoses.**

In cold conditions, water can freeze inside critical parts of the sprayer—regulators, valves, or booms. This creates ice plugs that block or greatly restrict flow. When the pump pushes against that blockage, it can't build or sustain the intended pressure, so the system pressure drops and the spray pattern is affected. The regulator may also struggle to regulate properly because the flow path is obstructed, further lowering the pressure at the nozzle. Other issues like a weak battery, clogged filters, or leaking hoses can cause pressure loss too, but freezing water directly explains a sudden, temperature-related drop in pressure by creating a physical blockage in the flow path.

3. What visible symptom appears first on leaves affected by boxwood leafminer?

- A. Water-soaked appearance that develops into blisters on the lower leaf surface.**
- B. Yellowing of the entire leaf.**
- C. Holes in the leaf from feeding.**
- D. Leaves curling downward.**

The question is about recognizing the first visible sign of boxwood leafminer damage. The earliest symptom comes from the larva feeding between the leaf surfaces, which distorts the tissue and creates a water-soaked patch that soon develops into a blister on the underside of the leaf. This blister is the telltale early indicator of boxwood leafminer activity. Yellowing of the entire leaf, holes from chewing, or leaves curling downward are not the initial signs you'd expect with this pest. Yellowing suggests broader stress or later damage, chewing holes aren't typical until later stages of feeding, and curling is more commonly seen with other pests or problems.

4. How many generations of *Euonymus* scale occur per year in Maryland?

A. One

B. Two (partial third possible)

C. Three

D. Four

In Maryland, *Euonymus* scale typically completes two full generations in a year, with a partial third generation possible in warmer years. The plan unfolds as overwintering scale females release eggs that hatch into crawlers in spring; these mobile crawlers settle and develop into the first generation. A second wave of crawlers appears later in the growing season, producing the second generation. If conditions stay unusually warm and long into fall, a partial third generation can occur before winter hits. Because crawlers are the stage most vulnerable to control measures, targeting sprays or oils when crawlers are active—early spring and again in late summer—is the most effective timing.

5. What is the ideal soil pH range for most Maryland turfgrasses?

A. 5.5-6.5.

B. 6.8-7.5.

C. 4.0-5.0.

D. 7.0-8.0.

Soil pH controls how available nutrients are to the grass roots. For most Maryland turfgrasses, a slightly acidic to moderately acidic range provides the best balance, letting essential nutrients be available while avoiding toxicity. In this 5.5 to 6.5 window, roots grow well and nutrient uptake is efficient. If the pH drops too low, aluminum and certain micronutrients become overly soluble, which can harm roots and reduce growth. If the pH rises too high, key nutrients like iron and other micronutrients become less available, causing color and growth problems. So 5.5 to 6.5 is the range that supports steady, healthy turf in Maryland conditions. If a soil test shows you're outside this range, adjust with lime to raise pH or sulfur to lower it according to the test recommendations, and recheck later to keep the turf in good balance.

6. Which approach reduces drift by selecting equipment and conditions?

- A. High pressure and small nozzles**
- B. Low wind and high boom height**
- C. Large nozzles, low pressure, low boom height, no wind**
- D. Any nozzle if rate is low**

Reducing drift comes down to controlling how droplets behave in the air: droplet size, how much air movement there is, and how far the spray has to travel to reach the target. Using large nozzles with low pressure creates coarser droplets that are heavier and settle out of the air quickly rather than being carried away by airflow. Keeping the boom low minimizes the distance the droplets travel in air and reduces exposure to any air movement above the target. Spraying in no wind eliminates wind-driven drift altogether, so droplets aren't blown off course. If you use high pressure with small nozzles, you make finer droplets that stay airborne longer and drift farther. A higher boom height increases the time droplets spend in the air and exposed to wind, which can spread them beyond the target. Relying on a calm wind alone without these other adjustments won't necessarily prevent drift if droplet size or spray height still favors movement. And lowering the application rate without addressing droplet size and air movement doesn't reliably stop drift, since those physical factors drive drift more than rate alone.

7. Why is crown pruning recommended after transplanting?

- A. To encourage flowering**
- B. Reduces transpiration until roots reestablish**
- C. To increase root growth rate**
- D. To remove dead branches**

After transplanting, the plant's root system is reduced and can't supply water to a full canopy. Crown pruning lowers leaf area and reduces transpiration, which cuts the plant's water loss while roots reestablish. That helps the plant survive and recover more quickly during the critical establishment period. Other options aren't the main goal here: flowering isn't the priority during establishment, crown pruning doesn't directly speed up root growth, and while removing dead branches can be part of care, it isn't the primary reason for pruning after transplanting.

8. Which options describe ways perennials can spread?

- A. Seeds**
- B. Rhizomes**
- C. Stolons**
- D. All of the above**

Perennials can spread through more than one route, including seeds and vegetative means. Seeds allow new plants to establish away from the parent and add genetic diversity. Rhizomes are underground horizontal stems that send up new shoots, letting the plant extend its presence underground and regenerate after damage. Stolons are aboveground runners that spread along the surface and root at their nodes to form new plants away from the original. Because perennials use all of these methods, the best answer is that they can spread by seeds, by rhizomes, and by stolons. This understanding helps with planning and managing plantings, since you may need to consider containment or barriers for underground rhizomes or stolons and be aware of seed production.

9. Which of the following is NOT a biotic disease agent?

- A. Fungi.**
- B. Bacteria.**
- C. Nematodes.**
- D. Water stress.**

Biotic disease agents are living organisms that cause disease in plants. Fungi, bacteria, and nematodes are all living pathogens that can infect turf and lead to disease symptoms. Water stress is an abiotic condition—it results from environmental factors like drought or improper irrigation and causes physiological damage rather than disease caused by a living organism. Because it's not a living pathogen, it is not a biotic disease agent. Sometimes water stress can make plants more susceptible to infections, but the stress itself isn't a pathogen.

10. What is a symptom of iron deficiency?

- A. Yellow tissue between veins, veins stay green**
- B. Yellowing of older leaves first**
- C. Browning/scorching leaf margins**
- D. Wilting**

Iron deficiency in plants shows up as interveinal chlorosis—tissue between the veins turns yellow while the veins stay green. This happens because iron is needed for chlorophyll production but isn't readily mobile within the plant, so new growth is affected first and chlorosis appears between the veins on those young leaves. You'll often see this pattern on new growth, with older leaves remaining green or only mildly affected. The other patterns don't match iron deficiency: yellowing of older leaves first points to a mobile nutrient deficiency like nitrogen; browning or scorching leaf margins suggests drought, salinity, or other stress; wilting indicates water stress or root problems. When you observe yellow between green veins on new growth, iron deficiency is the likely issue, and management focuses on increasing iron availability—such as adjusting soil pH to improve iron uptake or applying chelated iron.

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://mdpesticidecategory3.examzify.com>

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

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