

# MARYLAND PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CATEGORY 3: ORNAMENTAL AND TURF PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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<https://mdpesticidecategory3.examzify.com>



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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. What is the typical mist blower output?**

- A. 0.5-2 gal/min
- B. 0.05-0.2 gal/min
- C. 2-5 gal/min
- D. 5-10 gal/min

**2. Which outcome results from too much water in the root zone?**

- A. Root oxygen loss decline or death
- B. Faster growth
- C. Increased nutrient uptake
- D. More flowering

**3. How long do larvae remain inside leaves?**

- A. 9-10 months.
- B. 1-2 weeks.
- C. 3-4 months.
- D. 12-14 months.

**4. What is a key advantage of implantation?**

- A. Requires specialized equipment
- B. Multiple visits
- C. One visit, no special equipment
- D. Effective in any season

**5. Which records must a commercial lawn care business maintain?**

- A. Pesticides and regulated fertilizers.
- B. Seed inventory and packaging.
- C. Soil tests and pH reports.
- D. Customer payment records.

**6. What is pretransplant injury?**

- A. Damage after planting due to pests
- B. Damage before planting due to dehydration, storage stress, or heat
- C. Damage during transplant from physical injury
- D. Injury to the plant after harvest

- 7. 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.
- 8. What problem does a check valve screen prevent?**
- A. Nozzle dribble when boom is shut off.
  - B. Unwanted spray drift.
  - C. Clogging of the line.
  - D. Chemical instability.
- 9. Leafminer activity on leaves is best described as what?**
- A. Winding tunnels inside leaves
  - B. Surface ring spots on upper leaf
  - C. Chlorosis on mature leaves
  - D. Root feeding
- 10. What is the gallons-per-acre result when 4 pints are collected during knapsack calibration?**
- A. 80 gallons per acre
  - B. 40 gallons per acre
  - C. 20 gallons per acre
  - D. 160 gallons per acre

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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### 1. What is the typical mist blower output?

- A. 0.5-2 gal/min
- B. 0.05-0.2 gal/min
- C. 2-5 gal/min
- D. 5-10 gal/min

Mist blower output is the volume of liquid pesticide sprayed per minute. For ornamental and turf work, the typical range is about 0.5 to 2 gallons per minute. This balance provides a fine, even mist to cover foliage without creating runoff or excessive drift, and it aligns with common nozzle sizes, blower settings, and application speeds. Outputs much lower than this tend to under-apply and miss spots, while outputs much higher than this can over-wet surfaces and increase drift risk.

### 2. Which outcome results from too much water in the root zone?

- A. Root oxygen loss decline or death
- B. Faster growth
- C. Increased nutrient uptake
- D. More flowering

When the root zone has too much water, soil air is displaced and roots lose the oxygen they need. Roots rely on oxygen for respiration to generate energy; in saturated soils, gas exchange is limited, creating anaerobic conditions. This oxygen deprivation damages or kills root tissue, so the plant's ability to take up water and nutrients collapses and overall growth declines or the plant dies. The outcome described—root oxygen loss leading to decline or death—fits because healthy root function depends on adequate aeration, which is lost in waterlogged conditions. The other options aren't produced by overwatering; saturated roots don't boost growth, nutrient uptake, or flowering, and often cause the opposite effects. To prevent this, ensure good drainage and avoid overwatering.

### 3. How long do larvae remain inside leaves?

- A. 9-10 months.
- B. 1-2 weeks.
- C. 3-4 months.
- D. 12-14 months.

Leaf miners keep their larval stage hidden inside the leaf tissue, feeding between the surfaces. In ornamental and turf settings, these larvae often overwinter within the leaf mines and then complete the remaining development year. That prolonged, season-spanning period is why the typical duration is about 9–10 months. Shorter timelines like 1–2 weeks are far too brief for the larval growth and overwintering process, while a timeframe of 3–4 months doesn't capture the extended period many leaf miners spend inside leaves. A 12–14 month span is longer than what's commonly observed for these pests in this context. So, the 9–10 month range best reflects how long larvae stay inside leaves.

#### 4. What is a key advantage of implantation?

- A. Requires specialized equipment
- B. Multiple visits
- C. One visit, no special equipment**
- D. Effective in any season

*Implantation is valued mainly for its efficiency and simplicity: you can apply the product in a single visit and without needing specialized equipment. This means less labor, fewer trips to the site, and lower equipment costs, which is especially helpful in turf and ornamental settings where quick, targeted treatment is advantageous. Techniques that require extra tools or multiple visits add cost and scheduling complexity, while seasonality isn't a built-in guarantee of effectiveness for implantation.*

#### 5. Which records must a commercial lawn care business maintain?

- A. Pesticides and regulated fertilizers.**
- B. Seed inventory and packaging.
- C. Soil tests and pH reports.
- D. Customer payment records.

*Keeping records of pesticides and regulated fertilizers is required because these products are tightly regulated and need to be traceable. Recording each pesticide applied—including product name, EPA registration number, date, site, rate, method, and target pest—ensures you follow label directions, use products safely, and can document what was used if questions or inspections arise. The same applies to regulated fertilizers, where documenting what was applied, when, and where helps demonstrate compliance with fertilizer regulations and environmental safeguards. While other records like seed inventories, soil test results, or customer payments are part of running a business, they do not fulfill the pesticide regulatory record-keeping requirement in the same way.*

#### 6. What is pretransplant injury?

- A. Damage after planting due to pests
- B. Damage before planting due to dehydration, storage stress, or heat**
- C. Damage during transplant from physical injury
- D. Injury to the plant after harvest

*Pretransplant injury means damage that happens while the plant is out of the ground and before it is transplanted into soil. This typically occurs during storage, transport, or handling after harvest and is driven by dehydration, storage stress, or heat. Because the plant is already stressed before it goes into the landscape, its ability to establish roots and take up water after transplant is reduced, leading to poorer survival and vigor. This differs from damage after planting (caused by pests or environmental factors in the ground) and from damage during the act of transplanting itself (a physical injury during the move). It's also more specific than just "injury after harvest," since pretransplant injury focuses on the period before transplanting and the common stressors—dehydration, storage conditions, and heat—that occur then.*

## 7. 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.*

## 8. What problem does a check valve screen prevent?

- A. Nozzle dribble when boom is shut off.
- B. Unwanted spray drift.
- C. Clogging of the line.
- D. Chemical instability.

*A check valve works to let spray fluid flow in one direction only, and the screen helps keep debris out so the valve can seal properly. When the boom is shut off, there's still pressure in the lines, and without a valve to stop it, liquid can be pushed back and out through the nozzles, causing dribble. The check valve blocks that backflow, so the nozzles stop spraying as soon as you shut the boom. The screen component is there to prevent debris from clogging or sticking the valve, ensuring it closes cleanly and maintains that one-way flow. Drift, line clogging, and chemical stability aren't directly addressed by this mechanism—for drift you'd look at nozzle design and application rate, for line clogging you'd rely on filters and maintenance, and chemical stability relates to formulations and storage rather than valve function.*

## 9. Leafminer activity on leaves is best described as what?

- A. Winding tunnels inside leaves
- B. Surface ring spots on upper leaf
- C. Chlorosis on mature leaves
- D. Root feeding

*Leafminers are insect larvae that feed inside the leaf tissue, between the upper and lower surfaces. As they eat, they create long, winding tunnels or mines within the leaf, which is the hallmark of leafminer activity. That internal, serpentine mining pattern best describes what you'd observe on infested leaves. The other options describe surface damage, general yellowing, or feeding on roots, none of which capture the characteristic internal mining of leafminers.*

10. What is the gallons-per-acre result when 4 pints are collected during knapsack calibration?

- A. 80 gallons per acre
- B. 40 gallons per acre
- C. 20 gallons per acre
- D. 160 gallons per acre

*In knapsack calibration, you determine gallons per acre by dividing the total gallons collected by the area sprayed, measured in acres. Convert the liquid you collected into gallons first: 4 pints equals 0.5 gallons. The standard calibration test area for this method is typically an 18 ft by 15 ft plot, which is 270 square feet. Converting that area to acres:  $270 \div 43560 \approx 0.00619$  acres. Then the gallons-per-acre result is  $0.5 \div 0.00619 \approx 80.7$ , which rounds to about 80 gallons per acre. So the result is around 80 gpa.*

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## 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](mailto: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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