

Qualified Applicator License (QAL) Plant Agriculture 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

1. Which species is responsible for *Phytophthora gummosis* in citrus?
 - A. *Pseudococcus longispinus*
 - B. *Pythophthora* spp.
 - C. *Planococcus citri*
 - D. *Icerya purchasi*
2. What pesticide type should be avoided in areas where pollinators are active?
 - A. Contact insecticides
 - B. Systemic insecticides
 - C. Granular pesticides
 - D. Herbicides
3. What is the scientific name for the Cowpea Aphid?
 - A. *Aphis glyciniae*
 - B. *Aphis craccivora*
 - C. *Acyrtosiphon pisum*
 - D. *Hypera postica*
4. What is the primary plant affected by *Aonidiella citrina*?
 - A. Citrus
 - B. Corn
 - C. Rice
 - D. Vegetable crops
5. Which pest would predominantly attack almonds rather than grapes?
 - A. *Pseudococcus maritimus*
 - B. *Wilsonomyces carpophilus*
 - C. *Amyelois transitella*
 - D. *Xylella fastidiosa*

6. Which pathogen is responsible for Alternaria Leaf Spot in almonds?
- A. *Wilsonomyces carpophilus*
 - B. *Monilinia laxa*
 - C. *Alternaria alternata*
 - D. *Colletotrichum acutatum*
7. Which organism is known to cause diseases in both strawberries and carrots?
- A. *Verticillium dahliae*
 - B. *Phytophthora cactorum*
 - C. *Alternaria dauci*
 - D. *Macrosiphum euphorbiae*
8. Which pest species affects rice as a leafminer?
- A. *Liriomyza sativae*
 - B. *Hydrellia griseola*
 - C. *C. uhleri*
 - D. *Fusarium oxysporum*
9. Which leafhopper species is recognized as the western grape leafhopper?
- A. *Erythroneura variabilis*
 - B. *Erythroneura elegantula*
 - C. *Pseudococcus comstocki*
 - D. *Planococcus citri*
10. Which scale insect is known as *Aonidiella citrina*?
- A. California red scale
 - B. Yellow scale
 - C. Greenbug
 - D. Citrus Thrips

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which species is responsible for Phytophthora gummosis in citrus?

- A. Pseudococcus longispinus**
- B. Phytophthora spp.**
- C. Planococcus citri**
- D. Icerya purchasi**

Phytophthora gummosis in citrus is specifically caused by the Phytophthora species, particularly Phytophthora citrophthora and Phytophthora parasitica. These pathogens are soil-borne oomycetes that infect the root system of the citrus trees, leading to gummosis, which is characterized by the production of sap-like gum that oozes from the bark and can eventually cause the tree to decline and die if not managed properly. The presence of these pathogens can lead to significant damage in citrus orchards, and recognizing the causal agent is crucial for implementing effective management strategies. The other species listed are not related to the gummosis in citrus. Pseudococcus longispinus and Planococcus citri are both mealybug species that can cause damage to citrus but are not responsible for gummosis. Icerya purchasi, known as the cottony cushion scale, is another pest that affects citrus plants but does not cause this specific disease. Understanding the specific pathogens and their effects helps in addressing the health of citrus orchards effectively.

2. What pesticide type should be avoided in areas where pollinators are active?

- A. Contact insecticides**
- B. Systemic insecticides**
- C. Granular pesticides**
- D. Herbicides**

Systemic insecticides are absorbed by plants and can be taken up by various plant tissues, including flowers, which makes them particularly hazardous to pollinators. When pollinators such as bees visit blooming plants treated with systemic insecticides, they can be exposed to the chemical not only through direct contact but also through the nectar and pollen they collect. This exposure can lead to harmful or lethal effects on these essential organisms. While contact insecticides can also harm pollinators upon direct exposure, their effects are generally more immediate and localized, making it easier for applicators to manage application methods to reduce risk during periods of pollinator activity. Granular pesticides usually target soil-dwelling pests or pests that are not directly associated with flowering plants, thereby posing less risk to pollinators. Herbicides, primarily designed to target unwanted plants, do not generally have a direct impact on pollinators unless they affect the flowering plants that provide food sources. Thus, systemic insecticides should be avoided in areas where pollinators are active due to their potential to be absorbed by plants and subsequently harm pollinators visiting those plants.

3. What is the scientific name for the Cowpea Aphid?

- A. *Aphis glyciniae*
- B. *Aphis craccivora***
- C. *Acyrtosiphon pisum*
- D. *Hypera postica*

The scientific name for the Cowpea Aphid is indeed *Aphis craccivora*. This species is known to primarily infest a variety of plants, particularly legumes, which is why it is associated with cowpeas. *Aphis craccivora* is a small, soft-bodied insect in the aphid family that can be identified by its dark green to black coloration. Understanding the characteristics of *Aphis craccivora* is important for those involved in plant agriculture, as this pest can lead to significant agricultural damage by feeding on the phloem of host plants, which can weaken the plants and make them more susceptible to diseases. Recognizing the correct scientific name helps in targeting appropriate pest management strategies and controls for this aphid, contributing to effective crop management and health.

4. What is the primary plant affected by *Aonidiella citrina*?

- A. Citrus**
- B. Corn
- C. Rice
- D. Vegetable crops

Aonidiella citrina, commonly known as the California red scale, primarily affects citrus plants. This pest is a significant threat to citrus orchards and can cause considerable economic damage. It feeds on the sap of citrus trees, which can lead to reduced vigor, poor fruit quality, and even tree death if infestations are severe and left unmanaged. Understanding the specific host range of *Aonidiella citrina* is crucial for effective pest management strategies in citrus cultivation, as it helps growers develop appropriate control measures and preventive practices to protect their crops. While other options like corn, rice, and vegetable crops may be susceptible to various pests and diseases, they are not the primary hosts of *Aonidiella citrina*, which is specifically adapted to citrus species.

5. Which pest would predominantly attack almonds rather than grapes?

- A. *Pseudococcus maritimus*
- B. *Wilsonomyces carpophilus*
- C. *Amyelois transitella***
- D. *Xylella fastidiosa*

The correct answer is *Amyelois transitella*, commonly known as the almond moth. This pest is specifically known for infesting almonds, where it can cause significant damage to the nut inside the shell. Its lifecycle and feeding habits are closely associated with almond trees, making it a major concern for almond growers. While the other pests listed have associations with either different crops or a broader range of hosts, *Amyelois transitella* stands out because it has adapted to thrive on almonds, leading to direct damage to the yield and quality of this specific crop. Understanding the specific pests that target certain crops is crucial for effective pest management strategies in agricultural practices.

6. Which pathogen is responsible for Alternaria Leaf Spot in almonds?

- A. Wilsonomyces carpophilus**
- B. Monilinia laxa**
- C. Alternaria alternata**
- D. Colletotrichum acutatum**

Alternaria Leaf Spot in almonds is primarily caused by the pathogen *Alternaria alternata*. This fungus is known to produce dark, necrotic lesions on the leaves, which can lead to premature leaf drop and reduced photosynthesis. Understanding the impact of *Alternaria alternata* is crucial for almond growers, as effective management strategies can help mitigate the disease and protect crop yield. The other options represent different pathogens that cause various diseases in plants but are not associated with Alternaria Leaf Spot. *Wilsonomyces carpophilus* is responsible for brown rot in stone fruits, *Monilinia laxa* is also linked to brown rot but specifically affects cherry and other pome fruits, and *Colletotrichum acutatum* causes anthracnose disease in several fruit and vegetable crops. Knowing the distinctions between these pathogens is vital for proper disease identification and management in agricultural practices.

7. Which organism is known to cause diseases in both strawberries and carrots?

- A. Verticillium dahliae**
- B. Phytophthora cactorum**
- C. Alternaria dauci**
- D. Macrosiphum euphorbiae**

The organism known to cause diseases in both strawberries and carrots is *Verticillium dahliae*. This pathogen is a soil-borne fungus that infects a broad range of host plants, leading to wilt and other symptoms as it disrupts the vascular system of the plants. In strawberries, *Verticillium dahliae* can cause a disease known as Verticillium wilt, which leads to symptoms such as leaf wilting, yellowing, and ultimately plant death. Similarly, in carrots, this fungus can cause vascular decay and wilting, affecting the overall health and yield of the crops. The ability of *Verticillium dahliae* to infect these diverse plants highlights its significance as an agricultural pathogen and the importance of managing it effectively in crop production. The other options represent different pathogens or pests that do not affect both strawberries and carrots in the same manner or at all, which is why they are not the correct choice in this context.

8. Which pest species affects rice as a leafminer?

- A. *Liriomyza sativae*
- B. *Hydrellia griseola***
- C. *C. uhleri*
- D. *Fusarium oxysporum*

The correct answer is the species that specifically affects rice as a leafminer, which is *Hydrellia griseola*. This pest is known for its leaf-mining behavior, which results in the formation of distinct mines on the leaves of rice plants. These mines can lead to reduced photosynthesis, weakening the plant and potentially causing significant yield losses. In the context of agricultural pest management, it is crucial to identify specific pests and their behaviors to implement effective control strategies. *Hydrellia griseola*'s association with rice is well-documented, making it a significant pest for rice producers. The other species listed do not share the same relationship with rice as a leafminer. *Liriomyza sativae* is a leafminer known for affecting other crops, but not primarily rice. *C. uhleri* typically pertains to other forms of agricultural damage unrelated to leaf mining in rice. *Fusarium oxysporum* is a fungal pathogen rather than an insect pest, causing wilt diseases in various plants but with no association to leaf mining in rice. Understanding these distinctions is key for effective pest management and crop protection in rice cultivation.

9. Which leafhopper species is recognized as the western grape leafhopper?

- A. *Erythoneura variabilis*
- B. *Erythoneura elegantula***
- C. *Pseudococcus comstocki*
- D. *Planococcus citri*

The western grape leafhopper is specifically recognized as *Erythoneura elegantula*. This species is significant in grapevine agriculture as it can pose a threat to grape production by feeding on the sap of grape plants, which can lead to reduced vine vigor and yield, as well as contribute to the transmission of plant viruses. In the context of the other options provided, they do not match the required species. While *Erythoneura variabilis* is another species of leafhopper, it is not the one primarily associated with grapes in the western regions. *Pseudococcus comstocki* and *Planococcus citri* are both mealybug species and are not classified as leafhoppers at all, making them irrelevant to the question. The focus on *Erythoneura elegantula* as the correct answer emphasizes its importance in viticulture as the specific leafhopper affecting western grapevines.

10. Which scale insect is known as *Aonidiella citrina*?

A. California red scale

B. Yellow scale

C. Greenbug

D. Citrus Thrips

The correct identification of *Aonidiella citrina* is known as the yellow scale. This scale insect is recognized for its impact on citrus plants, particularly in orchard settings. Yellow scale is a significant pest that feeds on the sap of citrus trees, potentially leading to diminished tree health and fruit quality. It can cause not only direct damage through feeding but also indirectly by promoting the growth of sooty mold, which can further impair photosynthesis. Understanding the ecological and economic implications of pests like yellow scale emphasizes the importance of correctly identifying scale insects in plant agriculture. The other options provided refer to different organisms that do not match the classification of *Aonidiella citrina*, underscoring the necessity for precise knowledge in pest management practices.

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://qalplantagriculture.examzify.com>

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