South Carolina Turf and Pest Control Category 3 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 weed sprouts from rhizomes?

A. Bermudagrass

B. Sandspur

C. Crabgrass

D. Dandelion

2. A lawn measuring 200x50 ft with a 60x25 ft house, a 25 ft diameter pool, and a 10x40 ft driveway is treated at 3 oz per 1000 sq ft. How many ounces are needed?

A. 22 oz

B. 24 oz

C. 26 oz

D. 28 oz

3. How do you distinguish webs of eastern tent caterpillar versus fall webworm?

A. The eastern tent caterpillar makes webs in a tree crotch, while the webworm makes webs over leaves and ends of branches.

B. The eastern tent caterpillar makes webs in a tree crown; fall webworm makes webs on the ground.

C. Both species build webs only in the trunk.

D. Webbing is not produced by any caterpillars.

4. For reducing gray spot in St. Augustinegrass, what timing recommendation is given?

A. Irrigate in the early morning to allow drying time

B. Irrigate late at night

C. Do not irrigate at all

D. Irrigate during the hottest part of the day

5. If a lawn is 9,000 square feet, how many gallons are needed at 4 gallons per 1,000 square feet?

A. 30 gallons

B. 34 gallons

C. 36 gallons

D. 40 gallons

6. If you double the speed of application equipment, what happens to the application rate?

A. It doubles

B. It halves

C. It remains the same

D. It quadruples

7. In weed management, herbicides are best described as which of the following?

A. One tool for maintaining weeds

B. The only method for weed control

C. A temporary measure with no lasting effect

D. A complete replacement for cultural practices

8. Which weed is a summer annual grass?

A. Bermudagrass

B. Sandspur

C. Crabgrass

D. Bluegrass

9. If a lawn is 2,000 square feet, how many gallons are needed at 4 gallons per 1,000 square feet?

A. 8 gallons

B. 12 gallons

C. 4 gallons

D. 16 gallons

10. When planting container-grown and burlapped plants?

A. Keep the potting mix moist

B. Let the soil dry out

C. Plant deeply below grade

D. Remove the potting mix entirely

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which weed sprouts from rhizomes?

A. Bermudagrass

B. Sandspur

C. Crabgrass

D. Dandelion

Understanding how a weed spreads helps you predict what it will do after control attempts. Rhizomes are underground stems that run horizontally and produce new shoots at intervals, letting a plant spread and persist even when the top growth is damaged. Bermudagrass uses these underground rhizomes to expand and recolonize areas, so it's the weed that sprouts from rhizomes. The other weeds don't rely on underground rhizomes. Sandspur mainly propagates by seeds and forms prickly growths in the turf. Crabgrass mainly spreads by seeds and, in some cases, above-ground runners called stolons rather than underground rhizomes. Dandelion has a deep taproot and reproduces by seeds and root buds, not rhizomes.

2. A lawn measuring 200x50 ft with a 60x25 ft house, a 25 ft diameter pool, and a 10x40 ft driveway is treated at 3 oz per 1000 sq ft. How many ounces are needed?

A. 22 oz

B. 24 oz

C. 26 oz

D. 28 oz

The main idea is to apply the treatment only to the lawn area, then convert that area into ounces using the rate given. First, find the lawn area by removing non-lawn spaces from the total area. The lawn is 200 by 50 ft, which is 10,000 square feet. The house is 60 by 25 ft, or 1,500 sq ft. The pool is a circle with diameter 25 ft, so the radius is 12.5 ft and the area is π(12.5)^2 ≈ 490.9 sq ft. The driveway is 10 by 40 ft, or 400 sq ft. Subtracting these from the total gives the lawn area ≈ 10,000 − 1,500 − 490.9 − 400 ≈ 7,609.1 sq ft. At a rate of 3 oz per 1,000 sq ft, the amount needed is (7,609.1 / 1,000) × 3 ≈ 22.83 oz. You can't use a fraction of an ounce, so you round up to the next whole ounce, which would be 23 oz. Since 23 oz isn't listed among the choices, the closest available option is 24 oz, which is the best choice among the given answers.

3. How do you distinguish webs of eastern tent caterpillar versus fall webworm?

A. The eastern tent caterpillar makes webs in a tree crotch, while the webworm makes webs over leaves and ends of branches.

B. The eastern tent caterpillar makes webs in a tree crown; fall webworm makes webs on the ground.

C. Both species build webs only in the trunk.

D. Webbing is not produced by any caterpillars.

The main way to tell them apart is by where the silk is built and when it's found. Eastern tent caterpillars create a silk tent inside a tree crotch or fork in early spring, typically high in the canopy. Fall webworm builds large, white, cottony webs around the ends of branches, enclosing a cluster of leaves, and this occurs later in the growing season, in summer to fall. So, look for a tent in a fork in spring versus a loose, leaf-packed web at branch tips in late summer. The other descriptions don't match how these pests behave: webbing isn't formed on the ground, isn't confined to the trunk, and both species do produce silk webs.

4. For reducing gray spot in St. Augustinegrass, what timing recommendation is given?

A. Irrigate in the early morning to allow drying time

B. Irrigate late at night

C. Do not irrigate at all

D. Irrigate during the hottest part of the day

Managing gray spot on St. Augustinegrass comes down to how long the leaf blades stay wet after irrigation. The fungus causing gray spot needs that surface moisture to infect, so you want the grass to dry quickly. Watering in the early morning gives the turf enough moisture for the roots, but the daytime sun and breezes help leaves dry fast, shortening the leaf-wetness window and reducing disease risk. Watering late at night keeps leaves wet all night, creating ideal conditions for gray spot to develop. Not watering at all stresses the plant, and watering during the hottest part of the day isn't ideal for drying and can still leave leaves wet during humid periods. So, the recommended timing is to irrigate in the early morning to allow drying time.

5. If a lawn is 9,000 square feet, how many gallons are needed at 4 gallons per 1,000 square feet?

A. 30 gallons

B. 34 gallons

C. 36 gallons

D. 40 gallons

The main idea is to apply the given rate to the total area by counting how many thousands of square feet are in the lawn. There are 9 blocks of 1,000 square feet in 9,000 square feet. At 4 gallons per block, multiply 9 by 4 to get 36 gallons. Quick check: 8,000 sq ft would need 32 gallons and 10,000 sq ft would need 40 gallons, so 9,000 sq ft requires 36 gallons. The result is 36 gallons.

6. If you double the speed of application equipment, what happens to the application rate?

A. It doubles

B. It halves

C. It remains the same

D. It quadruples

When you think about application rate, it's how much chemical is applied per unit area, which depends on the spray flow (how much is emitted per minute) and how fast you move over the ground. If you keep the spray flow the same and simply double your speed, you cover twice as much ground in the same amount of time, but the same amount of liquid is being used, so that liquid is spread over a larger area. In other words, gallons per acre drops by half. If you wanted to keep the same rate while moving faster, you'd have to increase the discharge (or adjust nozzle size) to compensate.

7. In weed management, herbicides are best described as which of the following?

A. One tool for maintaining weeds

B. The only method for weed control

C. A temporary measure with no lasting effect

D. A complete replacement for cultural practices

Herbicides are one tool for maintaining weeds within acceptable levels as part of an integrated weed-management plan. They provide effective chemical control, especially when timed properly and used with products that target the specific weed species present. But they work best when paired with cultural and mechanical practices that strengthen the turf and reduce weed establishment—things like maintaining dense, healthy turf through proper mowing height, irrigation management, and appropriate fertility, as well as weed prevention and mechanical removal when feasible. Relying solely on chemicals isn't advised because weeds can develop resistance, and chemical control won't address all weed life cycles or species. Some herbicides can provide lasting suppression, but nothing guarantees permanent, weed-free turf. So the best description is that herbicides are one tool in the toolbox for managing weeds, not the only method, not a complete replacement for cultural practices.

8. Which weed is a summer annual grass?

A. Bermudagrass

B. Sandspur

C. Crabgrass

D. Bluegrass

The trait being tested is the weed's life cycle type—whether it completes its life cycle in one growing season (summer annual) or persists year after year (perennial). Sandspur is a warm-season annual grass. It germinates as soils warm in spring to early summer, grows quickly through the heat of summer, sets seed and burrs, and dies with the first frost. Because it relies on new seed each year and does not survive winter with underground stems or crown growth, it fits the definition of a summer annual grass. In contrast, bermudagrass is a perennial warm-season grass that persists year after year through runners and crowns; bluegrass is a cool-season perennial; crabgrass is also a common summer annual, but the example here highlights sandspur as the classic summer annual weed to recognize. For management, target seed production with timely preemergents and maintain healthy turf to outcompete these annuals.

9. If a lawn is 2,000 square feet, how many gallons are needed at 4 gallons per 1,000 square feet?

A. 8 gallons

B. 12 gallons

C. 4 gallons

D. 16 gallons

Understanding how to use a application rate: you need 4 gallons for every 1,000 square feet. The lawn is 2,000 square feet, which is two blocks of 1,000 square feet. Multiply the number of blocks by the rate: 2 × 4 = 8 gallons. So eight gallons cover the lawn. Options like 12, 4, or 16 would correspond to different total areas (3, 1, or 4 blocks of 1,000 sq ft), not the 2 blocks you have here.

10. When planting container-grown and burlapped plants?

A. Keep the potting mix moist

B. Let the soil dry out

C. Plant deeply below grade

D. Remove the potting mix entirely

Maintaining even moisture in the root ball and surrounding soil during planting is crucial because the roots are stressed from removal and must reestablish in the new site. Keeping the root zone moist prevents desiccation, reduces transplant shock, and helps roots grow outward into the surrounding soil. After placing the plant, water thoroughly to saturate the root zone and keep it from drying out while new roots establish. Tactics like letting the soil dry out, planting too deep, or removing all potting mix can hinder establishment and increase stress on the plant.

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://scturfandpestcontcat3.examzify.com

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