

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

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1. **If a lawn is 6,000 square feet, how many gallons are needed at 4 gallons per 1,000 square feet?**
 - A. 12 gallons
 - B. 16 gallons
 - C. 20 gallons
 - D. 24 gallons

2. **In the turf disease management pyramid, which item is not typically included?**
 - A. Fungicide
 - B. Soil moisture
 - C. Sunlight
 - D. Soil fertility

3. **Before installing a new plant, which factors should you assess?**
 - A. Hardiness zone, sunlight, and soil
 - B. Pesticide compatibility
 - C. Historical weather
 - D. Leaf color compatibility

4. **A piercing sucking insect?**
 - A. Aphid
 - B. Beetle
 - C. Mite
 - D. Caterpillar

5. **Should you fertilize when managing dollar spot in turf?**
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Only with micronutrients
 - D. Only in spring

- 6. Which life cycle describes weeds that complete their life cycle within a single year?**
- A. Annual**
 - B. Biennial**
 - C. Perennial**
 - D. Decennial**
- 7. 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**
- 8. Dandelions are commonly identified by which root feature?**
- A. Have a sturdy taproot**
 - B. Have a shallow fibrous root system**
 - C. Lack roots during drought**
 - D. Lack roots altogether**
- 9. When fertilizing, how should you determine fertilizer need?**
- A. Through results of a soil test.**
 - B. By guessing based on lawn color.**
 - C. By applying the same rate each time.**
 - D. By following a calendar schedule only.**
- 10. True or false: Different diseases and insects can cause the same symptoms.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Not sure**
 - D. Maybe**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If a lawn is 6,000 square feet, how many gallons are needed at 4 gallons per 1,000 square feet?
- A. 12 gallons
 - B. 16 gallons
 - C. 20 gallons
 - D. 24 gallons**

The amount needed scales with the number of 1,000-square-foot blocks in the lawn. Since 6,000 square feet is six blocks of 1,000, you multiply the application rate by 6: 4 gallons per block \times 6 blocks = 24 gallons. So for a 6,000 sq ft lawn, you'd need 24 gallons.

2. In the turf disease management pyramid, which item is not typically included?
- A. Fungicide**
 - B. Soil moisture
 - C. Sunlight
 - D. Soil fertility

Prevention through how you manage the turf environment is the centerpiece of the disease management pyramid. The base is built from factors you can actively control to reduce disease pressure, not from chemical interventions. Fungicide is a chemical control used when risk is high or disease is already present, so it sits higher in the pyramid as a reactive option rather than a foundational element. In contrast, soil moisture management, adequate sunlight, and proper soil fertility are included because they shape the environment in ways that limit pathogen success and help the turf stay healthy and resilient. Controlling irrigation to avoid leaf wetness, ensuring enough light to reduce humid, shady conditions, and maintaining balanced fertility all work together to prevent disease, which is why these elements are part of the pyramid while fungicide is not.

3. Before installing a new plant, which factors should you assess?

- A. Hardiness zone, sunlight, and soil**
- B. Pesticide compatibility**
- C. Historical weather**
- D. Leaf color compatibility**

When choosing a plant to install, you need to match the plant's needs with the site conditions where it will grow. The most important checks are winter hardiness, light, and soil because they directly determine whether the plant can survive and establish itself. Hardiness zone tells you the minimum temperatures the plant can tolerate. If a plant is not suited to your winter climate, it will struggle or die back each season, no matter how attractive it is. Sunlight isn't just about visibility or growth rate; plants have specific light requirements (full sun, partial shade, or full shade) that affect photosynthesis, flowering, and overall vigor. Placing a plant in conditions with the wrong amount of light leads to weak growth, poor flowering, or etiolation. Soil matters for root health and nutrient availability. Drainage, texture, and pH influence how well roots can access water and nutrients. A plant may need well-drained soil, while another tolerates heavier clay; knowing soil characteristics helps you choose a plant that will thrive or know what amendments might be needed. Pesticide compatibility, while important for future care, does not determine whether a plant will establish well at the installation site. Historical weather is part of climate understanding, but the practical site factor that guides plant choice is the climate zone (hardiness) together with light and soil. Leaf color compatibility is purely aesthetic and irrelevant to a plant's ability to survive and grow in the chosen spot. So, evaluating hardiness zone, sunlight, and soil before installation best predicts successful establishment.

4. A piercing sucking insect?

- A. Aphid**
- B. Beetle**
- C. Mite**
- D. Caterpillar**

Piercing-sucking feeding is the clue. Aphids feed by inserting slender mouthparts (stylets) into plant tissues to reach the sap and suck it out, a hallmark behavior of aphids in the order Hemiptera. This method of feeding distinguishes them from beetles and caterpillars, which chew solid plant material with their mandibles, and from mites (which are not insects), some of which pierce plant cells but do not belong to insects. So aphids best fit the description of a piercing-sucking insect.

5. Should you fertilize when managing dollar spot in turf?

- A. Yes
- B. No**
- C. Only with micronutrients
- D. Only in spring

Managing dollar spot relies on reducing leaf wetness and limiting lush, nitrogen-rich growth. Dollar spot is favored by dense, high-nitrogen turf because the extra growth provides more susceptible tissue and longer leaf-wetness periods for the pathogen to colonize. Therefore, applying fertilizer specifically to control this disease is not recommended; you'll often want to withhold or limit nitrogen during active outbreaks and rely on cultural practices and, if needed, fungicides to get the disease under control. When fertility is applied, use moderate rates, favor slow-release nitrogen and include adequate potassium to support overall turf stress tolerance, but don't expect fertilization alone to suppress dollar spot. The other options imply fertilizing as a direct control or at a restricted time, which doesn't address the disease dynamics as effectively as adjusting nitrogen use and cultural practices.

6. Which life cycle describes weeds that complete their life cycle within a single year?

- A. Annual**
- B. Biennial
- C. Perennial
- D. Decennial

Weed life cycles are about how long a plant lives and when it reproduces. An annual weed completes its entire life cycle in one growing season or year: it germinates, grows, produces seeds, and dies within that same year. That's why the option describing a cycle within a single year is the correct one. Biennials need two years to finish their life cycle, usually flowering in the second year. Perennials live for multiple years and can regrow after seasons. Decennial isn't a standard term used for weed life cycles in turf work. Understanding that annuals finish in one year helps explain why control strategies focus on preventing seed production within that same year.

7. 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 $\pi(12.5)^2 \approx 490.9$ sq ft. The driveway is 10 by 40 ft, or 400 sq ft. Subtracting these from the total gives the lawn area $\approx 10,000 - 1,500 - 490.9 - 400 \approx 7,609.1$ sq ft. At a rate of 3 oz per 1,000 sq ft, the amount needed is $(7,609.1 / 1,000) \times 3 \approx 22.83$ 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.

8. Dandelions are commonly identified by which root feature?

- A. Have a sturdy taproot**
- B. Have a shallow fibrous root system
- C. Lack roots during drought
- D. Lack roots altogether

The feature being tested is the root system type that helps identify the plant. Dandelions are known for a sturdy taproot—a single thick main root that grows downward with smaller roots branching off. This deep, robust taproot stores nutrients, helps the plant survive mowing and drought, and makes it possible for the plant to regrow if the top is removed but the root remains. The other options don't fit because a shallow fibrous root system is not characteristic of dandelions; they rely on a deep taproot rather than a widespread surface-rooted network. Saying they lack roots during drought or lack roots altogether is incorrect, since the taproot remains and functions year-round, supporting the plant's persistence.

9. When fertilizing, how should you determine fertilizer need?

- A. Through results of a soil test.**
- B. By guessing based on lawn color.**
- C. By applying the same rate each time.**
- D. By following a calendar schedule only.**

The main idea is that fertilizer needs should be based on soil test results. A soil test reveals the actual nutrient levels in the soil and the pH, showing what nutrients are already present, what may be deficient, and how much of each nutrient the turf can actually use. With that information, you get specific fertilizer recommendations tailored to how much, what type, and when to apply, reducing the risk of over-fertilizing or under-fertilizing and helping protect the environment. Relying on lawn color is not reliable because color can be affected by many factors besides nutrients, such as moisture, mowing height, heat, disease, or drought. Using the same rate each time ignores soil variability across a site and across seasons, which can lead to waste or damage. Following a calendar schedule only can result in applying nutrients when they aren't actually needed, again wasting product and potentially harming the turf or environment. So, base fertilization on soil test results, then follow the lab's recommendations with proper timing and use (such as split applications or slow-release forms) while considering the turf type, climate, and irrigation.

10. True or false: Different diseases and insects can cause the same symptoms.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Not sure**
- D. Maybe**

Different problems can show the same outward signs in turf, so you can't assume a single cause just from how it looks. A yellow or dying patch, for example, might come from a fungal disease, a bacterial issue, nutrient problems, drought stress, or insect feeding. Insects such as grubs or billbugs can thinning turf and create brown patches that resemble fungal damage, while a fungal disease might mimic damage caused by abiotic stress. Because multiple causes can produce similar symptoms, you need to look for additional clues—actual insect presence or feeding signs, fungal structures or patches, and soil or environmental conditions—and, if needed, perform tests or pest checks to identify the exact culprit. So the statement is true: different diseases and insects can cause the same symptoms.

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!