

Turf Pest Management Category 3B 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. What does the signal word on a pesticide label indicate?**
 - A. The acute toxicity and handling precautions; common terms are Danger/Warning/Caution**
 - B. The price of the product**
 - C. The color of the packaging**
 - D. The environmental marketing claim**

- 2. What is a key pest?**
 - A. A pest that often reaches damaging densities or can damage at low densities.**
 - B. A pest that is easy to control.**
 - C. A pest that only affects ornamental turf.**
 - D. A pest that never damages turf.**

- 3. Which action is consistent with spill cleanup and reporting procedures?**
 - A. Follow spill cleanup and reporting procedures**
 - B. Ignore spill**
 - C. Dispose in compost**
 - D. Call family**

- 4. Which action is an immediate response if a worker is exposed to a pesticide?**
 - A. Remove contaminated clothing**
 - B. Continue working**
 - C. Ignore exposure**
 - D. Take a break and walk away**

- 5. In turf disease management, how do protectant fungicides differ from curative fungicides and where is each typically used?**
 - A. Protectants are applied before infection; curatives are used after infection to reduce disease**
 - B. Protectants are soil drenches; curatives are foliar sprays**
 - C. Protectants are used after infection; curatives prevent infection**
 - D. They are the same in function**

- 6. What is an action threshold in turf pest management?**
- A. Regular pesticide applications on a fixed schedule regardless of pest presence.**
 - B. The pest density or damage level at which management action should be taken to prevent unacceptable damage or economic loss.**
 - C. The minimum number of pests to declare an outbreak.**
 - D. The maximum allowed pesticide application per year.**
- 7. Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is used for control of which pests?**
- A. Aphids**
 - B. Grubs**
 - C. Nematodes**
 - D. Caterpillars**
- 8. What strategy helps avoid injury to ornamentals when applying herbicides in turf?**
- A. Apply a broad-spectrum product across the landscape.**
 - B. Placement, timing, and product selection; direct sprays to target weeds; use preemergents around established plants; manage drift.**
 - C. Use preemergent around ornamentals only.**
 - D. Never use any herbicides near trees.**
- 9. What do REI and PHI on pesticide labels indicate?**
- A. They indicate restricted-entry interval and pre-harvest interval**
 - B. They indicate the pesticide's price**
 - C. They indicate the production batch number**
 - D. They indicate the recommended mowing height**
- 10. Which cultural practices help reduce mole cricket pressure before using insecticides?**
- A. Improving drainage and promoting turf vigor.**
 - B. Applying broad-spectrum fungicides.**
 - C. Water the area heavily every day.**
 - D. Apply fertilizer to the entire lawn monthly.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the signal word on a pesticide label indicate?

- A. The acute toxicity and handling precautions; common terms are Danger/Warning/Caution**
- B. The price of the product**
- C. The color of the packaging**
- D. The environmental marketing claim**

The signal word on a pesticide label is a quick guide to how hazardous the product can be if it's not handled carefully. It tells you the level of acute toxicity and, therefore, what kind of precautions you should take. Danger means the product is highly toxic or has severe hazards and requires the strongest precautions. Warning indicates a lower, but still significant, level of toxicity and corresponding protective measures. Caution is used for relatively low acute toxicity, with the least intensive precautions still recommended. These words help determine the protective gear you should wear and the urgency of following safety steps or first aid actions. They aren't about price, packaging color, or marketing claims—those aspects don't communicate hazard level on the label.

2. What is a key pest?

- A. A pest that often reaches damaging densities or can damage at low densities.**
- B. A pest that is easy to control.**
- C. A pest that only affects ornamental turf.**
- D. A pest that never damages turf.**

A key turf pest is defined by its potential to cause damage even at low populations or to reach damaging densities quickly. This means that even small numbers of these pests can injure turf, and their populations can escalate rapidly if not managed. That's why scouting and treatment decisions focus on pests with demonstrated damage potential, because delaying action increases the risk of noticeable turf damage or loss of quality. The other ideas don't capture this risk-based concept: being easy to control isn't what makes a pest key, a pest that only affects ornamental turf isn't necessarily a threat to the turf you manage, and a pest that never damages turf isn't a pest to manage at all.

3. Which action is consistent with spill cleanup and reporting procedures?

- A. Follow spill cleanup and reporting procedures**
- B. Ignore spill**
- C. Dispose in compost**
- D. Call family**

Acting according to established spill cleanup and reporting procedures is the recommended action because it protects people, property, and the environment. These procedures give you a clear, step-by-step way to contain the spill, prevent exposure, and stop the spread of the contaminant to water, soil, or surfaces. They also ensure the incident is properly documented and reported to the right people, such as a supervisor or regulatory authorities, so appropriate follow-up and disposal can occur. Following the procedures helps you use the correct personal protective equipment, containment methods, and waste handling steps, reducing risk and liability. Ignoring a spill, disposing of contaminated material in compost, or involving someone unrelated like a family member does not address the hazard and can create bigger safety and environmental problems.

4. Which action is an immediate response if a worker is exposed to a pesticide?

- A. Remove contaminated clothing**
- B. Continue working**
- C. Ignore exposure**
- D. Take a break and walk away**

Immediate action when someone is exposed to a pesticide is to remove contaminated clothing. This step directly reduces ongoing dermal exposure because residues cling to fabric and can continue to contact skin even after the exposure event begins. By taking off the dirty clothing, you cut off a major source of absorption and start the decontamination process, lowering the risk of symptoms developing. After removing contaminated garments, rinse exposed skin with plenty of clean water and soap, and wash thoroughly. If there's any possibility the eyes or skin have been exposed, flush those areas as well and seek medical guidance if symptoms appear. The other options don't address stopping the ongoing contact: continuing to work would keep you exposed, ignoring the exposure is unsafe, and taking a break without removing the source of contamination doesn't effectively reduce absorption.

5. In turf disease management, how do protectant fungicides differ from curative fungicides and where is each typically used?

A. Protectants are applied before infection; curatives are used after infection to reduce disease

B. Protectants are soil drenches; curatives are foliar sprays

C. Protectants are used after infection; curatives prevent infection

D. They are the same in function

Protectant fungicides are used to prevent infection and are often applied as soil drenches, which allow the chemical to move into the root zone and provide protection as new growth emerges. Curative fungicides are applied after infection to slow or stop disease progression, and they are typically delivered as foliar sprays directly on infected above-ground tissue. The main idea is that protectants guard against infection via soil uptake, while curatives act after symptoms appear on the foliage. That's why describing protectants as soil drenches and curatives as foliar sprays best aligns with how these products are commonly used in turf disease management. The other options mix up timing or application method or claim they are the same, which doesn't fit the practical use in the field.

6. What is an action threshold in turf pest management?

A. Regular pesticide applications on a fixed schedule regardless of pest presence.

B. The pest density or damage level at which management action should be taken to prevent unacceptable damage or economic loss.

C. The minimum number of pests to declare an outbreak.

D. The maximum allowed pesticide application per year.

An action threshold is the point at which you decide to take pest control action based on how many pests are present or how much damage you see. It's a decision level derived from monitoring data, not a fixed calendar or routine spray schedule. When pest density or damage reaches this threshold, management is started to prevent further, economically damaging losses. In turf, thresholds are specific to the pest, the turf type, the time of year, and the site value. For example, you might scout and find a certain number of grubs per square foot or a level of turf thinning that signals you should treat now before damage becomes unacceptable. The idea is to act while you can still prevent significant harm, rather than spraying on a fixed timeline regardless of pest pressure. Thresholds are often set below the economic injury level to provide a safety margin and account for monitoring error and variability.

7. Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is used for control of which pests?

- A. Aphids**
- B. Grubs**
- C. Nematodes**
- D. Caterpillars**

Bt is a biological pesticide whose toxins must be ingested by susceptible insects. In turf, the most relevant target is caterpillars (Lepidoptera larvae) because the Cry toxins produced by *Bacillus thuringiensis* disrupt the caterpillar's gut after they eat treated material, leading to death. This mode of action makes Bt effective for caterpillars like armyworms and cutworms, while not effectively controlling aphids (sap-sucking insects), nematodes (soil-dwelling worms), or beetle larvae commonly called grubs. Some Bt strains exist for beetles, but the formulations most used in turf are aimed at caterpillars, which is why caterpillars are the best answer.

8. What strategy helps avoid injury to ornamentals when applying herbicides in turf?

- A. Apply a broad-spectrum product across the landscape.**
- B. Placement, timing, and product selection; direct sprays to target weeds; use preemergents around established plants; manage drift.**
- C. Use preemergent around ornamentals only.**
- D. Never use any herbicides near trees.**

Preventing injury to ornamentals from herbicides comes down to applying with precision and care. Target the weeds you want to control rather than spraying everywhere, which reduces the chance that desirable plants will be hit. Choose products that are labeled for turf and that are compatible with nearby ornamentals, and apply them at the right time so they're effective on weeds but gentler on ornamentals. Direct sprays to the weeds you're targeting, not the surrounding plants, to minimize contact. Using preemergents around established ornamentals provides weed suppression without needing to hit every weed with a postemergent herbicide, helping protect root zones and above-ground tissue of ornamentals. Drift management is essential: calibrate the sprayer, use appropriate nozzle types and droplet sizes, and consider drift-control adjuvants or buffer zones to keep any off-target spray from reaching ornamentals. Together, these practices create a strategy that reduces exposure of ornamentals while still achieving effective weed control in turf.

9. What do REI and PHI on pesticide labels indicate?

- A. They indicate restricted-entry interval and pre-harvest interval**
- B. They indicate the pesticide's price**
- C. They indicate the production batch number**
- D. They indicate the recommended mowing height**

REI and PHI are timing restrictions on pesticide labels that protect people and the food supply. The restricted-entry interval is the waiting period after a pesticide is applied during which entry to the treated area is limited or prohibited unless you wear the appropriate PPE. The pre-harvest interval is the minimum time that must pass after application before the crop can be harvested or sold, to ensure residues are at acceptable levels. In turf work, REI matters for anyone entering sprayed areas (mowing, overseeding, maintenance) soon after application, while PHI applies to crops or sod production and to any situation where the treated material would be harvested or consumed. These indicators are not about price, batch numbers, or mowing height.

10. Which cultural practices help reduce mole cricket pressure before using insecticides?

- A. Improving drainage and promoting turf vigor.**
- B. Applying broad-spectrum fungicides.**
- C. Water the area heavily every day.**
- D. Apply fertilizer to the entire lawn monthly.**

Reducing mole cricket pressure starts with creating turf conditions they find less favorable and that help the stand recover quickly. Improving drainage lowers soil moisture and avoids the consistently damp, soft soil the insects use for burrowing and egg-laying, while promoting turf vigor strengthens roots and resilience so the grass can recover from feeding. Healthy, well-managed turf is less inviting to pests because it's harder for mole crickets to establish and sustain damage. The other options miss the mark because fungicides target fungi, not the insect; extra daily watering keeps soil moist which encourages mole crickets; and routine monthly fertilization without addressing moisture or vigor can lead to excessive lush growth that may worsen pest pressure or waste resources.

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://turfpestmgmtcat3b.examzify.com>

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

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