

# Turfgrass Pest Management Category 3A 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. Hand removal, traps, barriers, and repellents are examples of which type of control?**
  - A. Cultural controls**
  - B. Chemical controls**
  - C. Mechanical and physical controls**
  - D. Biological controls**
  
- 2. Endophyte-containing grasses are an example of which plant defense?**
  - A. Plant resistance**
  - B. Physical barrier**
  - C. Biological control**
  - D. Chemical defense**
  
- 3. Which weed has round hairy leaves with deep veins, with upper leaves attached directly to the stem and lower leaves on petioles?**
  - A. Mouse-ear chickweed**
  - B. Broadleaf plantain**
  - C. Henbit**
  - D. White clover**
  
- 4. Which of the following is a common equipment failure?**
  - A. High pH water used.**
  - B. Worn gaskets and seals.**
  - C. New seals.**
  - D. Expired labels.**
  
- 5. Which organism tear up patches of sod in search of soil organisms?**
  - A. Squirrels, opossums, raccoons, and deer.**
  - B. Skunks, opossums, raccoons, and blackbirds.**
  - C. Skunks, opossums, rabbits, and deer.**
  - D. Blackbirds and raccoons only.**

- 6. Which of the following is NOT listed as a factor that can influence the effectiveness of an herbicide?**
- A. Soil pH**
  - B. Growing points**
  - C. Leaf shape**
  - D. Waxy cuticle**
- 7. The fertilization process should be guided by soil analyses to determine the:**
- A. Desired amount**
  - B. Color of fertilizer**
  - C. Time of day for application**
  - D. Brand of fertilizer**
- 8. Anthracnose features patches of yellow-bronze to reddish brown on which turfgrass?**
- A. Annual bluegrass**
  - B. Kentucky bluegrass**
  - C. Tall fescue**
  - D. Bermudagrass**
- 9. Which weed is a perennial, occasionally an annual, easily identified by large broad leaves at the base?**
- A. Quack grass**
  - B. Broadleaf plantain**
  - C. Henbit**
  - D. Mouse-ear chickweed**
- 10. Which pest has ivory white caterpillars with small black spots?**
- A. Sod webworm**
  - B. Hairy chinch bug**
  - C. Bluegrass billbug**
  - D. European chafer**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Hand removal, traps, barriers, and repellents are examples of which type of control?**

- A. Cultural controls**
- B. Chemical controls**
- C. Mechanical and physical controls**
- D. Biological controls**

Mechanical and physical controls rely on directly manipulating the pest or its access to the turf rather than using toxins. Hand removal physically takes pests out of the area. Traps capture them. Barriers create a physical obstacle that pests can't cross. Repellents deter pests from the treated area or resource by behavior or perception, not by killing them with a pesticide. These methods change pest pressure through actions and barriers, fitting this category. Cultural controls adjust the environment to be less favorable to pests, chemical controls use pesticides to kill or suppress, and biological controls rely on natural enemies.

**2. Endophyte-containing grasses are an example of which plant defense?**

- A. Plant resistance**
- B. Physical barrier**
- C. Biological control**
- D. Chemical defense**

Endophyte-containing grasses show a plant's defensive capability against herbivores, which is a resistance trait of the plant. The fungal endophyte inside the grass produces alkaloids and other compounds that deter feeding or harm pests, giving the plant an inherent ability to resist damage from herbivores. This is not about a physical barrier like a tough leaf surface, nor about using another organism to control pests (biological control), and while the deterrents are chemical, the overall effect is best described as plant resistance—the plant's protective trait enhanced by the endophyte.

**3. Which weed has round hairy leaves with deep veins, with upper leaves attached directly to the stem and lower leaves on petioles?**

- A. Mouse-ear chickweed**
- B. Broadleaf plantain**
- C. Henbit**
- D. White clover**

This item asks you to identify a weed by leaf shape, texture, and how the leaves attach to the stem. Henbit has rounded, softly hairy leaves with noticeable veins, and a distinctive attachment pattern: the upper leaves clasp the stem (amplexicaul), while the lower leaves sit on short stalks (petioles). That combination—round, hairy leaves with deep venation and upper leaves that wrap around the stem—is a hallmark of henbit, especially in turf. Other options don't fit this exact pattern. Mouse-ear chickweed has fuzzy leaves but they're smaller and don't clasp the stem in the same way; broadleaf plantain has large, flat leaves with long petioles and a different venation look; white clover shows trifoliate leaflets, not single round leaves with stem-clasping attachment.

4. Which of the following is a common equipment failure?

- A. High pH water used.
- B. Worn gaskets and seals.**
- C. New seals.
- D. Expired labels.

Maintaining spray equipment hinges on the integrity of seals and gaskets, which keep pressure, prevent leaks, and ensure accurate delivery. Worn gaskets and seals are a common equipment failure because these parts are constantly exposed to chemical solutions, vibration, and temperature changes. Over time they lose elasticity, crack, or deteriorate, leading to leaks at connections, reduced pressure, and inconsistent application rates. Replacing worn gaskets and seals restores proper sealing, pressure, and spray performance, which is why it's the best choice. High pH water isn't a hardware failure of the equipment itself; it's a water quality condition that can affect chemical behavior or nozzle performance but doesn't reflect a worn part. New seals would actually fix issues rather than represent a failure. Expired labels involve regulatory or safety requirements, not a mechanical failure of the equipment.

5. Which organism tear up patches of sod in search of soil organisms?

- A. Squirrels, opossums, raccoons, and deer.
- B. Skunks, opossums, raccoons, and blackbirds.**
- C. Skunks, opossums, rabbits, and deer.
- D. Blackbirds and raccoons only.

Foraging behavior that disturbs turf involves animals digging or probing the soil to reach soil-dwelling prey. Skunks, opossums, and raccoons routinely scratch and dig through turf in search of grubs and earthworms. Blackbirds also probe and pull at patches of sod to access worms. Together, these species explain torn patches of sod as a foraging sign. Squirrels and deer aren't typical turf-foragers for soil organisms—squirrels tend to dig for nuts and seeds or forage above ground, and deer browse vegetation rather than ripping turf to reach soil prey. That's why the combination of digging mammals plus probing birds is the best fit.

**6. Which of the following is NOT listed as a factor that can influence the effectiveness of an herbicide?**

- A. Soil pH**
- B. Growing points**
- C. Leaf shape**
- D. Waxy cuticle**

The main idea is that foliar-absorbed herbicides are influenced by leaf-level traits and the plant's growth stage, rather than soil chemistry. For plants treated on the leaf, how easily the chemical enters and moves within the plant depends on the leaf's surface properties and the stage of growth. Soil pH is not a factor for foliar herbicides because it governs soil chemistry and root/soil-acting products, not the uptake and movement of chemicals applied to the leaf. That's why soil pH is not listed as a factor affecting foliar herbicide effectiveness. Growing points matter because some herbicides target meristems or moving through the plant toward new growth; if the growth point is protected or not actively growing, the herbicide's effect can differ. Leaf shape influences how a droplet spreads and covers the leaf surface, affecting how much herbicide actually contacts the cuticle and enters. The waxy cuticle acts as a protective barrier; thicker or more waxy surfaces impede penetration, reducing efficacy unless formulations or adjuvants are used to enhance entry. So, among these factors, soil pH is the one not tied to foliar herbicide effectiveness.

**7. The fertilization process should be guided by soil analyses to determine the:**

- A. Desired amount**
- B. Color of fertilizer**
- C. Time of day for application**
- D. Brand of fertilizer**

Soil analyses guide how much fertilizer is needed. A soil test shows what nutrients are already present and what the turf requires to reach target levels, so the recommended fertilizer rate is adjusted to supply precisely what's missing. This helps prevent under-fertilization and reduces waste and environmental impact. The color of fertilizer, the time of day you apply it, or the brand don't reveal the turf's actual nutrient needs. Color is just packaging, time of day relates to conditions for applying the product, and brand varies in formulation; none of these determine the required amount the soil needs based on analysis.

**8. Anthracnose features patches of yellow-bronze to reddish brown on which turfgrass?**

- A. Annual bluegrass**
- B. Kentucky bluegrass**
- C. Tall fescue**
- D. Bermudagrass**

Anthracnose is a fungal disease that tends to hit annual bluegrass especially hard, producing distinctive yellow-bronze to reddish-brown patches of turf as the leaf tissue dies. This color pattern and patch-like appearance are classic signs observed on *Poa annua* under cool, wet conditions when the grass is stressed or crowded. While other grasses can be affected by anthracnose, the specific patch description described here is most commonly associated with annual bluegrass, making it the best fit.

**9. Which weed is a perennial, occasionally an annual, easily identified by large broad leaves at the base?**

- A. Quack grass**
- B. Broadleaf plantain**
- C. Henbit**
- D. Mouse-ear chickweed**

Identifying a perennial weed by its basal rosette of large, broad leaves. Broadleaf plantain forms a low, dense circle of big, oval leaves that lie flat on the soil, with prominent parallel veins running the length of each leaf. This growth form is a strong indicator of plantain, which is primarily a perennial weed and persists year after year in turf, though it can behave like an annual in some conditions. In contrast, quackgrass is a grass with long, narrow leaves and creeping rhizomes, not a basal rosette; henbit has small, rounded-toothed leaves on square stems; and mouse-ear chickweed has tiny, hairy leaves and a prostrate habit. So the plant with a basal rosette of large leaves and perennial habit is broadleaf plantain.

**10. Which pest has ivory white caterpillars with small black spots?**

- A. Sod webworm**
- B. Hairy chinch bug**
- C. Bluegrass billbug**
- D. European chafer**

Recognizing the pest by its larval appearance helps identify turf issues. Ivory white caterpillars with small black spots are characteristic of sod webworm larvae, which are the caterpillar stage of a moth. These larvae chew on grass blades, often feeding at night and sometimes leaving webbing or damaged patches at the turf surface. The other pests listed are not caterpillars: hairy chinch bug nymphs and adults are true bugs that suck on the plant rather than chew blades; bluegrass billbug larvae are grub-like with a brown head and feed inside crowns or roots; European chafer larvae are white grubs feeding on roots. So the distinctive pale caterpillars with tiny black spots point to sod webworm.

## 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://trufgrasspestmgmtcat3a.examzify.com>**

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

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