

Pesticide & Fertilizer Licensing + Recertification



STEP 1. Do they have a pesticide/fertilizer license?

- Yes--- Go to Step 5 (Go to **BACK** For Recertification)
- No, Need a License--- **What kind is needed?**

| Private Pesticide | Commercial Pesticide | Fertilizer Certificate |
|---|--|--|
| Go to Step 2 | Go to Step 3 | Go to Step 4 |
| For individuals who apply restricted-use pesticides to produce an agricultural commodity on land the applicator owns, rents, or is employed to work on. | Required for individuals who apply any pesticides: For a pest control business, for a government agency, and to certain publicly accessible sites (e.g., schools, parks, golf courses, hospitals). | Needed if someone applies fertilizer to more than 50 acres of agricultural production intended for sale. |
| | Wood Destroying Inspectors for real estate transactions are commercial applicators. pested.osu.edu/home/quick-links/wdiinspection | Fertilizer Certification is NOT Required If: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Only starter fertilizer through the planter is used ◦ Fertilizer is applied to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Lawns, golf courses, sports fields Sod farms under 50 acres |

STEP 2. PRIVATE Applicator Licensing

How to direct clients:

- Direct them to: pested.osu.edu/privateapplicator/licensing
- Help them order study guides (Core + category needed)
- Find a list of categories and definitions: go.osu.edu/privatecategories
- Can be ordered at: extensionpubs.osu.edu
- Assist them with ODA exam scheduling: go.osu.edu/odascheduleexam
- If already licensed guide them to recertification (see Step 5)

Learn More:

ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-0141

STEP 3. COMMERCIAL Applicator Licensing

How to direct clients:

- Direct them to: pested.osu.edu/commercialapplicator/licensing
- Help them order study guides (Core + category needed)
- Find a list of categories and definitions: go.osu.edu/odacommercialcategories
- Can be ordered at: go.osu.edu/examguides
- Assist them with ODA exam scheduling: go.osu.edu/odascheduleexam
- If already licensed guide them to recertification (see Step 5)

Learn More: ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-0140

STEP 4. FERTILIZER Certification

For Fertilizer Certification, individuals can either complete a 3-hour OSU Extension course or pass the ODA exam

Learn More:

ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-0142
<https://nutrienteducation.osu.edu/>

Important Tip:

If someone needs both pesticide and fertilizer certification:

- Get the pesticide license first, then add fertilizer
 - This avoids an extra fee.
- Don't pay for fertilizer first, then try to add pesticide
 - That **WILL NOT** waive the pesticide fee.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Pesticide Safety Education Program
614-292-4070
<https://pested.osu.edu/>

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STEP 5: Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification

Recertification is required on a **3 year** cycle- individuals can get credits any time during the 3-year cycle.

| | Private | Commercial |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Renewal | Every 3 years \$30 paid to ODA | Every year \$35 paid to ODA |
| Recertification | 3 year cycle 3 hours of CEUs ◦ 1 hr core +1/2 hr per category | 3 year cycle 5 hours of CEUs ◦ 1 hr core + 1/2 hr per category |
| Deadline | March 31st ◦ Go to pested.osu.edu, Private, Private Recertification | September 30th ◦ Go to pested.osu.edu, Commercial, Recertification |

FERTILIZER Recertification

- 1 hour of continuing education is required every 3 years.
- Applicators may take either a Private or Commercial fertilizer recertification course.
- If the applicator also holds a pesticide license, there is no additional fee for fertilizer recertification.
- If the applicator holds only a fertilizer certificate, a \$30 fee is required.
- **Deadlines: Fertilizer Certificate expires every 3 years.**
- If the applicator has a pesticide license, fertilizer certification deadlines align with that license:
- March 31 for Private Applicators
- September 30 for Commercial Applicators
- If the applicator does not have a pesticide license, the fertilizer certification expires March 31.

For license renewal:

Renewal is the administrative step handled by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). Applicators must pay their license renewal fee to ODA to keep their license active.

Support Staff can:

- Direct to the Recertification tab on pested.osu.edu
- Look up upcoming local or statewide meetings
- Help verify CEU completion and renewal deadlines

Need to Check Credit Hours?

If you get a call asking about someone's pesticide or fertilizer certification status, you can quickly look up their CEU credit hours online.

Visit: go.osu.edu/checkcredithrs