



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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# ATTENTION

## LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE COMPANIES

- Do you maintain residential or commercial lawns and/or landscape beds for clients?
- As part of this work, do you apply **ANY** pesticide\* for **ANY** purpose (including spot treatments) to your customers' properties?

If you answered “yes” to these two questions, your company must have a Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Commercial Applicator pesticide license. There is **no exemption** to licensing for a company that performs grounds maintenance and applies any pesticide, even once to a client's property. There is **no exemption** if you only use backpack sprayers and push spreaders. There is **no exemption** if you only operate this business part-time.

In addition, your employees who apply pesticides must be licensed as Commercial Operators. If you or your employees apply pesticides commercially without these licenses, it is a direct violation of Washington pesticide law (17.21 RCW) and can lead to a civil penalty of up to \$7,500 **per incident**. Each application you make can be considered an incident.

**If you are unlicensed and currently performing pesticide applications, you have three options:**

- (1) Obtain the appropriate licenses **before** making any more applications
- (2) Subcontract your pesticide work to an appropriately licensed company, or
- (3) Stop offering services that include pesticide applications.

The Commercial Applicator must be licensed in all categories that the business operates and supply WSDA with proof of financial coverage. This coverage must be in the form of either a liability insurance policy or surety bond that provides \$50,000 public liability and \$50,000 property damage coverage. The Commercial Applicator license fee is \$170 per year. Commercial Operators must be licensed in all categories that they work; the license fee is \$50 per year. There is Washington State University study manuals available for all exams.

WSDA offers pesticide exams every Tuesday at the Olympia and Yakima offices. Exams are offered once a month at all branch offices. For further information or to schedule a reservation for an exam session, contact WSDA toll free at 1-877-301-4555. Information is also available at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd>.

**\*Pesticides include herbicides (such as Roundup, Casoron and Weed & Feed), insecticides (such as granular rose food with insect control), fungicides, moss control agents and any other product which prevents, destroys, controls, repels or mitigates any pest.**