



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Limited and Rancher Private Applicator Licenses

- (1) Do you only need the Private Applicator license to control problem weeds on non-production agricultural property you own or lease?*
- (2) Are you a rancher who only needs the Private Applicator pesticide license to control weeds and rodents?*
- (3) Do you make your pesticide applications in eastern Washington?*

If you answered yes to question 1 or 2 and yes to question 3, you might qualify for either a Limited or Rancher Private Applicator license. Both carry reduced fee and recertification requirements from the Private Applicator license but have restrictions on which pesticides you can buy and use. Before you make a decision about obtaining one of these licenses, please read the information in this fact sheet carefully. Neither one of these licenses is intended for production agriculture. A common problem found during a 5-year pilot project was individuals obtaining one of these licenses only to discover they could not legally purchase and use needed pesticides. **Note: These licenses are only valid for applications made in eastern Washington.**

How do the Limited, Rancher and traditional Private Applicator licenses differ in terms of the types of pesticides that can be used?

The *Private Applicator* license allows the use of **any** restricted use pesticide (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc.) on your own or your employer's land for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. Both the Limited and Rancher Private Applicator license only allow the use of restricted use pesticides in the very limited situations described below.

The *Limited Private Applicator* license allows the holder to supervise & apply restricted use herbicides on **non-production agricultural land** that includes pastures, rangeland, fence rows & areas around farm buildings. The use of aquatic herbicides is **NOT** allowed. Noxious weed control in mixed rangeland-timber areas is permissible for the sole purpose of controlling weeds designated for mandatory control under state or local regulations. Herbicide applications to control any other type of competing vegetation on forest lands for the purpose of improving timber growth or survival is **not** permissible. The licensee can use no other type of restricted use pesticides, including insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides, unless they are supervised by a traditionally licensed Private Applicator.

The *Rancher Private Applicator* license allows the same uses as with the Limited Private Applicator license. In addition, this license allows the use of restricted use herbicides and rodenticides on limited production agricultural land where grain and hay are grown primarily for personal use. (No more than 10% of the grain and/or hay grown may be sold.) The licensee can use no other type of restricted use pesticide, including aquatic herbicides or insecticides, unless they are supervised by a traditionally licensed Private Applicator.

How do the fee and renewal requirements differ from the Private Applicator license?

As compared to the annually renewed \$33 Private Applicator license, both the Limited and Rancher Private Applicator licenses are good for up to five years.* The Limited Private Applicator carries a \$33 fee while the Rancher Private Applicator carries a \$100 fee. As with the Private Applicator license, no fee is required if you have paid for another pesticide license in the same year you apply for one of these licenses. More licensing information is at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/Licensing.aspx>.

*The Limited & Rancher Private Applicator licenses expire the fifth Dec. 31st after issuance. Therefore, a license obtained in 2012, will have an expiration date of Dec. 31, 2016.

How do I qualify for either a Limited or Rancher Private Applicator licenses?

If you do not currently hold a pesticide license, you will need to take the appropriate exam to qualify for one of these licenses. If you already hold a pesticide license, you may or may not qualify for one of these licenses depending on the exams you have passed and your current recertification status. For example, Private Applicators who are in a current recertification cycle qualify for either of these new licenses. Private Applicators coming to the end of their recertification cycle without enough credits to renew that license must take the appropriate exam. Other exam substitutions include the following:

EXAM	ALLOWED SUBSTITUTION(S)
Limited Private Applicator	Laws & Safety plus a weed exam
Rancher Private Applicator	Laws & Safety, a weed exam and Pest Animal Control

Current licensees exempt from testing must complete application requirements before they are legal to operate as one of these license types. Contact Pesticide Licensing at (877) 301-4555 for more information.

What is the study material for the Limited & Rancher Private Applicator exams?

The two study materials for the Limited and Rancher Private Applicator exams are available from Washington State University (WSU). The *Private Applicator Pesticide Education Manual* (MISC0126) can be ordered directly online at WSU Publications or by calling (800) 723-1763. You can also order this study manual by downloading, completing and mailing the [WSU Pesticides Study Material Order Form](#) per the instructions on the form. The manual may also be available from your local extension offices. You will also need the [Weed Control Training Supplement for Limited Private Applicators and Rancher Private Applicators](#) (MISC0547E).

What are the recertification requirements for the Limited and Rancher Private Applicator licenses?

The **Limited Private Applicator** license requires eight recertification credits by the end of the five-year license/recertification cycle. All credits must be directly or indirectly related to weed control. The **Rancher Private Applicator** license requires 12 credits by the end of the five-year license/recertification cycle. Neither license has restrictions on the number of credits allowed in a calendar year. Note: If you acquire one of these licenses in 2005, it will have a 2005 – 2009 recertification period.

To learn more about WSDA's Recertification Program, including a listing of open courses, go to <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/Recertification.aspx>.

Additional information on these licenses is at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd>. You can also contact Pesticide Licensing toll free at (877) 301-4555 or license@agr.wa.gov.