

Training: where to get it

A variety of training and certification programs are offered in the U.S., at both the national and local levels. If you are seeking such assistance, contact the appropriate organizations for information on the programs best suited for your needs.

National programs

The Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) offers a Certified Landscape Technician (CLT) program. Twelve states and two Canadian provinces are registered to administer the CLT's exterior program: California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, British Columbia and Ontario.

Program objectives are:

- * To raise the standards of the profession.
- * To encourage self assessment by offering guidelines for achievement.
- * To award recognition to those who have demonstrated a high level of competency in the profession.
- * To improve the performance within the profession by requiring participation in a continuing program of professional development.

For more information, contact ALCA at 12200 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 150, Reston, VA 22091; (800) 395-2522 or (703) 620-6365.

The Golf Course Superintendents of America has multiple programs available, some leading to the coveted Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) rating. For more information: GCSAA, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859; (913) 841-2240.

The International Society of Arboriculture offers a certified arborists program. Cost is \$100 for members, \$150 for non-members. Multiple programs are available with varying schedules. For more information: ISA, P.O. Box GG, Savoy, IL 61874; (217) 355-9411.

The turf certification program sponsored by the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) and the University of Georgia is acceptable for pesticide recertification credits in 25 states:

Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Maine, Missis-

issippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The PLCAA/UGa's "Principles of Turfgrass Management" course is a home-study program that covers mowing, irrigation, pesticides, customer relations and other facets of the green industry. It is designed for those working with lawn care companies, golf courses, landscape management firms, athletic fields, cemeteries, public parks, institutions and recreation areas.

PLCAA members get a discount. For a free brochure, call the PLCAA at (800) 458-3466.

The Professional Grounds Management Society offers a closed-book test based on seven PGMS booklets. It's administered at the local level, and leads to a rating of Certified Grounds Manager (CGM). Cost is \$150 for PGMS members and \$300 for non-members. For more information, contact PGMS at (410) 584-9754.

Regional certification

The Alliance for Environmental Concerns, P.O. Box 3692, Wayne, NJ 07474; (201) 595-7172. *Annual training seminar the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Cost is \$45.*

Arizona Nursery Association, 1430 W. Broadway, Suite A-125, Tempe, AZ 85282; (602) 966-1610; (602) 966-0923. *Industry certification programs offered three times a year, fees vary.*

Arkansas Turfgrass Association, Penthouse Suite, University Tower Bldg., 1123 S. University, Little Rock, AR 72204; (501) 663-8810; (501) 663-9148. *Certification classes offered.*

California Association of Nurserymen, 4620 Northgate Blvd., Suite 155, Sacramento, CA 95834; (916) 567-0200; (916) 567-0505. *Certification exam offered in spring and fall, \$50 member, \$200 non-member.*

California Landscape Contractors Associa-

tion, 2021 N. St., Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 448-2522; (916) 446-7692. Exams offered in North and South sections of state, \$200 with member discounts.

Delaware Turfgrass Association, 952 Monroe Terrace, Dover, DE 19904; (302) 677-1895. *Twice-yearly exam; classes through cooperative extension.*

Eastern Regional Nurserymen's Association, P.O. Box 117, Vernon, CT 06066; (203) 872-2095. *Thirteen-week classes, exam offered later, \$35 member, \$95 non-member.*

Florida Nurserymen & Growers Association, 5401 Kirkman Rd., Suite 650, Orlando, FL 32819; (407) 345-8137; (800) 375-3642. *Nursery and landscape certification programs with multiple options, some leading to FCLC (Florida Certified Landscape Contractor) certificate.*

Florida Turfgrass Association, 5850 TG Lee Blvd. #110, Orlando, FL 32822-4423; (407) 856-5767. *Seminars in January; classes in September.*

Georgia Turfgrass Association, 5198 Ross Rd., Acworth, GA 30102; (404) 975-4123. *Certification and recertification classes and exams.*

Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, 1085 S. Beretania, Suite 203, Honolulu, HI 96814; (808) 545-1533; (808) 545-5026. *Program schedule varies according to level of interest.*

Landscape Maintenance Association, 41 Lake Morton Dr., #26, Lakeland, FL 33801; (813) 680-4008. *Self-study program offered on as-needed basis.*

Louisiana Turfgrass Association, P.O. Box 25100, Baton Rouge, LA 70894; (504) 388-4141. *Multiple pesticide workshops offered.*

Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association, 170 US Rt. 1, Suite 200, Falmouth, ME 04105; (207) 781-7878. *March turf conference; pesticide credits available at monthly meetings included in membership.*

Maryland Turfgrass Council, 12 Pressie Lane, Churchville, MD 21028; (410) 335-3700. *Pesticide recertification seminar at January convention.*

Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association, 30700 Telegraph Rd., Suite 4555, Bingham Farms, MI 48025; (810) 646-4992. *Certified applicators and certified landscape technician programs offered at varying fees.*

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907; (317) 494-9737. *Multiple programs offered.*

Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, P.O. Box 617, Wayzata, MN 55391; (612) 473-0557. *Annual recreation conference, \$90.*

New York Greengrass Association, P.O. Box 612, Latham, NY 12110; (518) 783-1229; (518) 426-8058. *Multiple pesticide certification programs.*

New York State Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc., P.O. Box 657, Baldwinsville, NY 13027; (315) 635-5008. *Nursery program offered, call for details.*

North Carolina Landscape Contractors Association, P.O. Box 400, Knightdale, NC 27545; (919) 266-1777. *Exams offered in January, August and sometimes June, \$50.*

Northern California Turf and Landscape Council, 3723 Jersey Rd., Fremont, CA 94538; (510) 490-6282. *Winter, spring and fall programs.*

Northwest Turfgrass Association, P.O. Box 1367, Olympia, WA 98507; (360) 754-0825. *Recertification credits available.*

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, P.O. Box 14824, Columbus, OH 43214; (614) 292-2601; (614) 261-6750. *Annual conference in December with state re-certification credits.*

Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association, 1924 N. Second St., Harrisburg, PA 17102; (717) 238-1673. *Nursery program, call for details.*

Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, P.O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851-1078; (814) 863-3475. *Multiple certification training programs.*

Secrest Arboretum, Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center, Ohio State University, Wooster, OH 44691; (216) 263-3761. *Multiple programs.*

South Carolina Landscape and Turf-

grass Association, P.O. Box 325, Clemson, SC 29633; (803) 656-3311. *Multiple programs at Clemson University.*

Southwest Turfgrass Association, NMSU, Box 30001, Dept. 3Q, Las Cruces, NM 88003; (505) 646-1406. *Twice-yearly training and testing, \$50 members, \$100 non-members.*

Texas Association of Landscape Contractors, 3001 LBJ Freeway, Suite 106, Dallas, TX 75234; (800) 832-6934; (214) 241-3888. *Certified landscape professional test offered in October and February, \$200 members, \$400 non-members.*

Texas Association of Nurserymen, 7730 South IH 35, Austin, TX 78745; (800) 880-0343. *Classes plus twice-yearly certification exam.*

Turfgrass Council of North Carolina, P.O. Box 289, Southern Pines, NC 28388; (910) 695-1333; (910) 695-1222. *Multiple training programs.*

Utah Association of Nurserymen & Landscape Contractors, P.O. Box 636, Sandy, UT 84091; (801) 565-8880. *Twice-yearly nursery program.*

Virginia Turfgrass Council, P.O. Box 698, Fishersville, VA 22939; (540) 942-8873. *Twice-yearly certification/recertification classes/exam; classes through VPI.*

Washington Association of Landscape Professionals, P.O. Box 729, Mercer Island, WA 98040; (206) 644-7642. *Annual grounds and irrigation field tests offered, \$175 members, \$225 non-members.*

Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association, P.O. Box 670, Sumner, WA 98390; (206) 863-4482. *Twice-yearly program offered, call for details.*

West Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association, 6200 Estacado Lane, Amarillo, TX 791209; (806) 354-8447. *Four meetings a year; annual conference second week in October.*