



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Pesticide Fact Sheet #122  
CEPEP 10/01  
Reviewed 5/04  
Updated 6/06

## CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATORS

E.J. Buffington  
S.K. McDonald

This fact sheet describes the differences between private and commercial pesticide applicators and lists the types of commercial applicators.

<http://www.cepep.colostate.edu>

## Certification of Applicators

Several types of applicators are recognized under the [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act](#) (FIFRA) and the [Colorado Pesticide Applicators' Act](#).

### Private Applicators

- A person who uses or supervises the use of restricted use pesticides in the production of agricultural commodities on land owned or rented by him/her or his/her employer
- Farmers, ranchers, orchardists, and greenhouse operators are common private applicators
- A private applicator may also apply restricted use pesticides in production of agricultural commodities on the property of another person, if the pesticides are applied without compensation. Trading of personal services as a form of compensation is exempted under this regulation
- Licensing in Colorado is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. For more information see [http://www.epa.gov/region8/toxics\\_pesticides/pests/pestpub.html](http://www.epa.gov/region8/toxics_pesticides/pests/pestpub.html) or contact the EPA Region 8 office at 1-800-227-8917 or 303- 312-6312
- A grower/rancher is certified as a private applicator following completion of a question/answer form dealing with pesticide use information
- Must retest every 4 years

### Commercial Applicators

- A person engaged in the business of applying pesticides or operating a device for hire
- Agricultural pilots, landscape maintenance professionals, ditch and power company employees, government workers, grain elevator operators are common commercial applicator groups who apply pesticides as a condition of their employment
- Licensing is administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [How do You Get and Renew Commercial Licenses](#)). For more information see <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/home.html> or contact the Division of Plant Industry at 305 Interlocken Parkway, Broomfield, CO 80021, Telephone: 303-869-9063, Fax: 303-466-2860

- Commercial applicators must take a general examination and a category specific examination (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Certified Operator and Qualified Supervisor Examination and Continuing Education Credits](#))
- May retest every 3 years or may maintain continuing education credits (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Certified Operator and Qualified Supervisor Examination and Continuing Education Credits](#))

### **Additional Types of commercial applicators:**

- **Limited Commercial Applicator**
  - Any person engaged in applying pesticides in the course of conducting a business; except that such application must be only in or on property owned or leased by the person or the person's employer.
  - Private golf courses are an example
- **Public Applicator**
  - Any agency of the state, any county, city and county, or municipality, or any other local governmental entity or political subdivision which applies pesticides
  - Weed control districts are an example
- **Qualified Supervisor** - Any individual who:
  - Is licensed to apply pesticides without supervision
  - Evaluates pest problems
  - Recommends pest controls using pesticides or devices
  - Mixes or loads pesticides
  - Applies any pesticide
  - Sells application services
  - Operates devices
  - Supervises others in any of the above functions
- **Certified Operator**
  - An individual who is licensed to apply any pesticide, including restricted use pesticides, under the supervision of a qualified supervisor
- **Technician** - Any individual who:
  - Has no license
  - Uses a device under the supervision of a qualified supervisor
  - Mixes or applies general use pesticides under the supervision of a qualified supervisor
  - Mixes or loads restricted use pesticides under the supervision of a qualified

- supervisor
- Applies restricted use pesticides under the on-site supervision of a qualified supervisor
- Evaluates pest problems under the supervision of a qualified supervisor
- Recommends products or treatments for pest problems under the supervision of a qualified supervisor
- Sells application services under the supervision of a qualified supervisor



### **References and Resources**

Buffington, E.J. and McDonald, S.K. 2001. *General Colorado Commercial Pesticide Application and Safety Training Guide*. Colorado State University and Colorado Department of Agriculture, Fort Collins, CO.

[Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Pesticide Applicators' Act](#). Title 35, Article 10, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry. Lakewood, CO.

[CEPEP Home Page](#)