



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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**PESTICIDE  
APPLICATORS ACT**  
STATE OF COLORADO  
TITLE 35 ARTICLE 10

**TECHNICIANS -  
TURF AND  
ORNAMENTAL**

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This fact sheet outlines who turf and ornamental technicians are and how they are trained as defined by the Colorado Applicators Act.

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## **Who Are Turf and Ornamental Technicians and How are They Trained?**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) requires people who work for Commercial Applicators, if they do not have a certified operators (CO) license or a qualified supervisors (QS) license to be verifiably trained. This factsheet describes who turf and ornamental technicians are and what the training requirements are for them. There are also technician categories for turf (see [Fact Sheet Turf Technicians](#)) and ornamental (see [Fact Sheet Ornamental Technicians](#)) technicians.

### **Who is a technician?**

1. A person who uses, sells, or recommends a general use pesticide while on the job with a certified operator or experienced technician
2. A person who uses, sells, or recommends a restricted use pesticide while under the on-site supervision of a qualified supervisor

A person who is employed by a commercial applicator may not use, sell, or recommend general use pesticides if not accompanied by a qualified supervisor, certified operator, or experienced technician without completing the training required by the [Rules and Regulations of the Pesticide Applicators' Act](#).

### **Who is NOT a technician?**

1. A person who uses, sells, or recommends a general use pesticide while under the on-site supervision of a qualified supervisor
2. A person who evaluates any pest problem while under the on-site supervision of a qualified supervisor

### **Who employs technicians?**

1. Commercial Applicators
2. Limited Commercial Applicators
3. Public Applicators

Each commercial, limited commercial, or public applicator licensed or registered in any category must maintain a [Technician Training Verification Form](#) established by the commissioner for each technician trained by the commercial applicator.

### **What types of turf and ornamental technician are there?**

1. **Applicator technician** – a basic technician who has not met experience requirements for other categories and applies pesticides

2. **Combination technician** - a technician who sells pesticide applications and also applies pesticides
3. **Experienced technician** – a technician who has been trained and has 1 season of experience, including time in training, within the last 3 years
4. **New hire experienced technicians** - a technician who has met the experience requirements within the last 3 years, but is a new employee
5. **On-going technician** - (Applicator/Sales technician) a technician continuing to work for the same entity after their first season of experience
6. **Sales technician** – a technician who sells pesticide applications and does not apply pesticides

## **What are the training requirements to become turf and ornamental technicians?**

### **Application technicians**

- 60 total hours minimum
  - 8 hours – classroom-instructional training on laws and regulations, environmental precautions, use, equipment and calibration, pesticides and their families, applicator safety, pesticide label and labeling, and public safety
  - 12 hours – classroom-instructional training on pest management and host and pest identification
  - 40 hours – on-the-job training on environmental precautions, use, equipment and calibration, pesticides and their families, pest management, applicator safety, pesticide label and labeling, host and pest identification, and public safety
    - At least 16 hours of the on-the-job training must be conducted by a licensed qualified supervisor or a certified operator with at least 1 season of turf and ornamental pesticide application experience within the last 2 years
    - No more than 24 hours of the on-the-job training may be conducted by an experienced technician

### **Sales technicians**

- 64 total hours minimum
  - 8 hours – classroom-instructional training on laws and regulations, environmental precautions, pesticides and their families, pesticide label and labeling, and public safety
  - 24 hours – classroom-instructional training on pest management and host and pest identification
  - 32 hours – on-the-job training on environmental precautions, pesticides and their families, pest management, pesticide label and labeling, host and pest identification, and public safety
    - At least 8 hours of the on-the-job training must be conducted by a licensed qualified supervisor or a certified operator with at least 1 season of turf and ornamental pesticide application experience within the last 2 years
    - No more than 24 hours of the on-the-job training may be conducted by an experienced technician

### **Combination technicians** (both applicator and sales)

- 80 total hours minimum
  - 8 hours – classroom-instructional training on laws and regulations, environmental precautions, use, equipment and calibration, pesticides and their families, applicator safety, pesticide label and labeling, and public safety

- 32 hours – classroom-instructional training on pest management and host and pest identification
- 40 hours – on-the-job training on environmental precautions, use, equipment and calibration, pesticides and their families, pest management, applicator safety, pesticide label and labeling, host and pest identification, and public safety
  - At least 8 hours of the on-the-job training must be conducted by a licensed qualified supervisor or a certified operator with at least 1 season of turf and ornamental pesticide application experience within the last 2 years
  - No more than 32 hours of the on-the-job training may be conducted by an experienced technician

### **Experienced technicians**

- 16 hours total minimum
  - 4 hours – classroom-instructional training on laws and regulations, environmental precautions, use, equipment and calibration, pesticides and their families, pest management, applicator safety, pesticide label and labeling, host and pest identification, and public safety.
  - 8 hours – on-the-job training by a qualified supervisor or certified operator with at least 1 season of turf and ornamental pesticide application experience within the last 2 years on environmental precautions, use, equipment and calibration, pesticides and their families, pest management, applicator safety, pesticide label and labeling, host and pest identification, and public safety
  - 4 hours – divided between classroom-instructional and on-the-job training as determined by the qualified supervisor
  - Experienced sales technicians are not required to complete training in use, equipment and calibration, or applicator safety

### **On-going technician** (sales, experienced, and combination)

- 4 hours of training, during each year of employment, conducted by a licensed qualified supervisor or certified operator with at least 1 season of ornamental pesticide application experience within the last 2 years. The training must be divided between classroom-instructional training and on-the-job training as determined by the qualified operator
  - Training can be in any of the following areas: laws and regulations, environmental precautions, pesticides and their families, pest management, pesticide label and labeling, host and pest identification, and public safety

### **New Hire Experienced technician**

- 16 hours total minimum
  - 4 hours – classroom-instructional training on laws and regulations, environmental precautions, use, equipment and calibration, pesticides and their families, pest management, applicator safety, pesticide label and labeling, host and pest identification, and public safety.
  - 8 hours – on-the-job training by a qualified supervisor or certified operator with at least 1 season of turf and ornamental pesticide application experience within the last 2 years on environmental precautions, use, equipment and calibration, pesticides and their families, pest management, applicator safety, pesticide label and labeling, host and pest identification, and public safety

- 4 hours – divided between classroom-instructional and on-the-job training as determined by the qualified supervisor
- Experienced sales technicians are not required to complete training in use, equipment and calibration, or applicator safety

### **References and Resources**

*Pesticide Applicators' Act.* Title 35, Article 10, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO.

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

*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.

<http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/PAA%20Rule.pdf>

*Technician Training Requirements and Technician Training Documentation Forms.* Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agplants/pesticide-technician-training>

[CEPEP Home Page](#)