

# When do you need a pesticide license?

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**Fred Fishel**  
**Professor, UF/IFAS Agronomy**

# FIFRA and Applicator Licensing

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- **Requires certification for restricted use pesticide purchase/use**

# Restricted Use Pesticides

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- **What is a restricted use pesticide (RUP)?**
  - **To the applicator:**
    - A legal requirement to purchase, handle, and supervise use
  - **To the regulator:**
    - The force of law
  - **To the retail dealer:**
    - A control of sales

# Restricted Use Pesticides

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- **What is a restricted use pesticide (RUP)?**
  - Pesticide for retail sale to, and use by, only certified applicators or persons under their direct supervision and only for those purposes covered by the applicator's certification.

# Understanding Agricultural Pesticide Applicator Licenses Under FDACS

## Chapter 487



# Chapter 487 (Agricultural) Licenses

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- **Required only for those who.....**
  - **Purchase restricted use pesticides**
  - **Apply restricted use pesticides**
  - **Supervise the use of restricted use pesticides**
    - **Licensed applicator may supervise up to 15 unlicensed employees**

# License Types

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**Commercial**



**Public**



**Private**

# Private Applicators

A green tractor with a yellow sprayer attachment is operating in a field of bare trees. The tractor is moving from left to right, and the sprayer is emitting a mist. The background shows a building and more trees under an overcast sky.

**Applicator who applies RUPs by ground application for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities on property owned or rented by the applicator or the applicator's employer**



# Private Applicator Licenses



**Farms & ranches**



**Greenhouses**



**Nurseries**



**Groves**

# Public Applicator Licenses

**Applicator licensed to use or supervise the use of RUPs as an employee of a state agency, municipal corporation, or other governmental agency**

# Public Applicator Licenses

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- **Examples**
  - **Municipal utility companies (GRU)**
  - **City and county parks (City of Gainesville)**
  - **State/federal highway departments (FDOT)**
  - **Mosquito control districts (56 in Florida)**
  - **Water management districts (5 in Florida)**
  - **State university employees (UF)**
  - **Federal/state personnel in eradication efforts (FDACS DPI)**

# Commercial Applicator Licenses



- **Contract application of RUPs for someone else**
- **May substitute for private/public license**

# Commercial Applicator Licenses



**Aerial**



**Custom applicators**



**Aquatic**

Submersed application  
Photo by Vic Raney  
Copyright 2003 Univ. Florida



**Contract r-o-w**



**Golf courses, parks,  
athletic fields, cemeteries**



**Private industry  
field/greenhouse research**

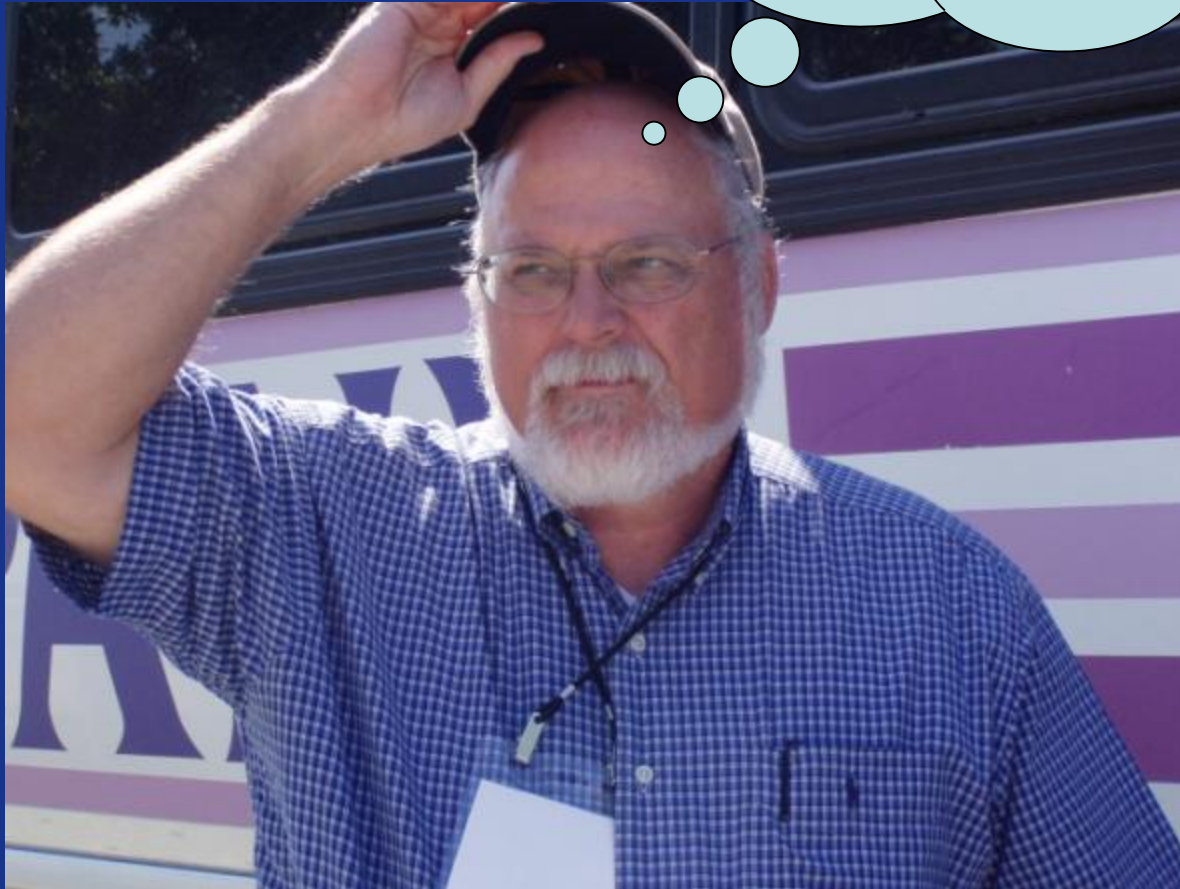
# Commercial/Public Applicator Categories

- Aerial
- Agricultural animal
- Agricultural row crop
- **Agricultural tree crop**
- Antifouling boat paint
- Aquatic
- Forest
- Chlorine gas infusion
- Natural areas
- Ornamental & turf
- Raw ag commodity fumigation
- Regulatory
- Right-of-way
- Seed treatment
- Sewer root control
- Soil/greenhouse fumigation
- Wood treatment
- Demonstration and research\*

\*Secondary category

<b>Category</b>	<b># Applicators</b>
<b>Ag Animal</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Ag Row Crop</b>	<b>546</b>
<b>Ag Tree Crop</b>	<b>610</b>
<b>Aerial</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Aquatic</b>	<b>2,446</b>
<b>Forest</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Natural Areas Weed Management</b>	<b>1,043</b>
<b>Organotin Antifouling Paint</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Ornamental &amp; Turf</b>	<b>3,120</b>
<b>Private Applicator</b>	<b>4,233</b>
<b>Raw Ag Commodity Fumigation</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Regulatory Inspection &amp; Sampling</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Regulatory Pest Control</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>Right-of-Way</b>	<b>1,922</b>
<b>Seed Treatment</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sewer Root Control</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Soil &amp; Greenhouse Fumigation</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Wood Treatment</b>	<b>55</b>

**So, what is the  
process to become  
certified and  
licensed?**





# Exams

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- **Private Applicator License**
  - **General Standards Core Exam**
  - **Private Applicator Exam**
- **Commercial/Public Ag Tree License**
  - **General Standards Core Exam**
  - **Ag Tree Exam**

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- >
- Pesticides - Exam Study Materials

## Pesticides → Pesticides - Exam Study Materials

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Photo	Product	SKU	Price	Info
	Aerial Application (Aerial Category Exam)	SM 041	\$15.00	<a href="#">More</a>
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	Agriculture Tree Crop Pest Control (Agriculture Tree Crop Exam)	SM 063	\$15.00	<a href="#">More</a>

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# Exams

- Core exams – all Cooperative Extension offices
- Category exams – most Cooperative Extension offices
- No cost for agricultural exams

# Web Exams

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# Exam Format

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- **50 questions on each exam – closed book**
- **Multiple choice questions**
- **4 possible answers; only 1 correct answer**
- **Passing grade is 70%**

# After the Exams

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- Mailed in to FDACS for grading by exam administrator
- Applicators can check grades online
- Mail results take 4 to 6 weeks
- Web exams provide immediate results!

# License Fees

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- **Private applicator: \$100**
- **Public applicator: \$100**
- **Commercial applicator: \$250**

**License is valid for 4 years**

# Keeping the License Valid

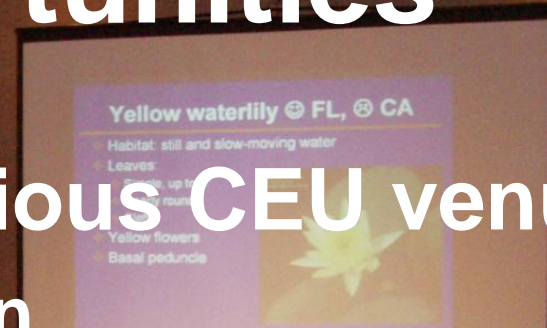
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- **Recertification**
  - **Constant demonstration by applicators that they are competent in the safe and proper use of pesticides**
    - **Applicators earn continuing education units (CEUs) through participating in FDACS-approved educational programs**
    - **Other option is to re-take and pass exams**



# CEU Opportunities

- FDACS approves various CEU venues
  - Cooperative Extension
  - Commodity association
  - Private industry
  - Online training



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