



Attention Lawn Care Pros:

Preparations are in full swing for Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law which takes effect October 1, 2013. Under the new law, lawn care professionals hired to apply fertilizers to turfgrass must be certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) or work under the direct supervision of an individual who is certified.

Regulations to implement the law were published in the *Maryland Register* in January and MDA, in cooperation with the University of Maryland, is pulling together the tools and resources necessary to develop a comprehensive training, testing and certification program for lawn care professionals.

MDA recognizes the seasonal aspects of the lawn care industry and is working to make the transition as smooth as possible.

- A training manual is currently under development and should be available on our website in June.
- Lawn care pros will be notified by mail when the manual is available.
- Certification testing is slated to begin this summer.
- Testing is expected to continue until year's end in order to address demand and busy schedules as the program begins.
- Updates will be posted regularly on our website.

As we move forward with the program, please keep in mind that MDA is committed to helping members of the lawn care industry meet the requirements of the new regulations.



Maryland
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www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer