



# APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL FERTILIZER APPLICATOR (PFA) CERTIFICATION EXAM 2026

The Fertilizer Use Act of 2011 requires individuals who, as part of their job, apply fertilizer to turf on non-agricultural land, be certified or work under the direct supervision of someone who is certified, and that businesses that employ certified fertilizer applicators must be licensed. The requirements for certification, licensing and other program criteria are explained in detail at [http://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Documents/Fertilizer\\_Law.pdf](http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Documents/Fertilizer_Law.pdf)

## Certification Exam Application Requirements:

- 1) To apply for the certification exam, an applicant shall file the following with the Department of Agriculture before any announced examination:
  - a) A Professional Fertilizer Applicator (PFA) certification application on a form provided by the Department; the certification fee is \$100.
  - b) Provide a Fertilizer Application Business License (MDA-F) number, or a completed business license application on the form provided by the Department. The fee for a Business License is \$50.
  - c) Fees are payable to the *Maryland Department of Agriculture* in the form of check or money order. NOTE: Employees of government agencies and government agencies are not charged a certification or licensing fee.

- 2) Mail the completed application(s) and fee(s) to:

Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Nutrient Management Program  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Room 201  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Applications must be **completely** filled out and accompanied by the fee. Incomplete applications will be put on hold. A business FEIN or individual SSN are required. **Certification and business licenses expire December 31 of each year.**

## Testing Information

- A government-issued photo ID is required to enter the building and to sit for the exam.
- This is not an open-book exam. Before the review session or the exam, study the *Maryland Professional Lawn Care Manual*. It is available for viewing or download from the link on [mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer](http://mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer). The test consists of 50 multiple choice questions.
- **Please Bring a Calculator (that is not on your cell phone) and two #2 pencils for the exam**
- **No cell phones** are allowed in the testing room, but regular calculators are allowed.
- A score of 70% or better is required to pass. You may try to pass the exam a total of three times, or within 3 months, whichever comes first, from the date of your first attempt to pass the exam. After this point you must register as a Trained Employee (TE) with your company or agency in order to apply fertilizer to turfgrass. In addition, your company or agency is prohibited from applying fertilizer to turfgrass without having a PFA on staff.

**A review session is offered before the exam. Attendance at the review session is encouraged but not mandatory.**

## Exam Locations:

**Maryland Department of Agriculture**  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Montgomery County Extension Office**  
18410 Muncaster Road  
Derwood, MD 20855

**Washington County Extension Office**  
7303 Sharpsburg Pike  
Boonsboro, MD 21713

**Wicomico County Extension Office**  
28647 Old Quantico Road  
Salisbury, MD 21802

**Review session begins at 9:00. Exam is at noon. See dates on page 2.**

Exam and review dates and locations are subject to change

