



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

Certification Exam Application Requirements:

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. 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 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



Application For Professional Fertilizer Applicator (PFA) Certification Exam 2026

EXAM FEE OF \$100 IS REQUIRED WITH APPLICATION.
MAKE **CHECK** OR **MONEY ORDER** PAYABLE TO "MDA."

Mail to:

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
50 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY, ROOM 201
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

APPLICANT'S NAME & HOME ADDRESS *(all information is required; blank lines will cause delays in application processing)*

Name _____ Soc. Sec. No. _____
Last First MI
Mailing address _____ Phone _____
City State Zip Email _____

BUSINESS INFORMATION *(all information is required; blank lines will cause delays in application processing)*

Agency/Firm Name _____ Self Employed? ☐ Yes
Federal
Street address _____ Employer ID No _____
City State Zip Phone _____
County _____ MDA-F Business Lic. No.* _____
Mailing address _____
City State Zip

***If you do not have a MDA-F Business License number, you must also complete the application and submit the fee for a Business License with this form.**

Select *One* Exam Date:

	Annapolis – February 9, 2026
	Derwood – April 13, 2026
	Boonsboro – June 8, 2026

	Salisbury – August 19, 2026
	Annapolis – December 3, 2026