

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND --- EXTENSION

Operator Certification (FTC) for Writing Nursery Nutrient Management Plans for Nursery, Greenhouses and Controlled Environments

Wednesday, March 4th, 2020

9 to 3:30 PM

Location:

Central Maryland Research and Education Center

11975-A Homewood Road

Ellicott City, MD

Nursery Operator Certification (FTC) for writing nursery nutrient management plans will be offered to growers who are interested in attaining Farmer Training Certification for writing nutrient management plans. This training program will assist you in writing a nutrient management plan for your nursery or greenhouse operation or Controlled Environment. You must write a nursery nutrient management plan if you use fertilizers and you gross \$2500 or more per year in sales. With this certification, you will be able to sign-off and submit your own plan and annual implementation reports.

Each program consists of a Training Day and an Exam/Signoff Day. The Training Day, **Wednesday, March 4th, 2020** will consist of learning the plan-writing process. After the Training Day you will have about 5 weeks, during which time you will study the Nursery Nutrient Management Training Manual and develop your plan. The Exam/Signoff Day will be at the **Maryland Department of Agriculture** on a “**to be announced**” date. This date will also be for going over your newly developed plan (or renewing your old plan). Nutrient Management Consultants *interested in learning nursery plan writing* can attend and receive 6 CEUs.

The process is relatively simple for small (or low-risk) operations, so if your operation size is less than 5 acres, we would strongly encourage you to think about becoming a certified operator. If your operation is larger than 5 acres or you run a controlled environment, we would still encourage you to become a certified operator, even though the nutrient management process may be a little more complicated.

The cost for this program is \$35.00, which covers lunch and the MDA exam fee and should be paid on the first day of the program (March 4th). Checks can be written to **University of Maryland**. If you wish to register, please do so by **February 28th**.

Send an email to mike.webster@maryland.gov. In the email, state that you are registering for **Nursery FTC**.

Contact Andrew Ristvey at 410-827-8056 x113 or aristvey@umd.edu for instructions directions and for any other questions.