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FOUNDATION AWARD AMENITY HORTICULTURE

Introduction

There are many people working in the Amenity Horticulture sectors of industry. It is recognised as a very broad area of activity with inclusion of many facets applicable to: industrial and construction sites; sports turf maintenance; shrubs and borders in parks, and many other essential elements which relate to business and social activity.

All these different areas of Amenity Horticulture, have an involvement with pesticides to assist in weed control, to control pests and to control plant diseases.

The sale, storage and use of professional pesticides is tightly controlled and those selling / advising, applying or storing professional pesticides are all required by law to hold the relevant certificates of competence. In the case of sales / advice, the relevant qualification is the BASIS Certificate for Field, Sales and Technical Staff (FSTS) in Amenity Horticulture.

A large number of people in Amenity Horticulture have a need to understand more about pesticides, how they work and why they are needed. However their main employment activity may not involve selling, advising, applying or storing pesticides.

This course is designed for such people and it may also be an introduction for those who wish to go forward to the next level of qualification (FSTS).

The course includes a short examination at the end of 3 days tuition. Those candidates who achieve the pass level will receive written recognition from BASIS of their achievement but this course does not result in a BASIS certificate of competence. This is to avoid any confusion with the Statutory qualification (full BASIS FSTS course).

Those to whom the course is suited

- New entrants to the Amenity Horticulture sector whose job requires an understanding of professional pesticides.
- Candidates who wish to attain full FSTS qualification and need this course as a "stepping stone" towards it.
- Those who work in Amenity Horticulture with a job content requiring knowledge of professional pesticides, but who do not sell, advise, supply or store them.

Content and Duration of the Course

The course is designed to run for 3 days including the short exam of 1½ hours towards the end of the third day of tuition. The exam is structured with a number of elements as set out below.

The courses are available for 2 sectors of the industry - Hard & Permeable surfaces and Sports and Amenity Turf. Candidates can add a second skill area module at a later date or courses could be run to include both skill areas in the same course or at the same time. Training times would be longer than above.

The exam structure is as below

20 sample Identification Tests

40 multi-choice questions

3 short-answer questions

Total - 1½ hours

The pass mark for the exam is 70%

SYLLABUS CONTENT

HARD / PERMEABLE SURFACES

MODULE 1 - Weeds

1.1 Competence

Ability to recognise the most important grass and broad-leaved species and have an understanding of the biology, importance and integrated control of weeds.

1.2 Performance Criteria

Candidates must be able to:

- understand weed types and their recognition
- understand how weeds multiply
- understand the range and complexity of weed species
- understand the problems weeds can cause
- understand the options for control
- understand the efficiency, economics and impact of each option
- understand the integrated approaches to weed control that can be used

1.3 Essential Knowledge and Skills

Candidate must have the ability to:

- use keys and books to identify major weeds
- explain key aspects of weed biology relative to their importance, spread and control
- identify the problems caused by weeds in a variety of situations
- communicate the importance of an integrated approach to weed control, with reference to particular control techniques
- explain the economics of different weed control techniques and the issues involved

MODULE 2 – PROFESSIONAL PESTICIDES

2.1 Competence

Ability to explain the way in which professional pesticides are categorised, regulated and controlled, and to demonstrate understanding of the importance of correct decision making and advice relative to the expected outcomes.

2.2 Performance Criteria

Candidates must be able to:

- demonstrate some understanding of the key terms used to describe pesticide products
- demonstrate a basic understanding of the importance of the modes of action of pesticide products
- Outline the framework of pesticide legislation applicable in the UK
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the Codes of Practice
- Explain the importance of the pesticide product label
- State the main criteria for best practice in the storage of pesticide products
- Explain what is meant by resistance to pesticides and demonstrate an appreciation of anti-resistance strategy
- Demonstrate some understanding of the formulation of pesticide products
- Understand what is meant by the term adjuvant
- Explain the importance of decisions involved in pesticide use and how correct advice is crucial to beneficial outcomes
- Demonstrate an understanding of the benefits available from pesticide use and the potentially negative aspects of their use

2.3 Essential Knowledge and Skills

Candidates must have the ability to:

- Explain the purpose, importance and types of pesticides
- Explain how pesticides are controlled and regulated to deliver safe benefits
- Explain how pesticides are manufactured and how they fit into a weed control strategy which recognises integration, resistant weeds and combinations of inputs to achieve good results
- Demonstrate that they can give balanced, constructive, cost-efficient and effective advice on the safe use of pesticides
- Explain how to increase awareness and make reference checks so as to improve pesticide knowledge and position them correctly in work programmes

MODULE 3 - APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES

3.1 Competence

Ability to state the key issues in effective and responsible use of professional pesticides.

3.2 Performance Criteria

Candidates must be able to:

- Explain the basic requirements for different types of pesticide application machinery and their effective use
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the importance of spray quality and water volume
- Explain the mechanisms which result in pesticides moving beyond the intended area of application
- Outline best practice for disposal of pesticide wastes

3.3 Essential Knowledge and Skills

Candidates must have the ability to:

- Explain the key assessment factors prior to application of pesticides
- Outline how application machinery can be tested and calibrated for accuracy of spraying / spreading
- Explain with examples, how drift and other forms of pollution can be avoided
- Demonstrate an understanding of satisfactory machinery performance when applying pesticides
- State key sources of information and advice on application and disposal

MODULE 4 - PROTECTING PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Competence

Ability to explain the best practices employed by operators, contract specifiers, advisers, contractors and pesticide product manufacturers to keep people, animals and the environment safe from pesticides and operations involving them.

4.2 Performance Criteria

Candidates must be able to:

- Explain how the public and bystanders are protected from harm
- Outline how accidental poisoning of wildlife is avoided and also how illegal poisoning is addressed
- Explain how spray timing, control and planning can avoid pesticide incidences in water
- Explain how integrated approaches to weed problems can be used in addition to pesticide use so as to reduce unwanted impacts on the environment
- Demonstrate awareness of people, animals and the environment in an urban context, whilst delivering high standards of weed control

4.3 Essential Knowledge and Skills

Candidate must have the ability to:

- Describe the purpose of the Water Framework Directive
- Demonstrate an understanding of how to combine the requirements of contract specification with knowledge of good operating practice
- Show the range of weed control options to deliver results which comply with contract needs and yet preserve safety to people, animals and the environment

SPORTS AND AMENITY TURF - Outline Only

BASIS are currently preparing the modules for the further skill areas of Sports and Amenity Turf and these will shortly be included in the Foundation Award Course. The content of the modules will include the following points:

- 1) Weeds and their control
 - Weed types and recognition
 - How weeds multiply
 - Problems weeds cause
 - Options for control

- 2) Diseases and their control
 - Fungal types and recognition
 - How weeds multiply
 - Problems fungi cause
 - Options for control

- 3) Pests and their control
 - Pest types and recognition
 - How pests multiply
 - Problems pests cause
 - Options for control

- 4) Professional Pesticides
 - Types and purpose of each
 - How they are controlled
 - Outline of legislation
 - Approval
 - Sales and advice
 - Storage
 - Application
 - Benefits and downsides of their use
 - Importance of the product label
 - Integrated approaches

- 5) Environmental Considerations
 - Wildlife and Biodiversity
 - Preserving the quality of water
 - Interface with the public

DRAFT SYLLABUS

This course is designed as an introduction to the key elements of the use of professional pesticides in some important areas of Amenity Horticulture. This foundation course gives an excellent baseline for the full BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection course for the less intensive candidate who does not need detailed knowledge of professional pesticides, or the requirement for a statutory qualification.

Where possible it is recommended that candidates should be familiar with a suitable site relative to the module studied on the course.

For further information regarding this course please contact Sue Mason on 01335 340856, email sue@basis-reg.co.uk , Steph Berry on 01335 301209 , email steph@basis-reg.co.uk or Amanda Capsey on 01335 340857, email amanda@basis-reg.co.uk

BASIS APPROVED TRAINERS

The following Colleges, Trainers and Training Providers are successfully running Foundation Award in Agriculture examinations and have been accepted as BASIS Approved Trainers for the Foundation Award in Agronomy.

DJL Agronomics
Highgrove House
Cassbrook Drive
Fulstow
LOUTH
LN11 0XR

Contact / Trainer: Dr Jim Lewis
Tel: 01507 363698
email: jim.lewis@fsmail.net
Web: www.djlag.co.uk

Jon Allbutt Associates
'Seaton'
Goatsfield Road
Tatsfield
WESTERHAM
Kent
TN16 2BU

Contact: Jon Allbutt
Tel: 01959 575575
email: jon@jonallbutt.co.uk
Web: www.jonallbutt.co.uk

STRI Ltd
St Ives Estate
BINGLEY
West Yorkshire
BD16 1AU

Contact / Trainer: Ruth Mann
Tel: 01274 552055
email: ruth.mann@stri.co.uk
Web: www.stri.co.uk

The following Colleges, Trainers and Training Organisations have expressed an interest in running some, or all, of the training modules and / or the Foundation Award in Agronomy examination.