

# LIMITED COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER APPLICATION CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

Florida Department of  
Agriculture & Consumer Services

Division of Agricultural  
Environmental Services

Bureau Licensing and Enforcement



Florida Department of  
Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

## Certification Requirements for Florida Commercial Fertilizer Applicators

This brochure was designed to provide you with information you may need to comply with regulations.

In order to improve ground water quality in the State of Florida, Commercial (For-Hire) fertilizer applications are now regulated by several agencies. There are two separate requirements – training and/or licensing/certification.

Fertilizer applicators may already be required to have the Green Industry's Best Management Practices (GIBMP) training and a valid Certificate of Completion on file by local government ordinances/regulations.

### WHO NEEDS TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

GIBMP training is important for all persons making fertilizer applications in Florida. It's important to protect our natural ground water from excessive fertilizer components.

Florida Law ALSO requires EVERY Commercial (for-hire) Fertilizer Applicator to have the FDACS Limited Commercial Fertilizer (LF) Applicator License/Certificate by January 1, 2014, with limited exceptions.

YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED to apply for a FDACS LF license/certificate if you are making fertilizer applications on:

- \*Property used for Agricultural production
- \*Golf courses (which have their own groundwater BMPs)
- \*Fertilizer applications to property that their employer owns (for example - an apartment complex, parks, schools, state, county or municipal property, or stadiums)
- \*And a yardman using equipment and fertilizer purchased and owned by the property owner

HOWEVER, YOU MAY STILL NEED THE GIBMP TRAINING to comply with local ordinances.

NOTE: A fertilizer applicator with GIBMP training and/or the LF certificate only will NOT BE ALLOWED TO:

1. apply pesticides to turf or ornamental plants – including weed-n-feed products
2. operate a pest control business, or
3. supervise an “uncertified” person to make a fertilizer application under their “supervision or authority”.

### WHERE TO GET THE TRAINING

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) have partnered to provide the necessary GIBMP training. All scheduled training is listed on the official website at <https://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu/>. This

site will also offer on-line training AND training is available in Spanish.

To receive a GIBMP certificate, a person must attend the course and pass the course examination with a score of 75% or higher.

#### FDACS LIMITED COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER APPLICATOR CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

A person must submit proof that they have attended and completed the GIBMP training (a copy of their certificate will be satisfactory) and submit a fee of \$25.

The certificate is valid for 4 years from date of issuance.

Prior to renewal, a person must obtain 4 hours of Continuing Education Training (2 hours of which must be in BMP topics) and submit this proof of training with their renewal application and renewal fee. (Note: some local ordinances may require MORE than 4 hours of CEU training.)

You can submit an Application for Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate, DACS form 13677, (available now at: <http://forms.freshfromflorida.com/13677.pdf>) with the fee and proof of training to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for processing.

A person can also apply electronically at: <https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com/> to

obtain their LF license/certificate. Before you start, please use this link for a brief license explanation -

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Pest-Control/Licensing-and-Certification>.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A web link for questions about water quality and BMP requirements: <https://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

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Need an Application Form

or more information

about Limited Certification?

Contact Headquarters By:

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<http://www.freshfromflorida.com>