

Certified Landscape Technician Program

Landscape and Grounds Management Association of North Carolina

LGMA has joined forces with the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) to offer two CLT Core Tests in Installation and Maintenance. Successful completion of the Installation Core test demonstrates that an individual has the skills to take a landscape blueprint and implement the design in the field. Passing the Maintenance Core test shows that a person has the skills to maintain a landscape project in a professional manner. ***To become a Certified Landscape Technician, an applicant must pass the Common Core plus a Installation and/or Maintenance Core Test.***

What the Program Is Not:

Certification is not a substitute for a landscape contractor's license. Passing the Certification Test does not count toward a state license. The goals, subject matter, and procedures of the Certification Test are different from licensing exams.

Certification is not a substitute for any of the state issued pesticide licenses. The goals, subject matter, and procedures of the Certification Test are different from the licensing exams conducted by the North Carolina Department of Food and Agriculture.

Common Core Elements:

The Common Core Elements are required skills common to all core tests. Applicants must demonstrate their abilities in the following areas:

- Safety
- Plan Reading
- Plant Sensitivity
- Plant Identification
- Work Orders and Work Reports
- Sod Installation
- Program Controller
- Irrigation Identification
- Trucks and Trailers
- Tree Planting (Staking/Guying)
- Lateral Repair & Head Adjustment
- Chainsaw

Installation Core Elements

- Plant Layout
- Grading/Drainage
- Instrument
- Paver Installation
- Rototiller
- Tractor Operation

Maintenance Core Elements

- Written General Comprehension
- Pruning
- 21" Mower
- 36" Mower
- Aerator
- Edger/Trimmer
- Riding Mower
- Pesticides
- Fertilizer

Benefits of Certification

- Promotes professionalism within the landscape industry
- Provides national recognition

- Validates landscape skills
- Creates opportunities for career advancement in the industry
- Your company is registered as an employer of a Certified Landscape Technician
- Persons who pass each test will become Certified Landscape Technicians. (The distinction between installation and maintenance technicians will be made on all official documents)
- Persons passing a Certified Test will receive a numbered certificate and identification card
- Employers can advertise that they employ Certified Landscape Technicians.

Test Procedures

Testing begins with a written test for each core. Applicants then begin a series of timed elements supervised by one or more judges. Most elements require applicants to install or maintain sample landscape projects. At the end of each timed session, the applicants rotate to another work station. This process continues until the end of the testing. Applicants must pass every element in the Common Element Core and chosen core in order to become Certified Landscape Technicians. Those who do not pass may re-take the failed elements during the next test date.

Test Costs as of 2006

Common Element Core and either the Installation and/or Maintenance Core.

\$200.00	-	Member	rate
\$250.00	-	Non-Member	rate
\$175.00	-	Additional	Core
\$30.75	-	CLT	Manual

Price of the test does not include a CLT Manual. Due to the amount of administrative preparation time, there will be no refunds given to applicants.

If You Fail to Pass the Test: Retake fees are \$25.00 per element up to a **maximum** of 7. You may only retake up to 7 elements at one time. If the elements to retake exceeds 7, you must pay the full test price. Call Emily at the LGMA office with any questions or concerns. (919)816-9121

For Test Dates & Locations, Go to website: : <http://www.nlandscape.org/certifications.html>

Who is Eligible for Testing?

Anyone is eligible to take the exam, but it is recommended that applicants have a combination of the following:

- 4,000 hours of work in the landscape industry.
- 2,000 hours of work in the landscape industry plus the successful completion of a two-year or four-year curriculum in the landscape field.
- 1,000 hours of work in the landscape industry plus the successful completion of a two-year or four-year curriculum in the landscape field plus the completion of an approved internship program.

Preparing For The Test

To allow sufficient time for study, persons should apply for examination well in advance of the test date.

You may order your CLT Study Manual from the office.

Contact:

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