

Arboriculture 101

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What is Arboriculture?

CGS Sec. 23-61a Any work done for hire to **improve** the condition of fruit, shade, or ornamental trees by:

- Feeding or fertilizing
- Pruning, trimming, or bracing
- Treating cavities or other methods of improving tree conditions
- Protecting trees from damage from insects or diseases or curing these conditions by spraying or any other method

In CT, a licensed Arborist is a Supervisory Pesticide Applicator

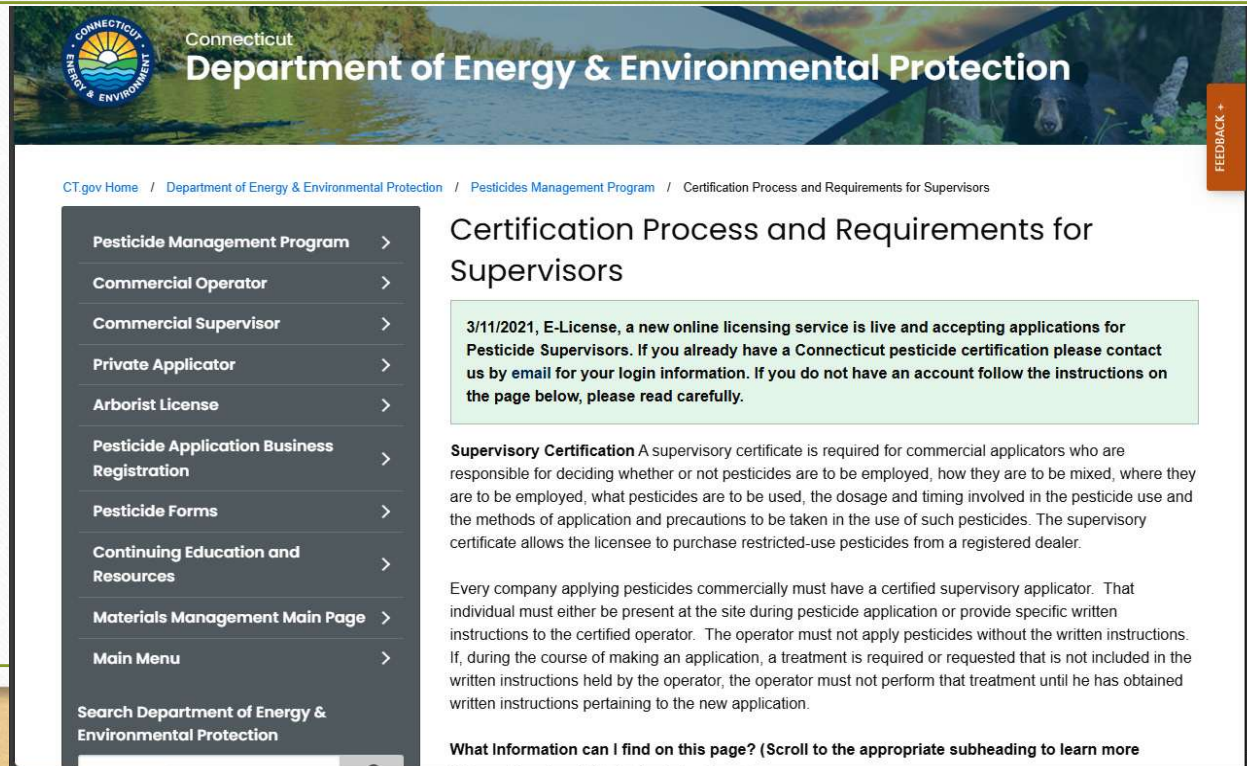
CGS Sec. 23-61b(b)

- “The commissioner shall require the applicant to show upon examination that the applicant possesses adequate knowledge concerning the proper methods of arboriculture and the dangers involved and the precautions to be taken...together with knowledge concerning the proper use and application of pesticides and the danger involved and precautions to be taken in connection with their application...”

How to Become Certified

The Exam Process: Pesticide Licenses

Certification Process and Requirements for Supervisors



The screenshot shows the website for the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. The header includes the state logo and the department name. A navigation menu on the left lists various pesticide-related services. The main content area features a title, a green callout box with a date and announcement, a paragraph about supervisory certification, and a footer with a search prompt.

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Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

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Certification Process and Requirements for Supervisors

3/11/2021, E-License, a new online licensing service is live and accepting applications for Pesticide Supervisors. If you already have a Connecticut pesticide certification please contact us by email for your login information. If you do not have an account follow the instructions on the page below, please read carefully.

Supervisory Certification A supervisory certificate is required for commercial applicators who are responsible for deciding whether or not pesticides are to be employed, how they are to be mixed, where they are to be employed, what pesticides are to be used, the dosage and timing involved in the pesticide use and the methods of application and precautions to be taken in the use of such pesticides. The supervisory certificate allows the licensee to purchase restricted-use pesticides from a registered dealer.

Every company applying pesticides commercially must have a certified supervisory applicator. That individual must either be present at the site during pesticide application or provide specific written instructions to the certified operator. The operator must not apply pesticides without the written instructions. If, during the course of making an application, a treatment is required or requested that is not included in the written instructions held by the operator, the operator must not perform that treatment until he has obtained written instructions pertaining to the new application.

What Information can I find on this page? (Scroll to the appropriate subheading to learn more)



Commercial Arborist License


Reference Materials (** Study information found here**)

The applicant for a license is expected to possess a working knowledge of basic tree biology, the kinds of operations performed by an arborist, pesticide safety, the field of arboriculture and the diagnosis and control of specific diseases, insects and disorders of trees and the reasons for performing them. Outlined below are areas in which an applicant should be proficient.

General Supervisory Examination Study/Reference materials. **These materials consist of general, core, safety materials that pertain to any supervisory category.

Arborist Examination Reference Materials. **These materials may be useful in preparing for the arborist license exam.

Identification, Diagnosis, Tree Biology, and Treatment Information (**What is covered on the exam**)

Review the following link to see what topics you need to learn about for the exam: [Click here to view Species, Disease, and Treatment List](#)  * Required Information*

Outlined below are responses to some questions which have arisen concerning what activities are permitted through the structural (General Pest, etc.) and outdoor (Ornamental and Turf) certifications and the arborist license.

[Category Clarification \(what can I do with each category\) \(PDF\)](#) 





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Study Materials for Pesticide Supervisors

Below are study materials that are needed for any of the supervisory exams. All of the information should be reviewed, there should be a focus on the category information given on each individual category page, the core manual and the statutes and regulations.

Exam fee: \$200

Exam retest fee: \$200.

30 days must be waited between exam attempts

Required Study Materials:

1. Applicable Cornell manual for the specific category (listed on specific category page)

2. Pesticide Core Manual (National or Cornell)

- [Cornell Online Store](#)*Order a paper copy
- [National Core Manual](#) *Download a free PDF copy

3. Pertinent Statutes and Regulations

- [Pertinent Pesticide General Statutes and Regulations For Certified Commercial Supervisors and Arborists - Updated as of March 2023](#)

4. Honeybee/Pollinator Materials

- [Protecting Honey Bees From Pesticide Poisoning](#) (PDF)
- [Protecting Pollinators From Pesticides](#) (PDF) (Added May 2022)

FEEDBACK +



Registering for eLicense

- Do NOT make a new account:
 - If you have had a pesticide certification in the past
 - If you currently have an active pesticide certification
 - If you have an account with another agency in E-License
 - Home improvement contractor
 - Relator license
 - Hairdressing/Barbor license

Once you click on register, you will be brought through a series of questions and information to fill in. Once you have entered all your information, you may click Create Account. You will be sent an email to confirm your email address. You must click the link in the email to confirm and activate your account prior to being able to log in.

The screenshot displays the State of Connecticut's eLicense Website. At the top, there are navigation links for "HOME", "MY ACCOUNT", and "ONLINE SERVICES". The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, there is a "Access Your Account" panel with tabs for "Account" and "Fast Track Renewal". It contains input fields for "User ID" and "Password", a "Log In" button, and links for "Don't have an account? Register", "Forgot Password?", and "Forgot User ID?". On the right, there is a "Welcome" panel with the heading "Welcome to the State of Connecticut's eLicense Website". It contains three main sections: "VERIFY A LICENSE & ROSTER:", "LICENSE RENEWAL:", and "FAST TRACK RENEWAL:", each with a list of instructions. Additionally, there are sections for "INITIAL APPLICATION:", "FILING A COMPLAINT:", and "QUESTIONS:", each with a list of instructions. The "REGISTER" link in the top navigation bar is highlighted with a red box.

Login Register

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HOME MY ACCOUNT ONLINE SERVICES

Access Your Account

Account Fast Track Renewal

User ID

User ID

Password

Password

Log In

Don't have an account? Register
Forgot Password? Forgot User ID?

Welcome

Welcome to the State of Connecticut's eLicense Website

VERIFY A LICENSE & ROSTER:

- Select **ONLINE SERVICES** for a list of available services.
NOTE: All data contained within License Lookup is maintained by the state of Connecticut, updated instantly and is considered primary source verification.

LICENSE RENEWAL:

- To access your account, enter your User ID and Password. [Step-by-Step Instructions.](#)
- First time users MUST validate an active email address.
- DO NOT REGISTER A NEW ACCOUNT TO RENEW.

FAST TRACK RENEWAL:

- Check your renewal notification for availability.
- To access, click the gray Fast Track Renewal tab. [Step-by-Step Instructions.](#)
- Allows access to online renewal only.

INITIAL APPLICATION:

- All applicants MUST register if this is a first time application
- Select the "Register" link and create a new account. [Step-by-Step Instructions](#)

FILING A COMPLAINT:

- Logging in is optional, but allows you to save your complaint
- Select the "File a Complaint" link.

QUESTIONS:

- For all inquiries, please email the appropriate agency listed below.

Applying for Supervisory Exam

- Once you are logged, in click on “Online Services” on the top right of your page and then click on “Initial Application”
- Scroll down on the screen until you get to Pesticide Management Program (DEEP), click on it.
- There you should be able to see the certification types you are able to apply for. Click on the “start” link across from Pesticide Commercial Supervisor Certification.
- Once you click “start” you should be brought to the welcome page of the online application
- Any field with an asterisk next to it ‘*’ must be filled in.

Activities

- [Initial Application](#)
- [License Status](#)
- [File a Complaint](#)

License Lookup & Download

- [Lookup a License](#)
- [Generate Roster\(s\)](#)
- [Public Reports](#)

Account

- [Account Details](#)
- [Address and General Maintenance](#)

	License	Board
Start	Pesticide Commercial Supervisory Certification	Pesticide Management Program
Start	Pesticide Private Applicator Certification	Pesticide Management Program
Start	Pesticide Restricted Use Dealer Registration	Pesticide Management Program

Fees

- Exam fee: \$200 for up to 3 *different* supervisor categories
- Exam retest fee: \$200 for up to 3 *different* supervisor categories
- Everblue fee: \$21* per exam taken through Everblue (our online proctoring service)
- Licensing fee: \$285 this is paid **after** the necessary written and oral exams are passed. It is good for 5 years, then \$285 is paid every 5 years at the time of renewal

* Everblue's contract is under renewal, fee is subject to change starting March, 2026

Testing – Closed Book

Written:

- Proctored Virtually on Everblue
- 3 hours to take the exam
- Passing score: at least 75%

Timeline - 90 Days Max. for Written

Account creation & exam application

- 3-5 business days to receive an email from Everblue (the exam proctoring service)
- Everblue will email indicating that their fee must be paid, after this fee is paid you will have 60 days to take your exam. They will **IMMEDIATELY** send you the exam link following payment. (check spam/junk folder)
- After the exam has been taken, please allow 4-10 business days to have your score entered. If you pass your written, you will be emailed within 30 days with information regarding the next available oral date. If you fail, you will get an exam fail notice via email with a retest fee assigned to it. We require a 30 day 'cool-down' period in between exam attempts.

Testing – Closed Book

Arborist Oral Examination

- In person at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven or Lockwood Farm in Hamden. Held Quarterly, dates listed on website.
- Exam is in 2 Parts:
 1. Tree Identification. Passing: 80% and allows you to continue onto the practical oral exam on the **same day**.
 2. Practical Exam: 10 questions each from a different category. Passing: 70% and a score of at least a score of 7 (out of 10) on at least seven of the ten categories

Arborist Practicum Examination Topics

- Licensing/records
- Safety
- General tree work
- Cabling and bracing
- Tree physiology
- Insects
- Diseases
- Abiotic disorders
- Nutrient management
- Pesticides

Interested in Testing this Year?

Written exam must be passed minimum of 3 weeks in advance of an oral date to qualify for an oral date

- June 10, 2026
- September 9, 2026
- December 9, 2026

When Testing:

Contact Everblue for:

- Login information / password resets on their site
- Exam payment receipts
- System diagnostic issues

Contact the CT DEEP for:

- Approval letters/certificates
- Exam results

Current Customers & Test-Takers

Please call (888) 502-8151

888-502-8151

Everblue Technology Requirements

- Use a traditional desktop or laptop. You cannot take the exams from mobile devices (e.g., Chromebook, iPhone, iPad, Android device, etc.).
- You must have administrative rights to this computer to allow for the proctoring tool to be downloaded.
- If a “remote desktop” application is used, it must be disabled on the laptop or desktop computer to be used for the online exam. If you do NOT disable the “emote desktop” application, then you will not be able to properly install the exam proctoring application – Respondus with LockDown Browser.
- Check to be sure your computer operating software is up to date. Your operating system must be updated and at minimum: Windows 10+ or MacOS 10.15+.
- You will need to have Internet Speed Upload: 1 Mbps and Download: 2 Mbps. Tethering, VPNs, or Hotspots are not suggested.
- You need a working webcam and microphone.
- You can only use ONE monitor; dual monitors are not allowed.
- You must be alone in the testing space
- You will need administrative rights to your computer to download the proctoring tool.
- Use an updated version of Google Chrome or Edge.
- Shut down your computer and restart before entering the exam and **DO NOT OPEN OTHER APPLICATIONS** on your computer other than this exam.

This Certification is YOURS

- Certifications belong to the **individual**, even if their employer is paying for the certification. When leaving the company, your certifications go with you.
- The contact information, including the email address provided, should be that of the individual applying for the certification. (personal emails, phone numbers, addresses). Email will be the primary form of contact, from scheduling exams to renewal notices.
- It is your responsibility as the license holder to complete the proper documentation management, ie. Pesticide Use Summary Reports. Even if your business says they it will handle it, always keep your own records or check your account that the documents have been uploaded.

Annual Pesticide Use Summary Reports

CGS. Sec. 22a-58. (d)

- Commercial pesticide **applicators (not businesses)** are required to maintain records with respect to their use of pesticides and the supervision of pesticide use.
- This requirement includes submitting an annual Commercial Applicator Pesticide Use Summary Report by January 31 for the previous year.
- Needs to be completed and submitted, regardless of if pesticides were used or not.
- Use Summaries are a renewal requirement. DEEP may refuse to renew certification of a commercial applicator for failure to submit this report.

Pesticide Application Business Registration

- A Certificate of Registration from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is required **prior** to any person operating a pesticide application or arborist business in Connecticut.
- The business registration is required in addition to individual applicator certification. (CGS. Sec 22a-61(a) and 22a-66c (a)). A Pesticide Application Business is defined as:
 - “...any business which wholly or in part holds itself out for hire to apply or to recommend the application of a pesticide,...or which for compensation, applies or recommends the use of a pesticide.”

Pesticide Business Registration



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General Information

A Certificate of Registration from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is required prior to any person operating a pesticide application business in Connecticut. The business registration is required in addition to individual applicator certification. (Details of these requirements can be found in [Sections 22a-61\(a\) and 22a-66c\(a\)](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes.) A Pesticide Application Business is defined as:

"...any business which wholly or in part holds itself out for hire to apply or to recommend the application of a pesticide, ...or which for compensation, applies or recommends the use of a pesticide." Examples include: Exterminators, lawn services, arborist, etc.

A Certificate of Registration runs from September 1 through August 31 and must be renewed annually.

Penalties

Section 22a-66h of the General Statutes states "that any person who violates any provision of the business registration law shall forfeit to the state a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars per day for each day of violation. The Attorney General, upon complaint of the commissioner, shall institute a civil action to recover such forfeiture in the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford..."

Online Registration

[Creating a new account](#)

[Applying for a Pesticide Business Registration](#)

Registration Requirements



eLicense for Business

- Separate account form your person license account
- Business profile, NOT Individual

[Pesticide Management Program \(DEEP\)](#)

	License	Board
Start	Pesticide Application Business Registration	Pesticide Management Program
This License type can only be held by Individuals, your account is registered as an Organization	Pesticide Commercial Operator Certification	Pesticide Management Program
This License type can only be held by Individuals, your account is registered as an Organization	Pesticide Commercial Supervisor Certification	Pesticide Management Program
This License type can only be held by Individuals, your account is registered as an Organization	Pesticide Private Applicator Certification	Pesticide Management Program

eLicense Continued

- Adding Supervisors and Operators:
 - You will be presented with a drop-down list, if you start typing in their name the list is searchable
 - If you do not see them on the list, they do not have a current certification, and you should check with your employee to get that resolved.
 - You must update your operators and supervisors within 30 days of someone being hired, fired, or obtaining a new certification.
- After application is complete, you will be brought to a review screen where you can see all your question responses on one page, once you are sure there are no errors you may click “add to invoice”. Your fee will then be added to your shopping cart and bring you to the screen where you may pay the invoice.

Business Registration

- (CGS Sec. 23-61h.) As of October 1, 2013, any business out for hire to perform arboriculture must have a certificate of registration from The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
- Certificate of Registration runs from September 1 through August 31
- Renewed annually
 - Renewal notices start going out 90 days prior to expiration
- There is **no exemption for single arborist businesses**. All arborist businesses must pay the \$240.00 yearly fee.

Where does the PMBR.# go?

Any registered pesticide application business is required to display the registration number assigned to it by DEEP on:

- Body of ANY motor vehicle (marked or unmarked) used in the course of business
- Advertisements (newspaper, billboard advertisements, circulated telephone directories (i.e. yellow page ads))
- Written contracts for the provision of pesticide application services

Large companies may include registration numbers for all branches in **each** ad if phone books and branches overlap (i.e.-PMBR-123 Hartford PMBR-124 Meriden and PMBR-1098 New Haven)

Businesses doing exclusively arboriculture do not have to display these numbers, but it is highly encouraged.

Business Operations

- Written Instructions
- Records
- Business Notifications

Written Instructions for Jr. Operators

1. Certified supervisory and certified operator name and certification number
2. Date and location of application (address & host plant(s) on property)
3. Pest to be controlled
4. Pesticide to be used (EPA reg #)
5. Directions for use of the pesticide (Method of application. Rate to mix at. Rate to use at.)
 - May require further directions depending on the product label precautions and site-specific treatment limitations
 - Supervisor must be available if and when needed

Records

- **Records for after treatment:**
 - Everything on Written Instructions
 - Total amount of product used
 - Size of the area treated (square feet/acreage, linear feet)
- **Must maintain Pesticide Use Records for minimum 5 years**
 - Written instructions and records of treatment for each application
 - Annual Use Summary Reports

Business Notifications for:

- Customers
- Abutters
- General Public

Potential Customers

Information must be given before entering into an agreement to apply a pesticide to a customer's property:

1. Provide information describing what the pre-notification registry is
2. Provide pesticide label information for the potential customer

Pre-Notification Registry

CGS Sec. 22a-66a

- Homeowners can register to receive pre-notification of pesticide applications to abutting properties
- List of abutters sent to registered businesses every spring
- An abutter may become a Pre-notification abutter mid-year but submitting the form directly to the application company

How do you provide Pre-Notification to an abutter?

- Make 2 attempts by any means
 - Email, phone call, postal mail
- If all attempts fail and you must do the pesticide application, place a notice on the door
- Keep a record of any notification attempts

Following an Application - Posting

Sec. 22a-66a-1. Public notification of outdoor pesticide applications

- Sign Requirements
- Signs must be placed at:
 - All conspicuous points of entry
 - 150 ft of road frontage



Recently in the Program

- Public Act No. 25-33
 - Second Generation Rodenticide restrictions - Effective January 1, 2026
 - Neonicotinoids Restrictions - On and after October 1, 2027
- Certification & Training Plan revisions finished by 2028
- FIFRA Annual Operator Trainings

Questions?

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