Pesticides

If you use any pesticide incidental to your gardening or landscape business, you must have a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License from the state Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Pesticides are defined as herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, and any substance used to control pests including weeds, snails, slugs, and gophers. Some examples of common home-use pesticides used by Maintenance Gardeners are Round-up, Gopher-Getter, Trimec and Malathion. Some fertilizers contain pesticides.

When these and other pesticides products are used as part of a gardening service, your business is required to be licensed by the state Department of Pesticide Regulation and you need to register annually with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in the county in which you use pesticides.

California has the Nation's toughest pesticide laws to protect the environment and its citizens.

Improper use of pesticides has the potential to contaminate our soil, water, food and air and can cause hazards to humans and the environment.

San Mateo County
Department of
Agriculture/Weights &
Measures

728 Heller Street * P.O. Box 999 Redwood City, CA 94064-0999

Phone: (650) 363-4700 Fax: (650) 367-0130

E-Mail: SMateoAG@smcgov.org

www.smcgov/agwm



Do you use pesticides as part of your gardening business?



Your business needs a
Maintenance Gardener
Pest Control Business License
issued by
California Department of
Pesticide Regulation

Qualifying your Business to Apply Pesticides



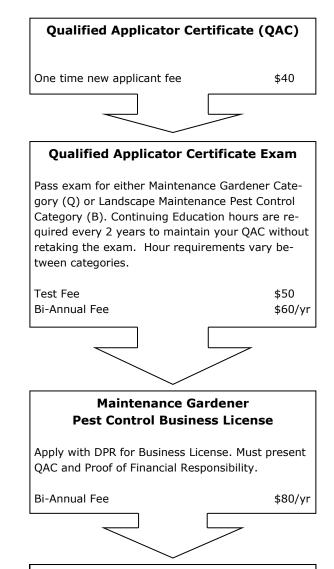
In order to get a
Maintenance
Gardener Pest Control
Business License,
someone from your
business must first

obtain a Qualified Applicator Certificate in Category Q (Maintenance Gardener) or Category B (Landscape Maintenance) by passing an exam to test your knowledge of safe pesticide application practices. Category Q limits your pesticide use to non-restricted (less toxic) pesticides. Exams are given by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (www.cdpr.ca.gov).

In addition, you must provide proof of financial responsibility for your business.

The San Mateo County Agricultural
Commissioner's Office is the local agency
responsible for enforcing California's
pesticide laws and regulations in San
Mateo County.

Failure to comply with laws and regulations for pesticide use may result in fines of \$50 to \$5000 per violation.



Registration with County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) Office

Must register with each county where you perform pest control work.

\$25

Annual Fee in San Mateo County

For Licensing forms and questions, please contact:

Department of Pesticide Regulation
Pest Management and Licensing Branch
Licensing and Certification Program

P.O. Box 4015 * 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95812-4015 Phone: (916) 445-4038

Fax: (916) 445-4033 www.cdpr.ca.gov

Or

Contact the Agricultural Commissioner's Office nearest you.

For San Mateo County, contact:

San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

P.O. Box 999 * 728 Heller Street Redwood City, CA 94064-0999

Phone: (650) 363-4700 Fax: (650) 367-0130 www.smcgov.org/agwm

Field Offices:

Half Moon Bay: (650) 726-2514 San Bruno: (650) 877-5761



Study material for Maintenance Gardener Qualified Applicator Category Q is available in English and Spanish at: www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/categoryq