

DELAWARE CERTIFIED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL



The Delaware CNP Program is designed to recognize dedicated individuals who are knowledgeable and experienced in their chosen field. Certification status is earned through practical experience in the industry, passing a test reviewing the basics of the industry, and making a commitment to continuing education. The CNP Program is a way to show customers that you are a professional.

QUALIFICATION

Individuals must be employed in the horticulture industry for 3 years,
or
2 years plus
2 years post-secondary education in horticulture,
or
1 year plus
4 years post-secondary education in horticulture.

MANUAL

The DELAWARE CERTIFIED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL MANUAL is a notebook that includes the following chapters:

1. DNLA - a brief overview
2. Basics - Soils & Plant Growth
3. Plant Identification
4. Plants for Delaware
5. Plant Pests & Other Problems
6. Landscape Installation & Maintenance
7. Turfgrass Management
8. Landscape Design
9. Greenhouse Production
10. Nursery Production
11. Garden Center Operations
12. Delaware Regulations



The manual contains seven core chapters (1-6, 12). The core test is a three-part test based on the material in those chapters. Specialty subjects are covered in five additional chapters. By passing tests in one or more of the specialties you will be designated as Turfgrass Specialist, Landscape Design Specialist, Landscape Specialist, Greenhouse Specialist, Nursery Specialist, and/or Retail Specialist.

TRAINING

The CNP program is manual-based. All the information you need to successfully pass the core and specialty exams is contained within the manual. Additional training is available through a number of other educational opportunities.

Short courses, workshops, and pest walks are available through the ornamental horticulture extension program at the University of Delaware. Course offerings change each year but over the course of several years most of the topics required for CNP exam preparation will be offered. Every year the following courses are offered.

- Diagnosis & Control of Insects on Woody Ornamental Plants.
- Weed Identification and Control
- Identification and Control of Diseases on Ornamental Plants.
- Pest Walks (at least two locations)

The Plant & Soil Sciences Department and Delaware Cooperative Extension also sponsor a yearly Ornamentals Research Expo in mid-September featuring current research, University of Delaware Botanic Garden tours, plant problem solving and new plant introductions.

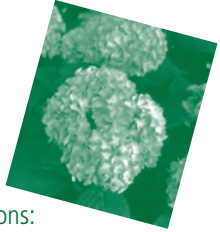
Training is also available through the DNLA yearly educational programs.

- Delaware Horticulture Industry Expo - January
- Summer Turf and Nursery Expo - August
- Ornamental and Turf Workshop - November

The short courses are taught by University faculty, extension personnel and industry professionals. Additional handouts will be provided to supplement the CNP manual. Dates and locations of the short courses will be published each year in an Ornamental Horticulture Short Course brochure.

THE TEST

The test will be given twice a year in Dover, usually in March and October.



CORE TEST

The core test is divided into three sections:

Core Test I: Basic-Plant Growth & Soils

Core Test II: Plant Identification

Core Test III: Plant Health Care

Core Tests I & III: Questions will be true or false, multiple-choice, matching or short-answer. Time: 1 hr. each

Core Test II: Plants must be identified by common and scientific name from specimens and/or slides. Time: 1 hr.

SPECIALTY TESTS (1 hour each):

Turfgrass Specialist - This test will include Turfgrass ID and a homeowner problem solving situation.

Landscape Design Specialist - This test will require the completion of a landscape design and the interpretation of landscape specifications.

Landscape Specialist - This test will require the description of how to complete important landscape tasks and the interpretation of landscape specifications.

Greenhouse Specialist - This test will require the scheduling of a greenhouse crop.

Nursery Specialist - This test will include designing the layout of a container and/or field nursery.

Retail Specialist - This test will include the development of a merchandising strategy for a particular product and the solution of sales situation problems.

Exam Cost: \$25.00 DNLA Members
\$50.00 Non-Members
\$10.00 Re-test
\$15.00 Additional Specialty test in subsequent years.

