



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division

James W. Burnette, Jr.
Director

Memo

To: Consulting Foresters of North Carolina
Subject: Pest Control Consultant License
Date: February 25, 2009

This Department has recently investigated a complaint that Consulting Foresters across North Carolina are making pesticide application recommendations, without being licensed as a Pest Control Consultant. Such recommendations are being made in reforestation management plans that are submitted to owners of private forests. Reforestation management plans obtained from the NC Forestry Service confirmed that the vast majority of these plans contain specific pesticide recommendations including, brands of pesticides, rates of application, and general time for the application. Also, it was revealed that foresters who developed the aforementioned plans do charge a fee for those plans.

Pest Control Consultant is defined in the North Carolina General Statute 143-460 (27) as follows:

“Pest control consultant” means any person, who, for a fee, offers or supplies technical advice, supervision, or aid, or recommends the use of specific pesticides for the purpose of controlling insects, plant diseases, weeds, and other pests, but does not include any person regulated by the North Carolina Structural Pest Control Act.”

Anyone wanting to obtain a pest control consultant license must possess a Ph.D., master's, or bachelor's degree in an agricultural or biological science from an accredited college or university with a minimum of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of credit in subject areas pertinent to the category in which the applicant seeks to obtain a license. Emphasis of study must include insect, plant, bacterial, and fungal pests, as applicable to the category, and integrated pest management. Upon satisfying these requirements, the applicant can apply for a Pest Control Consultant License in the category of “Forest Pest Control” and pay an annual fee of fifty (\$50.00) for the license.

Developers of reforestation management plans that do not include specific pesticide application recommendations are not required to acquire a Pest Control Consultant license. Also, a pest control consultant license is not required if the party who develops the reforestation plan is also the one who will make the pesticide application.

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In this case that person or business needs only to be licensed as a commercial applicator in the Forestry Pest Control category. In this case, the reforestation management plan is considered part of the applicator's estimate for the application.

It is a violation of the North Carolina Pesticide Law of 1971 for anyone to operate in the capacity of a Pest Control Consultant without being licensed as such. Such violation could result in regulatory action that may include monetary penalty of up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000). We encourage those who are developing reforestation plans that include specific pesticide recommendations, or making any pesticide recommendations for which they are compensated to obtain a Pest Control Consultant License.

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