

The Certified Landscape Technician Program

What is Certification?

Certification is a national hands-on testing program administered by the Indiana Nursery & Landscape Association that seeks to recognize proficiency in the landscape workforce, upgrade the status of the landscape professional, and provide the public with a means of identifying qualified landscape professionals. To become a *Certified Landscape Technician*, an applicant must pass the General Comprehension test, a Core Test, and practical, hands-on problems. INLA has joined forces with PLANET to offer five certification tests - two in *Installation*, two in *Maintenance*, and one in *Irrigation*. Successful completion of the Hardscape and/or Softscape Installation test demonstrates that an individual has the skills to take a landscape blueprint and implement the design in the field. Passing the Turf and/or Ornamental Maintenance test shows that a person has the skills to maintain a landscape project in a professional manner. Passing the Irrigation test demonstrates that a person has the skills to install and maintain an irrigation system and understands the fundamentals of water management.

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 Certified Landscape Technicians
- Persons who pass each test will become Certified Landscape Technicians (The distinction between installation and maintenance technicians will be made on all official documents.)
- Employers are welcome to advertise that they have certified employees on their staff

Available Certifications

Softscape Installation

Written Tests:

- Common Core
- Plan Reading
- Horticultural Principles
- Irrigation Components/Principles

Practical Problems:

- Plant Identification
- Sod Installation
- Program Controller
- Lateral Repair & Head Adjustment
- Tree Planting
- Plant Layout
- Rototiller

Hardscape Installation

Written Tests:

- Common Core
- Plan Reading
- Hardscape Principles & Calculations

Practical Problems:

- Chainsaw
- Grading & Drainage
- Instrument
- Paver Installation
- Skid Steer

Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association
7915 S. Emerson Ave., Ste 247 * Indianapolis, IN 46237
www.inlal.org 800.443.7336

Turf Maintenance

Written Tests:

- Common Core
- Turfgrass Calculations
- Turfgrass Principles
- Irrigation Components/Principles

Practical Problems:

- Basic Program Controller
- Lateral Repair & Head Adjustment
- 21inch Mower
- Intermediate Walk-behind Mower
- Aerator
- Edger & Trimmer
- Riding Mower
- Turf Fertilizer
- Power Blower

Ornamental Maintenance

Written Tests:

- Common Core
- Irrigation Components/Principles
- Horticultural Principles
- Horticultural Calculations

Practical Problems:

- Plant Identification
- Basic Program Controller
- Lateral Repair & Head Adjustment
- Tree Planting & Staking
- Chainsaw
- Pruning
- Power Blower

Irrigation

Written Tests:

- Common Core
- Horticultural Principles
- Irrigation Components/Principles
- Irrigation Plan Reading

Practical Problems:

- Lateral Repair & Head Adjustment
- Advanced Program Controller
- Lateral Installation
- Mainline Installation
- Valve Repair
- Valve Wiring
- Pipe Installation Equipment

Test Procedures

Applicants are required to take both written and timed, hands-on problem exam supervised by one or more judges. Most problems require an applicant to install or maintain simple landscape projects. At the end of each timed session, s/he moves to another work station for testing. This process continues until the end of testing. An applicant must pass every problem in order to become a Certified Landscape Technician. Those who do not pass may retake the failed portions during the next test date.

Who Is Eligible for Testing?

Anyone is eligible to take the exam, but it is required applicants have one year of work experience in the green industry. They may begin and work on the certification process; however, they will not receive their certificate until their one year of experience is complete.