



Professional Fertilizer & Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification Class

Tuesday, December 2, 2025- Jarrettsville Gardens, 3825 Federal Hill Rd, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

8:00-8:15 Registration & Welcome - Henry Holloway, The Mill

8:15-8:50 Using New Technologies with Fertilizer and Pesticides - Greg Medina, Manager, Lebanon Turf
Increased sustainability utilizing new products in fertilizers and pesticides. Market conditions for turf inputs for the spring season.

8:50-9:20 Biologicals Reducing Fertilizer and Herbicide Inputs - Brian Marr, Holganix
Alternatives to reduce fertilizer and pesticide inputs.

9:20-9:50 MD Nutrient Management Updates - Shannon Rotella MDA

9:50-10:20 MD New Technologies in Liquid Fertilizer - Joe Leslie, Regional Agronomist, AgroLiquid
Importance of micronutrients and responsible nutrient management.

10:20-10:55 New Options for Herbicides, Fungicides, and Insecticides - Matt Herrman, Corteva AgriScience
New chemistry to control pests in turf and landscapes.

10:55-11:30 Sustainable Practices Glyphosate Update and Alternatives - Howard Vlieger, Contact Organics
New alternatives to glyphosate in the landscape for those who are pesticide sensitive.

Sustainability with 4R principles and IPM - Ben Hushon, Agronomy Manager, CCA, The Mill.
Sustainable strategies, Advantages and new technologies in liquid fertilizer and pesticides.

11:30-11:12:00 Chemical Safety - Nathan Glenn, Howard County Cooperative Extension
Safe handling and storage of turf and ornamental chemical products

12:00-12:30 Lunch and Vendor Exhibits

12:30-1:00 Turf Soil Testing Overview - Dylan Drundel, Profile Products
Delivering greener solutions to preserve soil and water resources. Understanding soil test results.

1:00-1:30 Pesticide Updates - Kelly Love, MDA and Alexander Lehman, MDA

1:30 -2:00 Proper pH and Conditioning of the Soil - Kristine Esdale, Solu-Cal USA,
Soil pH and nutrient utilization, Effects of lime processing on pH levels, Products to improve plant health, pesticide applications and affect rapid in-season pH change to increase nutrient efficiency.

2:00-2:30 Turf Weed Identification and Control Post-Emergent - Brian Hoff, Turf Specialist, Winfield United
Pre and post emergent control products for annual and perennial weeds in turf and landscape.

2:30-3:30 Japanese Stilt Grass and Turf Diseases - David Boniface and John Vinson, The Mill
Identifying & managing Japanese stilt grass, BMPs to prevent and mitigate major turf diseases.

3:30-4:00 Choosing the Right Seed with Endophytes - Jon Straughn, Chesapeake Valley Seed. Seed quality, cultivars, and markets, selecting the correct seed with endophytes reducing stress from drought, weed pressure and disease in turf. Fertilizer recommendations at seeding time.

4:00 Questions & Wrap-up

2025 The Mill Turf Recertification Class – Dec 2, 2025 - Speaker Biographies

Kelly Love

Enforcement Coordinator - Inspector Manager, Pesticide Division, Maryland Department of Agriculture

Supervises pesticide compliance and applicator certification programs across Maryland. Oversees inspections, enforcement, and educational outreach to ensure safe pesticide handling and environmental protection.

Nathan Glenn, MBA

Agriculture Extension Agent, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension – Howard County

Provides education and technical support in agriculture and food systems. Holds a B.S. from the University of Maryland and an MBA from Anderson University with 15 years of experience in extension and chemical safety training.

David Boniface

CCA Agronomist & Turf Specialist, The Mill

B.S. Agronomy & Environmental Science, Delaware Valley College. Certified Crop Advisor and Nutrient Management Planner with over 25 years of experience in golf course and turf management across the Mid-Atlantic region.

John Vinson

Regional Turf Specialist, The Mill

B.S. Business Management, Towson University; B.S. Agronomy Turf Management, University of Maryland. Over 30 years in turf management, including 20 years as Superintendent at Maryland Golf & Country Club. Licensed commercial pesticide and fertilizer applicator.

Kristine Esdale

Manager of Sales & Marketing, Solu-Cal USA, Growmark FS

B.S. International Business, Merrimack College. Eleven years with Solu-Cal supporting turf and agronomy markets nationwide, specializing in soil pH management and plant nutrition solutions for professional applicators.

Brian Marr

Vice President, Turf & Ornamentals Division, Holganix

B.S. Agricultural Business Management. Former owner of a multi-state lawn care company. Over a decade at Holganix promoting soil health innovations and biological solutions with clients including MLB, NFL, and PGA facilities.

Ben Hushon

Partner & Agronomy Manager, The Mill

Certified Crop Advisor since 1998 and Pennsylvania 4R Advisory Board member. Leads The Mill's agronomy division, emphasizing sustainability and improved nutrient use efficiency across farms, turf, and landscapes.

Jon Straughn

President, Chesapeake Valley Seed

B.S. Agronomy, University of Maryland. Manages turfgrass and seed programs throughout the region. Former board member of the Maryland Turfgrass Council and advocate for innovative seeding and endophyte use in turf systems.

Greg Medina

Senior Brand Manager, Lebanon Turf / Lebanon Seaboard Corporation

B.S. Agricultural Economics, Texas State University. Over 35 years of experience in turf product development, sales, and channel management across the U.S. with Lebanon Turf and Lesco.

Joe Leslie

Regional Agronomist, AgroLiquid

B.S. Agricultural Economics, Penn State. Six years with Growmark FS and current AgroLiquid Agronomist specializing in plant nutrition and advanced liquid fertilizer technologies.

Matt Herrmann

Territory Manager, Turf & Ornamental Division, Corteva Agriscience

B.S. Turfgrass Science and M.S. Turfgrass Physiology, Virginia Tech. Holds a Category 3B pesticide license and over 10 years of experience in turf research, sports turf, and chemical management.

Dylan Drudul, CPESC, CESSWI, CBLP

Regional Business Manager, Profile Products

B.S. Environmental Geoscience, Slippery Rock University. Fifteen years of experience in erosion control, stormwater management, and soil stabilization. Certified professionals in multiple environmental compliance programs.

Shannon Rotella

Training Coordinator, Maryland Nutrient Management Program, MDA

B.S. Agricultural Science & Technology, University of Maryland, with a concentration in Environmental Horticulture. Coordinates statewide nutrient management training and certification for applicators and planners.

Alex Lehmann

Certification and Training Coordinator, Pesticide Division, Maryland Department of Agriculture

Supervises inspections and enforcement within the state's pesticide regulatory program and assists with applicator certification and continuing education compliance.