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Figure 1. Southeastern states that are offered pesticide credits.

The green industry, which includes landscape, lawn care, tree care companies, nurseries, and greenhouses, is a major contributor to agricultural production and state and local economies. The nationwide economic output is \$191 billion, with 2.3 million jobs. There is an ever-increasing need for specialized training and certifications offered by UGA Extension Henry County, GA. to help these businesses perform high-quality work and to be more competitive in a tight market. They need educational programming that keeps them updated on new methods and technologies. They face new challenges and emerging issues of concern, such as water quality, pesticide safety, integrated pest management, turfgrass management, and environmental protection.

Protecting the environment and providing educational programs on ways to do so is a top priority. Pesticides contribute to non-point source pollution, which is problematic throughout the state. These programs help improve the horticultural knowledge of green industry professionals. The goal is for green industry enterprises to achieve greater profitability for their commercial businesses and positively impact the economy while minimizing negative environmental impacts.

**UGA EXTENSION SOUTHEASTERN GREEN INDUSTRY UPDATE**  
Friday, March 8, 2024 Online via Zoom  
8:15am - 3:15pm

**Program Agenda**

8:15am - 8:45 am - Registration and Check-in

8:45am - 9:00 am - Introduction – Mr. Timothy Daly, County Extension Agent, University of Georgia Extension Henry County, McDonough, GA.

9:00am - 10:00 am - Emerging Pests and Potential Pest Issues on Ornamental Plants in the Southeast - Dr. Shimat Joseph, Associate Professor of Entomology, University of Georgia Department of Entomology

10:00am - 11:00 am - Overview of US EPA's Federal Pesticide Program - Ms. Jennifer Wren, Life Scientist, US EPA, Chemicals Safety Section - Pesticides Programs.

11:00am - 12:00 pm - Soil Remediation- Getting Down and Dirty to Grow Healthy Pest Resistant Trees – Dr. Barbara Fair, Associate Professor and Landscaping, Arboriculture, Urban Greening Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University

12:00pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch

1:00pm - 2:00pm - Wood Decay Fungi in Trees - Dr. Jean Williams, - Woodward. Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Georgia Department of Plant Pathology.

2:00pm - 3:00pm - The Label is the Law: Interpreting Pesticide Labels - Mr. Timothy Daly, County Extension Agent, University of Georgia Extension Henry County

3:00pm-3:15 pm - Conclusion and credits

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**Credits Offered**

**Georgia**  
Category 21 Plant Agriculture - 5 credits  
Category 24 Ornamental and Turf - 5 Credits  
Category 27 Right-of-Way - 5 Credits  
Private - 3 Credits

**Alabama**  
Ornamental and Turf Pest Control (OTPC, OTPS) - 10 credits

**Florida**  
Commercial Lawn and Ornamental - 5 credits  
Ornamental and Turf Pest Control - 5 credits  
Limited Certification Lawn and Ornamental - 5 credits  
Limited Certification Commercial Landscape Maintenance - 5 credits

**South Carolina**  
Category 3 Ornamental and Turf Pest Control - 3 Credits

**North Carolina**  
Ornamental and Turf (L) - 4 Credits  
Demonstration and Research (N) - 4 Credits  
Dealer (D) - 4 Credits  
Private Pesticide Applicator (X) - 4 Credits

**Tennessee**  
C03 - Ornamental and Turf - 5 credits  
C06—Right-of-Way 5 Credits  
C10 - Demo, Research & Regulatory - 5 credits  
C12 - Pesticide Dealer - 5 credits

**Certified Arborist CEUs**  
ISA Arborist - 5 credits

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution  
If you are an individual with a disability who may require assistance or accommodation in order to participate in or receive the benefit of a service, program, or activity of UGA, or if you desire more information, please contact us.

550 per person  
Register by March 6, 2024  
Credit/debit card at  
<http://tinyurl.com/2w5pbhly>  
or call 770-228-7214

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION

Questions: Contact Timothy Daly at 770.288.8421 or [tdaly@uga.edu](mailto:tdaly@uga.edu)  
Deadline: March 6, 2024

Figure 2: The registration form with agenda and the credits being offered in each state.

With the onset of COVID in 2020 that prevented in-person training, UGA Extension has developed and implemented the UGA Extension Southeastern Green Industry Update, an online program offered twice a year. It has presentations given by specialists, Extension Agents, and other experts. The program reaches six states, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina, offering pesticide recertification credits in multiple categories and ISA Arborist CEUs (Figures 1 and 2). Since Fall 2020, nine programs have been held with 500 participants. (Table 1).

**Pesticide Credits Offered for Each State Since 2020**

<p><b>Georgia</b> Category 21 Plant Agriculture: 45 Category 24 Ornamental and Turf: 44 Category 25 – Seed Treatment: 10 Category 26 – Aquatic: 28 Category 27 – Right-of-Way: 55 Category 32 – Regulatory: 30</p> <p><b>North Carolina</b> Dealer (D): 40 Aquatic Pest Control (A): 2 Ornamental and Turf (L): 45 Demonstration and Research (N): 37</p>	<p><b>Alabama</b> Ornamental and Turf (OTPC, OTPS): 90 Demonstration and Research (D&amp;R): 50 Regulatory (REG): 40</p> <p><b>Tennessee</b> Ornamental and Turf: 43 Forest Pest Control: 23 Right-of-Way: 20 Demonstration and Research: 44 Pesticide Dealer: 44</p> <p><b>ISA Arborist</b> 45 CEUs</p>	<p><b>South Carolina</b> Core: 9 Ornamental and Turf Pest Control: 21 Aquatic Pest Control: 2</p> <p><b>Florida</b> Private Applicator: 16 Ag Tree Crop: 16 Natural Areas/Weed Management: 16 Ornamental and Turf: 41 Right-of-Way: 21 Limited Landscape Maintenance: 36 Limited Lawn and Ornamental: 41 Commercial Lawn and Ornamental: 41</p>
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Table 1. Total pesticide credits offered in each state and arborists CEUs for the nine UGA Southeastern Green Industry Update programs since 2020.

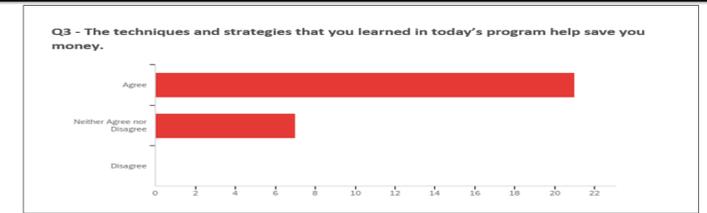


Figure 3. Example of Qualtrics program evaluation.

From 2020 – 2025, UGA Extension Henry County offered ten green industry updates pesticide applicator licensing preparatory exam programs for 550 industry professionals. In a post-class survey on Qualtrics (Figure 3), In the post-program survey on Qualtrics, 98% responded that the pest management techniques and strategies presented in the program would help them use pesticides more safely and efficiently, and 80% said they would change how they handle pesticides and control turf pests in the landscape. Based on what they have learned in the program, 87% said they have an improved understanding of how to practice integrated pest management techniques in their work performance. (Figure 4).

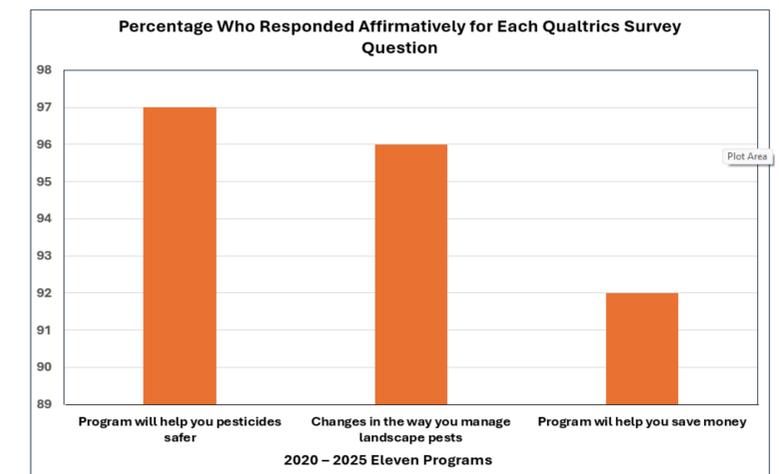


Figure 4. Response to Qualtrics post-program evaluation.

Several commented on the program evaluation:

*"The information from this educational session provided valuable insights that will help me enhance my daily practices. I plan to apply key concepts to improve plant health, sustainability, and overall efficiency throughout my work and our company. Additionally, the course reinforced important principles of pesticide use and safety, which will help me ensure compliance with best practices and regulatory standards." And "The information from the program helped me better understand drift and how to manage specific herbicides. This will allow me to better educate our customers on proper herbicide use and potential environmental risks."*

<sup>1</sup>Campbell, B, and Khachatryan, K. (2020) Economic Impact of the Georgia Green Industry Annual Publication, AGECON-20-04-PR, University of Georgia Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.