



## ***UCNP CERTIFICATION PROGRAM***

### ***UCNP Program Description***

On your path to professionalism in the horticulture industry, the Utah Certified Nursery Professional (UCNP) program certifies that individuals demonstrate minimum levels of experience, education, and working knowledge in the green industry. It places you in an elite class and is advantageous in seeking employment. Horticulture/green industry employers give a great deal of credit for the efforts taken to pass the UCNP exam. The UCNP exam demonstrates your understanding of a wide variety of horticulture knowledge and skills to competently serve in the horticulture/green industry.

The certification committee of the UNLA has set in motion new guidelines for certification and CEUs (Continuing Education Units/Credits). The guidelines will have new requirements and an application and commitment agreement. The testing fee structure will change as well as the guidelines for University certifications.

***To be a candidate for UCNP testing and certification and to stay UCNP certified you must:***

1. Be the owner or officer of a nursery firm; or have been employed by a UNLA member firm for at least one year. Or, be a member of a UNLA firm or individual member and have successfully completed two full years of classroom study in a recognized college-level horticulture program.
2. Successfully completed the UCNP Examination and pass with 80% Written Test and 70% Plant ID Test.
3. Pledge in writing to stay current in membership dues, and that should their certificate ever be revoked for whatever reason they will not display any distinguishing emblems, title or in any manner whatsoever imply that they are a Utah Certified Nursery Professional.

### ***Exam Procedures***

The UCNP exams are given in two phases - General Knowledge and Plant Identification. The General Knowledge written portion of the test generally takes about one hour to complete. The Plant Identification portion of the test will be administered by a proctor and will demonstrate your knowledge of both the common and botanical names of 30 common nursery plants. Test results are mailed directly to the home address of the test taker within 30 days after the exam is given.

Upon certification, 10 CEUs (Continuing Education Units/Credits) will be needed over a 1-year period and a renewal fee may be assessed to keep UCNP certification current and current membership with a regular or allied member firm, or individual membership.

### **Continuing Education Units/Credits (CEU's)**

One (1) CEU credit will be given for one 50-minute session of training at the Utah Green Industry Conference, Green Industry seminars and related field days or volunteer/community service. This may include ANLA, PLANET, IA, ISA and other green affiliate industries.

### ***Fees for 2012-2013***

Testing fee: \$100.00 UNLA member (if you are a USU student Certifying through the Horticultural Program you must apply as an Individual member of the UNLA at \$60.00 per year or work for a member firm.)

10 CEUs (Continuing Education Units/Credits) will be needed in a 1-year time frame to stay certified by the end of December 31 of each year, and a renewal fee may be assessed.

### ***Training Manual/Required Text***

***The Retail Garden Center Manual*** - from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, Publication 3492, Edited by Dennis R. Pittenger. The first manual is free and is available from the UNLA.

### ***Other Materials Required***

***Utah State University Extension Agency Fact Sheets and USU websites:***

USU Fact Sheets are available from the UNLA. The fact sheets and websites are available by mail, fax, e-mail or on-line at [www.utahgreen.org](http://www.utahgreen.org). ***The Retail Garden Center Manual*** and ***Utah State University Fact Sheets*** are intended to be both an instructional resource and a study aid for individuals seeking to become a Utah Certified Nursery Professional (UCNP) and also basic horticulture references for UCNP members. Chapters and Fact Sheets address important topics on basic horticulture, soil and water management, plant problem diagnosis and integrated pest management, landscape design and retail nursery sales.

### ***Upon completion of certification requirements***

After passing the certification test, the newly appointed UCNP will receive a plaque, shirt and hat 30 days after the request has been received. The UCNP has two options for receiving his/her certificate, by mail or at the Awards Banquet at the Utah Green Industry Conference and Tradeshow in January.

**UTAH CERTIFIED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL  
APPLICATION AND COMMITMENT AGREEMENT  
2012-2013**

**Personal Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Education**

Name and location of High School attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Year graduated \_\_\_\_\_ Attended \_\_\_\_\_ years only

College Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Attended \_\_\_\_\_ years only

Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_ Degree/Major Subject \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Experience**

Are you the owner or officer of a Nursery, Garden Center, Landscape, Irrigation, Arboriculture, Turf Production, Sports Turf Mgt, Community Garden (Botanical) or any other Green Industry related Business?  Yes  No If yes, please fill in the Company Name blank below and move directly to the verification section.

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Position held \_\_\_\_\_

Employed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Position held \_\_\_\_\_

Employed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Verification**

I verify that the above work experience is true and correct. I understand that if the information is inaccurate it may lead to the revocation of my certification

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## *Commitment Agreement*

I hereby certify the work experience contained in this application is true and correct. And if found to be inaccurate, I understand the UNLA Board of Directors can deny my application to take the exam and/or if certification is attained, it may be revoked.

Verification for \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **CONTRACT FOR ACCEPTANCE AS AN Utah Certified Nursery Professional**

I HEARBY AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING RULES FOR THE UTAH CERTIFIED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM AND FURTHER AGREE TO ABIDE BY ANY FUTURE ADDITIONS OR CHANGES IN THESE RULES WHICH MAY BE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UTAH NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION.

1. I will promote the highest ethical standards in the conduct of myself and my "Green Industry" profession.
2. I will make continued efforts to learn more about the industry and to improve my skills as a Green Industry Professional. I will fulfill the commitment of 10 CEUs (Continuing Education Units/Credits over each year period) effective 2002.
3. I fully understand that should I be granted certification by the UNLA Board of Directors, such certification is limited to each year that verification of the 10 CEU credits is provided to the UNLA. If I let my certification lapse, retesting will be necessary to renew my status as a UCNP. Renewal fees are subject to change.
4. I agree that should my certification ever lapse or be revoked, I will not display distinguishing emblems, titles or in any manner whatsoever imply or publicize that I am certified.
5. I agree to promote and use the UCNP status so long as I am actively certified.
6. I understand that UCNP status is granted by the green industry as recognition of knowledge and achievement for those horticultural professionals who voluntarily qualify. UCNP is in no way mandatory and may be granted, refused or revoked at the discretion of the UNLA Board of Directors. Upon granting of UCNP status, the recipient is entitled to be called a UTAH CERTIFIED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL and use the initials UCNP behind the certified persons name in addition to displaying the UCNP emblem and logo in all forms.

In making this request for certification I AGREE to all of the above requirements without reservation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_