



UCNP CERTIFICATION PROGRAM EXPANDS TO INCLUDE CEU'S

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, a working knowledge and an understanding of problems to come facing our industry. It places you in an elite class and makes you a more advantageous candidate for employment. Horticulture/green industry employers give a great deal of credit for the efforts taken to pass the UCNP exam. The UCNP exam provides professionalism like no other and 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 into motion new guidelines for certification and CEU's (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 an 80% on each of the test phases.
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.

The two phases now covered are: General Knowledge and Plant Identification.

Test results are mailed directly to the home address of the test taker within 30 days after the exam is given.

Upon certification, 10 CEU's (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 2011-12

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

10 CEU's (Continuing Education Units/Credits) will still 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 Sate 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, email or on-line at 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 receiving 80% or better on each of the two sections of 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
2011**

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 herby 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. And to fulfill the commitment of 10 CEU's (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 a stated time period and must be renewed every three years and to be accompanied by the verification of the 10 CEU credits for the (one) 1 year time period. 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 _____