



Florida-Friendly Best Management Practices for the Protection of Water Quality by the Green Industries

Instructor Training

Eligibility

The Green Industries have the primary role in training, disseminating, implementing these BMPs. To assist the Green Industries with accomplishing this responsibility FDEP developed the GI-BMP Instructor Training, where education professionals, government employees, industry professionals and citizen volunteers can become instructors as long as they meet the FDEP prerequisites below.

Instructors are required to have an appropriate level of technical knowledge and skills, gained through education or professional experience in the field of landscape management or environmental management of agrichemicals and horticultural practices:

Education professionals	Bachelor's degree and two years of experience in subject matter.
Government employees	Bachelor's degree and two years of experience in subject matter and competency in adult education.
Industry professionals	Minimum two years in training or supervisory position, competency in subject matter and competency in adult education.
Citizen volunteers	Bachelor's degree and two years of experience in subject matter, and competency in adult education.

Being certified by a related professional association (i.e. FNGLA) and/or having a FDACS Certified Pest Control Operator License are preferred qualifications for instructors.

Requirement Waiver

The degree or experience requirements may be waived by the FDEP Program Manager and Regional Coordinators for persons with key expertise (i.e. foreign language skills) upon determination that the applicant meets competency requirements and fulfills a critical need.

Instructor Standards

The GI-BMP training is modeled after the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Safety Trainer Qualifications Z490.1.

FDEP GI-BMP instructor criteria:

1. Effective January 1, 2009 instructors must earn a GI-BMP instructor certificate, issued by FDEP.
 - a. New instructors earn instructor certification by attending a GI-BMP training and passing the test with a minimum score of 90%, and completing the GI-BMP Instructor Training class and passing the test with a minimum score of 75%. They are also required to co-train at least two classes, supervised by the Regional Coordinator or designated UF/IFAS staff, before conducting the training independently.
 - b. Existing instructors earn certification by attending the required GI-BMP instructor refresher courses, passing a corresponding test with a minimum score of at least 75% in case it is required, and holding a valid GI-BMP certificate.
2. Instructors are required to follow the proscribed content of the GI-BMP program according to the instructor and student GI-BMP manuals.
3. It is the responsibility of certified instructors to be aware of and keep current on all GI-BMP materials through regular communication with the Regional Coordinators.
4. Instructors are required to use only the most current versions of all materials including, the PowerPoint presentations, pre and post-tests, registration forms and agenda.
5. Instructors are required to follow the GI-BMP agenda, as outlined in this manual, including the length of time allotted for each session.
6. Instructors are required to maintain their training skills by participating in continuing education, professional development programs, or gaining additional experience related to their subject matter expertise and delivery skills:
 - a. Instructors need to complete 4 FDEP/IFAS approved CEUs every 2 years.
 - b. Instructors need to complete all GI-BMP program updates.
7. Instructors shall apply adult learning principles appropriate to the target audience and the learning objectives. Instruction should be delivered using basic academic standards, comparable to K-8 level.
8. If providing FDACS pesticide or FNGLA CEUs, instructors must be approved by and follow the requirements of these organizations.

New instructors will receive the GI-BMP Instructor Certificate after completing the GI-BMP Instructor class and co-training at least two classes supervised by FDEP or UF/IFAS. New instructors may train a section or sections of a GI-BMP training, but are not entitled to organize their own trainings without the approval of the GI-BMP Program Manager.

Instructor Compensation

The FDEP does not permit any type of additional compensation for instructors, except as part of normal duties of employment. All instruction must be provided on a free and voluntary basis, although a modest fee for reimbursement of training expenses is permitted. If eligible, instructors teaching on behalf of their employer may be paid overtime in accordance with wage and hour laws.