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## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

CA Department of Pesticide Regulation

# JGLW6MPC

CA Pest Control Adviser License Category E - Weed Control

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

# Before you begin

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## What this is

9 practice questions for CA Department of Pesticide Regulation **JGLW6MPC**, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

## If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, **JGLW6MPC**
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

**QUESTION 1**

SINGLE CHOICE

A PCA is inspecting a field infestation where the weed in question has parallel leaf venation, a round (circular in cross-section) stem, and a fibrous root system with nodes. Which botanical category does this weed belong to?

- ☐ A Broadleaf (dicot)
- ☒ B Grass (monocot)
- ☐ C Sedge
- ☐ D Woody perennial

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** Grasses are monocots with parallel leaf venation, round/hollow stems with prominent nodes, and fibrous root systems. Broadleaves have netlike venation and taproots; sedges are distinguished by triangular stems ('sedges have edges') and are typically found in wetter habitats. The combination of round stem, parallel veins, and fibrous roots points to the grass family (Poaceae).

**QUESTION 2**

SINGLE CHOICE

A grower reports that a weed is completing its entire life cycle — from germination through seed production to death — within a single growing season. Which life cycle classification applies?

- ☒ A Summer annual
- ☐ B Biennial
- ☐ C Simple perennial
- ☐ D Creeping perennial

**ANSWER A**

**WHY** Annuals (both summer and winter types) complete germination, growth, reproduction, and death in one year or less. Biennials require two growing seasons, and perennials live for multiple years, reproducing both by seed and vegetatively in many cases. The scenario described — full cycle within one season — defines an annual.

**QUESTION 3**

SINGLE CHOICE

A PCA is considering a postemergence herbicide for control of yellow starthistle in a rangeland setting. The product label lists the active ingredient as 2,4-D, classified as a synthetic auxin. What is the primary mode-of-action group (WSSA site-of-action group number) for this herbicide?

- ☐ A Group 1 – Acetyl CoA carboxylase (ACCase) inhibitors
- ☐ B Group 2 – ALS/AHAS inhibitors
- ☒ C Group 4 – Synthetic auxins (growth regulators)
- ☐ D Group 9 – EPSP synthase inhibitors

**ANSWER C**

**WHY** 2,4-D is a synthetic auxin, which the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) classifies as Group 4 (synthetic auxins / growth regulators). Group 1 herbicides inhibit ACCase (used mainly for grass control); Group 2 inhibits the ALS enzyme; Group 9 is glyphosate (EPSP synthase inhibitor). Memorizing the WSSA group numbers is a foundational requirement for the Category E exam.

**QUESTION 4**

SINGLE CHOICE

A homeowner calls a licensed PCA about controlling weeds in an established bermudagrass lawn. The PCA recommends a 2,4-D + dicamba + MCPP combination product rather than glyphosate. What is the most accurate reason for this recommendation?

- ☐ **A** Glyphosate is not registered for use on residential lawns.
- ☒ **B** The combination is selective against broadleaf weeds while bermudagrass tolerates it.
- ☐ **C** Glyphosate is only effective preemergence on turfgrass sites.
- ☐ **D** MCPP is the only active ingredient that controls grassy weeds in turf.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** 2,4-D, dicamba, and MCPP (mecoprop) are all synthetic-auxin broadleaf herbicides. Bermudagrass (and most other established turfgrasses) has natural tolerance to them, while many broadleaf weeds do not — that is the definition of a selective herbicide. Glyphosate (Group 9) is non-selective and would damage or kill the bermudagrass along with the target weeds. Option A is false (glyphosate can be legal in some lawn contexts, just not appropriate here); C is false (glyphosate is postemergence only); D is false (MCPP is itself a broadleaf herbicide, not a grass herbicide).

**QUESTION 5**

SINGLE CHOICE

A PCA plans a preemergence herbicide application for crabgrass control in a turf setting. What is the key timing factor that most influences preemergence herbicide efficacy?

- ☐ A Application after crabgrass has reached the 5-leaf stage.
- ☒ B Application before crabgrass seed germination, typically when soil temperatures reach 55°F for several days.
- ☐ C Application only after the first mowing of the season.
- ☐ D Application during the hottest part of the day to maximize uptake.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** Preemergence herbicides must be in place before weed seeds germinate. For crabgrass (a summer annual), the standard agronomic guideline is to apply when soil temperatures at a 2–4 inch depth have reached approximately 55°F for several consecutive days, which precedes germination. Applying after emergence (option A) is too late for true preemergence activity; first mowing (C) is not a reliable biological indicator; spraying at the hottest time of day (D) can reduce efficacy and increase turf stress.

**QUESTION 6**

SINGLE CHOICE

A PCA has documented that a population of Italian ryegrass in a wheat field has survived applications of an ACCase-inhibitor herbicide (WSSA Group 1) for three consecutive seasons. Which resistance-management strategy is the most appropriate first response?

- ☐ **A** Increase the Group 1 herbicide rate to the maximum label rate each season.
- ☒ **B** Switch to a different WSSA Group (e.g., Group 2 ALS inhibitor or Group 15) and rotate modes of action in subsequent years.
- ☐ **C** Apply the same Group 1 herbicide more frequently within the season.
- ☐ **D** Stop all herbicide use and rely solely on mechanical cultivation.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** When a weed population survives repeated use of the same mode of action, the standard resistance-management recommendation is to rotate to a herbicide with a different WSSA site-of-action group number, and to continue rotating MOA in subsequent seasons. Simply raising the rate (A) or increasing frequency (C) accelerates selection for resistance and violates label directions. Abandoning herbicides entirely (D) is rarely practical in agronomic systems; the realistic integrated approach combines MOA rotation with cultural and mechanical practices.

**QUESTION 7**

SINGLE CHOICE

A PCA is reviewing a herbicide label before treating a lettuce field. The label includes a 'Crop Rotation Restrictions' table that lists the minimum plant-back interval (in days or months) before specific rotational crops may be planted. What is the legal status of these intervals in California?

- ☐ **A** They are advisory guidelines that the PCA may adjust based on field experience.
- ☒ **B** They are enforceable label requirements, and planting a rotational crop before the interval has elapsed is a violation of state and federal law.
- ☐ **C** They apply only to organic-certified fields.
- ☐ **D** They become enforceable only after a written complaint is filed with the County Agricultural Commissioner.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** Rotational crop restrictions on a pesticide label are part of the label's legal text and, under California and federal pesticide law, it is unlawful to use a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. Planting a rotational crop before the plant-back interval has expired can result in illegal residues, crop injury, and enforcement action by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the County Agricultural Commissioner. PCAs must treat these intervals as binding, not advisory.

**QUESTION 8**

SINGLE CHOICE

Under California Food and Agricultural Code, certain weeds are designated as 'noxious' and subject to specific control requirements. Which of the following best describes the role of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) with respect to noxious weeds?

- ☐ A CDFA has no regulatory authority over weeds; weeds are exclusively a DPR concern.
- ☒ B CDFA maintains the state noxious weed list and coordinates eradication, containment, or control efforts for designated species.
- ☐ C CDFA only regulates noxious weeds found within state park boundaries.
- ☐ D CDFA delegates all weed enforcement to the federal USDA-APHIS without state involvement.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), through its Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services division, administers the state's noxious weed program. CDFA maintains the noxious weed rating system (A, B, C, Q, etc.) and may mandate eradication, containment, or control actions against rated species. DPR regulates pesticide use; the two agencies have complementary but distinct authority. Options A, C, and D are inaccurate.

**QUESTION 9**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

A PCA is troubleshooting poor control of hairy fleabane following a postemergence glyphosate application. Which of the following factors are commonly associated with reduced glyphosate efficacy on this species? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Application to mature, drought-stressed plants with thick waxy cuticles.
- ☐ **B** Application when weeds are small and actively growing under good soil moisture.
- ☒ **C** Use of very hard, high-mineral water as the carrier without an ammonium sulfate (AMS) water conditioner.
- ☐ **D** Spraying during the coolest part of the morning with high relative humidity and excellent coverage.

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**ANSWER** A • C

**WHY** Glyphosate performance is reduced by (1) application to large, mature, drought-stressed, or dust-covered plants because translocation declines and the waxy cuticle limits penetration, and (2) hard water containing calcium, magnesium, and iron cations, which bind glyphosate and reduce its availability unless an ammonium sulfate (AMS) water conditioner is used. Option B describes favorable conditions, and option D (cool, humid conditions with good coverage) is generally favorable for glyphosate uptake, not detrimental.