

Urth licensing: the map and three study plans

Prepared 23 September 2026 by the Urth lane (dispatch URT-20260923-004L1) for Alan to react to. Nothing here has been filed, paid, booked or bought, and none of it is accepted yet. Not legal advice.

How to read the facts. Each fact carries one of three marks:

- **Confirmed:** read on an official page and quoted, either today or in the 21 and 22 September passes.
- **To confirm:** from a vendor page, a search summary or an older document; check before paying or booking.
- **Unknown:** nothing reliable found.

1. This week: the county business tax receipt

The Miami-Dade County business tax receipt expires on Wednesday 30 September 2026, one week from today. Receipts run from 1 October to 30 September. The Tax Collector's reminder, titled "Renew Local Business Tax Receipts and Complete TConsent Attestation by September 30", confirms this.

- **What we know about Urth's receipt.** Urth filed an application in 2024; the file names are in Urth Landscaping, then Corporate. Whether it was paid and renewed for 2025–26 has **not been checked**.
- **How to renew.** Online through BTEExpress on the Tax Collector's site (mdctaxcollector.gov), or in person. The site blocks automated reading, so the lane could not see Urth's account or the fee. Alan checks and pays. The lane does not log in.
- **If it is late:** 10% is added in October, and more each month after that up to 25% (to confirm; this matches section 205.053 of the Florida Statutes). Operating with no receipt at all can also bring a separate penalty.
- **Fertilizer.** Urth's 2024 affidavit says the company does not apply fertilizer. Keep that wording until someone at Urth holds the state fertilizer certificate. After that, the county wants proof of the Green Industries training "to obtain/renew" the receipt (confirmed, county fertilizer page).
- **Why it matters beyond the fee.** County vendor registration uploads this receipt. The county's Local Preference and the Small Business Enterprise certification both need it **held for at least one year**, so every year it lapses delays both.

2. The map

Every licence, registration and certificate a Miami-Dade and Broward landscaping company needs or benefits from, grouped by who holds it. "Alan today" answers one question: could Alan hold it now, or at least sit the exam?

2a. The company

Item	Issued by	Prerequisites	Exam	Cost	Renewal	Alan today
Miami-Dade business tax receipt	Miami-Dade Tax Collector	Category chosen. Certificate of Use or city receipt for the base address. Green Industries proof if fertilizing.	None	By category. Unknown (site blocks reading).	Yearly, by 30 Sep	Company holds. Renew this week.
City business tax receipt or county Certificate of Use	The city where the yard sits, or county zoning if unincorporated	A base address (Kendall is the working idea)	None	Certificate of Use: by square footage plus fees. City receipts vary. To confirm.	City: yearly. Certificate of Use: usually permanent at one address.	Waits on the yard address.
Broward business tax receipt, plus a city receipt in Broward	Broward Tax Collector and the city	A location in Broward. Whether work-only visits need one is to confirm.	None	Around \$27–\$150 by category (to confirm)	Yearly, by 30 Sep	Only if Urth sets up in Broward
Florida limited liability company annual report	Florida Department of State (Sunbiz)	None	None	\$138.75. \$400 late fee after 1 May.	Yearly by 1 May	Company holds. Next report due 1 May 2027.
Florida sales tax registration and annual resale certificate	Florida Department of Revenue	Online registration	None	Believed free (to confirm)	Resale certificate reissued each year, expires 31 Dec	Yes, company

Item	Issued by	Prerequisites	Exam	Cost	Renewal	Alan today
Nursery stock dealer registration (Alan's "dealer's licence")	State Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry	File 30 days before buying plants to resell	None	\$25 per location under 5,000 plants, \$69 at 5,000 or more (confirmed)	Yearly	Yes, company. Needed once Urth resells plants on installs.
Pest control business licence	State Department of Agriculture	A full-time certified operator in charge (Lawn and Ornamental), insurance	None for the company	\$300 issue, \$300 renewal, \$10 per employee identification card (confirmed 21 Sep)	Yearly	No. It needs the operator hire (section 7).
Miami-Dade fertilizer ordinance (Chapter 18-C) and the county affidavit	Miami-Dade environmental department, filed with the receipt	Certified applicators	None	No fee. Penalties for violations.	With the receipt	Company files. Wording changes once someone is certified.
General liability insurance	Private insurer	None	None	Quote needed	Yearly	Company. It is what allows the state to issue a spraying certificate to anyone at Urth, and every public bid needs it (usually \$1,000,000 per occurrence).

Item	Issued by	Prerequisites	Exam	Cost	Renewal	Alan today
Broward vendor registration and small business programs	Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development	Broward procurement portal (Bonfire). Certification moved to a new Business Management System on 26 Jan 2026 (confirmed).	None	Unknown	Unknown	Later, when Broward bids matter
Miami-Dade general hauling permit	County Solid Waste	General liability \$300,000, vehicle liability \$1,000,000	None	\$630 plus \$74 per vehicle plus \$24 per officer (confirmed)	Yearly	Company. Needed for lot clearing (Alan's note). A cheaper Landscaper Permit covers yard-trash drop-off but not land clearing .
Rule: never use the title "landscape architect"	State law (section 481.329)	None	None	None	None	Applies to everyone. Design and planting plans are allowed.

2b. Alan personally

Item	Issued by	Prerequisites	Exam	Cost	Renewal	Alan today
Green Industries Best Management Practices training	University of Florida extension, under state law	None	Six-hour course with a test at the end (county wording)	About \$20 online (to confirm)	The certificate built on it lasts 4 years	Yes. First item.

Item	Issued by	Prerequisites	Exam	Cost	Renewal	Alan today
Certified General Contractor	State Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Construction Industry Licensing Board	4 years under a licensed contractor with at least 1 as a foreman on new construction. Credit score 660 or a 14-hour course. \$300,000 liability insurance, workers' compensation, fingerprints (confirmed).	Three parts , all open book, 70% to pass: Business and Finance (120 questions, 6.5 hours), Contract Administration (60, 4.5 hours), Project Management (60, 4.5 hours). All confirmed in the official booklet.	Exam and application fees: to confirm (Pearson VUE fee table)	Every 2 years (31 Aug, even years), 14 hours of continuing education	No by the experience rule. Study as if (section 4).
International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist	International Society of Arboriculture	3 years of full-time tree work or a related degree (to confirm)	200 questions, 3.5 hours (to confirm)	About \$50 application plus \$369 exam for non-members (to confirm)	3 years, 30 continuing education units	Maybe. Whether Alan's Earthy years count is to confirm. Opens the county Group 3 tree bids and the Miami Beach pruning pool, which need an arborist "on staff".

Item	Issued by	Prerequisites	Exam	Cost	Renewal	Alan today
Miami-Dade Master Lawn Sprinkler certificate of competency	Miami-Dade Construction Trades Qualifying Board, exams by Prov	Trade experience documented by employer letters (application form)	Business and technical parts. Technical: 75 questions, 3 hours (2022 descriptions).	\$315 application (on the county form, which is revised 2010; to confirm)	County cycle (to confirm)	Not yet: experience letters needed. Year 2, study as if.
Florida irrigation specialty contractor (statewide)	Construction Industry Licensing Board	Experience (to confirm)	Business and Finance plus an Irrigation exam (80 questions, 5 hours, confirmed in the official booklet)	To confirm	Every 2 years	New find. The Business and Finance part is the same exam as the general contractor's, so passing it once may count for both (the booklet says passing candidates "may be exempt" from retaking it).
Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association: Certified Horticulture Professional	The association	None	Four-part online exam, 70% each	Exam \$188 non-member, manual \$180 non-member (member prices lower; confirmed)	3 years, 15 continuing education units	Yes. Easy credibility.

Item	Issued by	Prerequisites	Exam	Cost	Renewal	Alan today
Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association: Certified Landscape Contractor	The association	Horticulture Professional plus Landscape Technician, 3 years of experience (1 in Florida)	Four parts: law, accounting, estimating, construction documents	Exam \$375 non-member (confirmed)	3 years, 30 units	Maybe, if Earthy counts. Year 2.
Concrete paver installer (Concrete Masonry and Hardscapes Association)	Industry association	None	Course with exam included	Unknown until checkout	Unknown	Yes, optional

2c. Hardscape, irrigation and trees: where licences start

- **Pavers, patios, walkways.** The state does not license paver installation (secondary source). The Miami-Dade category list has no paver category. It does have Masonry and Decorative Fence, Concrete Finishing, and Unit Masonry, Marble and Exterior Veneer (the last one has an exam), and Tennis Courts. In 2023 the state stopped counties and cities from licensing some trades the state does not license (House Bill 735). Secondary sources say this includes driveways and decorative stone, but the exact scope and dates are **to confirm**. Working answer: simple paver work is subcontracted or done without a trade licence. Structural walls and concrete forming are subcontracted to licensed firms.
- **Irrigation.** Miami-Dade requires the Master Lawn Sprinkler certificate. Broward has its own irrigation certificate, and whether Broward honours Miami-Dade's is **unknown**. The state irrigation specialty licence may cover both counties, **to confirm**. Until then, irrigation is subcontracted, and old controllers found on site visits become leads for those subcontractors.
- **Trees.** Broward's tree-trimmer licence ended on 1 July 2025 (secondary source). No Miami-Dade tree-trimmer licence was found. City tree permits (Miami, Pompano Beach and others) may ask for an arborist's report.

3. Company study plan

Who and how long. Alan, or an office helper later: about 2 hours a week for 16 weeks, starting 28 September 2026.

What it is. None of these items has an exam. The company still has to learn each rule, then decide or file. Every "decide or file" line is Alan's action; the lane files nothing.

Week (Monday)	Topic	Read or use	Time	Decide or file (Alan)
1 (28 Sep)	County business tax receipt	BTEExpress. The Tax Collector's 30 Sep reminder. Section 205.053 of the Florida Statutes.	1 h	Renew before Wed 30 Sep, or note that Urth let it lapse

Week (Monday)	Topic	Read or use	Time	Decide or file (Alan)
2 (5 Oct)	Sunbiz report and sales tax	sunbiz.org, Department of Revenue brochure GT-800060	2 h	Put 1 May 2027 on the calendar. Check the sales tax registration.
3 (12 Oct)	Insurance for a landscape company	Section 482.071(4) insurance limits. Insurance clauses in the Miami Beach and Miami-Dade bids on file. State workers' compensation page.	2 h	List questions for an agent. No quote requested yet.
4 (19 Oct)	Miami-Dade vendor registration	County Vendor Academy decks (in Alan's Drive). supplier.miamidade.gov.	2 h	Decide when to register
5 (26 Oct)	E-Verify	Section 448.095 of the Florida Statutes, e-verify.gov	1 h	Decide when to enrol
6 (2 Nov)	Small Business Enterprise (Miami-Dade)	County Small Business Enterprise certification page	2 h	Note the one-year clock on the receipt and the office requirement
7 (9 Nov)	Broward	Broward Tax Collector's business tax receipt page. Broward vendor registration and certification pages.	2 h	Decide whether Broward work needs a Broward receipt
8 (16 Nov)	Nursery stock dealer registration	State Department of Agriculture page on nursery and stock dealer registration	1 h	File 30 days before the first plant resale
9 (23 Nov)	Hauling and yard waste	County general hauler and landscaper permit pages. Alan's note: call Brian Spradley.	1 h	Choose the landscaper permit now or the general hauler permit for lot clearing
10 (30 Nov)	Pest control business licence	Sections 482.071 and 482.152, rule 5E-14.142	2 h	Timing of the operator hire (section 5)

Week (Monday)	Topic	Read or use	Time	Decide or file (Alan)
11 (7 Dec)	Fertilizer rules as a company	County Chapter 18-C page. Broward rules (to confirm).	1 h	Change the affidavit once Alan is certified
12 (14 Dec)	What Urth may do without a trade licence	Section 481.329 (landscape architect title). County category list. House Bill 735 summary.	2 h	Subcontract list: irrigation, structural hardscape, pools, lighting
13 (21 Dec)	Holiday week	None	0 h	None
14 (28 Dec)	City receipt or Certificate of Use for the yard	County Certificate of Use page. The city's receipt page once the Kendall site is chosen.	1 h	Waits on the yard
15 (4 Jan)	Government bid readiness	Alan's Government Procurement note: plant material and tree service, Miami Beach general and emergency landscape, fertilizer, pesticide and landscape. Each bid's licence clauses.	2 h	Pick the first bid to prepare for
16 (11 Jan)	Licence calendar	This map	1 h	Every renewal date put on the Urth calendar

4. Alan's personal study plan

Pace. Slow and steady: about 5 hours a week, and 7 hours in the general contractor blocks. Each block ends with a full practice test. Booking any exam is Alan's decision.

Studying as if. Where Alan cannot sit an exam today (the general contractor exam, the Lawn and Ornamental operator exam), Alan studies to the same standard, with timed practice tests, so that the knowledge is his whatever the state decides.

Block	Weeks (Mondays)	What	Hours a week	Ends with
A	1–2 (28 Sep–5 Oct)	Green Industries training. Miami-Dade and Broward fertilizer rules.	5	Training certificate. Ready to apply for the fertilizer certificate (\$25).

Block	Weeks (Mondays)	What	Hours a week	Ends with
B	3–8 (12 Oct– 16 Nov)	Bed-spraying certificate, using the 21 September kit (nine modules, 53 cards, mock quiz)	5	Two full timed mocks at 80% or more. Ready to book the remote exam.
C	9–20 (23 Nov–8 Feb)	General contractor, Business and Finance (the shared part)	7 (2 in the holiday weeks)	Full 120-question, 6.5-hour mock, open book
D	21–28 (15 Feb–5 Apr)	Lawn and Ornamental operator, as if, plus the state core material	5	Timed mock
E	29–37 (12 Apr–7 Jun)	International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist, alongside the Florida chapter's April virtual prep course (9 weeks)	5	200-question mock
F	38–45 (14 Jun–2 Aug)	General contractor, Contract Administration	7	60-question, 4.5-hour mock
G	46–53 (9 Aug–27 Sep 2027)	General contractor, Project Management	7	60-question, 4.5-hour mock
Year 2	Oct 2027 onwards	Master Lawn Sprinkler, as if. State irrigation specialty exam. Certified Horticulture Professional (an easy one; can move earlier). Certified Landscape Contractor.	3–5	Choose later

Block A: fertilizer (weeks 1–2)

- **Week 1.** The Green Industries online course, about 6 hours. It is on the University of Florida Green Industries site (gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu). Take its test.
- **Week 2.** Read the Miami-Dade Chapter 18-C rules:
 - no nitrogen or phosphorus from 15 May to 31 October;
 - at most 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet a year;
 - at least 65% slow-release nitrogen;
 - phosphorus only with a soil test;
 - no fertilizer within 20 feet of water.

Then compare Broward's rules (a 1 June–30 September ban is reported; to confirm). Make 20 flashcards. Section 482.1562 of the Florida Statutes.

Block B: bed spraying (weeks 3–8)

The 21 September kit already holds this block. Study one module or two each week, then take the weekly quiz in NotebookLM.

Week	Modules (kit numbering)	Sources in the kit
3	Law and label	Landscape Maintenance manual chapters 1–2. Applying Pesticides Correctly, chapters I and III.
4	Safety and protective equipment	Applying Pesticides Correctly, chapters VI–VII
5	Calibration and maths	Landscape Maintenance manual chapters 15–16 and appendices. Applying Pesticides Correctly, chapter IX.
6	Drift, environment, storage	Landscape Maintenance manual chapter 9. Applying Pesticides Correctly, chapters V and VIII.
7	Pest identification	Landscape Maintenance manual chapters 8 and 10–14
8	Practices, fertilization, review	Landscape Maintenance manual chapters 3–7. Two timed mocks. Weak-spot loop.

The Green Industries manual is listed by the state for this exam and is still missing from the corpus; download it in week 1.

Block C: general contractor, Business and Finance (weeks 9–20)

Official book list, valid January–December 2026 (confirmed). Only these may enter the room:

- Florida Statutes chapter 455 (2025). A bound PDF is allowed.
- Builder's Guide to Accounting (2001).
- Contractors Manual (2021, with the 2025 Circular E). The 2025 edition is used from 1 February 2026.
- American Institute of Architects documents A201 (2017), A401 (2017) and A701 (2018).

Exam rules (confirmed).

- Books must be bound. Highlighting and underlining are allowed.
- No handwritten notes and **no movable tabs**. The permanent tabs sold by prep companies are the usual answer.
- Nobody may mark the books during the exam.

The skill being tested is finding answers in the books fast, so practise with the physical books and a timer.

Week	Topic	Book	Practice
9	How the exam works. Book setup: permanent tabs and highlighting.	Candidate Information Booklet, reference list	20 lookup drills
10	Business organisation, licensing law	Contractors Manual. Chapter 455.	30 questions
11	Chapter 489 and board rules, lien law	Contractors Manual (Florida law chapters)	30 questions
12	Accounting basics: balance sheet, income statement, ratios	Builder's Guide to Accounting	30 questions

Week	Topic	Book	Practice
13–14	Holiday weeks (light)	Flashcards only	2 h each
15	Payroll, taxes, Circular E, withholding	Contractors Manual (Circular E)	40 questions
16	Insurance, bonds, workers' compensation, safety law	Contractors Manual	40 questions
17	Contracts and bidding: A201, A401, A701	American Institute of Architects documents	40 questions
18	Estimating maths, depreciation, job costing	Builder's Guide to Accounting, Contractors Manual	40 questions
19	Weak spots	All	Half mock: 60 questions in 3 h 15 min
20	Full mock	All	120 questions in 6.5 hours, open book

Block D: Lawn and Ornamental operator, as if (weeks 21–28)

Read in this order:

1. Lawn and Ornamental Pest Management (University of Florida).
2. The Identification Guide to Common Florida Lawn and Ornamental Weeds.
3. Applying Pesticides Correctly (review).
4. Chapter 482 of the Florida Statutes and rule 5E-14.

Weeks	Topic
21–22	Turf grasses and their pests: chinch bugs, sod webworms, mole crickets
23	Turf diseases
24	Weeds and herbicides on turf
25	Ornamentals: insects, mites, scale
26	Palms and nutrition
27	Power equipment calibration, records, restricted-use products
28	Timed mock

This block also prepares Alan to judge the operator Urth hires.

Block E: arborist (weeks 29–37)

- **Book:** the Arborists' Certification Study Guide, 4th edition.
- **Course:** the Florida chapter's virtual prep course runs twice a year, in October and April, for 9 weeks, twice a week (price by phone; to confirm). The Miami Dade College course 0098 at Kendall is not open for enrolment now.
- **Order:** one guide domain per week, a 25-question quiz each week, and a 200-question mock in week 37.
- **Check first:** whether Alan's Earthy years meet the experience rule.

Blocks F and G: general contractor, Contract Administration and Project Management (weeks 38–53)

Official book list, valid January–December 2026 (confirmed). Allowed in the room:

- American Institute of Architects A201, A401 and A701.
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules, 29 CFR Part 1926 (1 July 2025 edition).
- Contractors Manual (2021; the 2025 edition from 1 July 2026).
- Principles and Practices of Commercial Construction, 11th edition (2024).
- Energy Efficient Building Construction in Florida (2024).
- Truss safety guide BCSI (2020; the 2025 edition from 1 July 2026).
- Florida Building Code 2023: Building, Accessibility, Residential, Existing Building, Energy Conservation.

Suggested study books, not allowed in the room:

- Builder's Guide to Accounting.
- Walker's Building Estimator's Reference Book, 32nd edition.
- Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures, 17th edition.
- Placing Reinforcing Bars, 10th edition.
- Gypsum Association GA-216 (2018).

Contract Administration (weeks 38–45):

Week	Topic
38	A201 in depth: changes, claims, payment, completion
39	Subcontracts (A401) and bidding (A701)
40	Building Code: occupancy and construction types
41	Building Code: structural loads, wind (the South Florida high-velocity zone)
42	Energy code and accessibility
43	Existing buildings and the Residential code
44	Estimating from Walker
45	Mock: 60 questions in 4.5 hours

Project Management (weeks 46–53):

Week	Topic
46	Scheduling and critical path
47	Occupational safety rules: fall protection, excavation, scaffolds

Week	Topic
48	Concrete and reinforcing bars
49	Masonry, trusses and bracing
50	Site work and soils. The most landscape-relevant week.
51	Project controls and quality
52	Weak spots
53	Mock: 60 questions in 4.5 hours

The one timing point. The state rules say candidates must pass every part within **four years of the first attempt** (to confirm on the state page). Studying costs nothing against that clock; only sitting the exam starts it. Keep "study as if" separate from "sit", and start the clock only when the experience question is settled.

5. Applicators and crew study plan

There is no crew today. This plan is a template: it counts crew weeks from the hire date, and the simulation can drop it into any start date. About 3 hours a week of paid study time is assumed. The simulation should cost it.

Crew week	Who	What	Source	Time
1	Everyone	Heat illness, lightning (Alan's rule: lightning likely means no crew goes out), protective equipment, mower, trimmer and blower safety, traffic	Urth day-one sheet (to write). Occupational safety heat guidance.	4 h
1–2	Everyone	First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation	Red Cross or local class, price by location	4–5 h
2	Anyone who spreads fertilizer	Green Industries training, then apply for the fertilizer certificate (\$25)	gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu	6 h
3–4	Hardscape crew	Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-hour construction course, online	Authorised online providers, about \$42–\$89 (to confirm)	10 h
4–9	Designated sprayers only	Bed-spraying certificate: the same kit as Alan's Block B, one module a week	21 September kit. Spanish-language exam availability to confirm.	3 h a week

Crew week	Who	What	Source	Time
10	Designated sprayers	Book and sit the exam (Alan decides). \$150.	Everblue	3 h
When the pest control business licence exists	Lawn sprayers under the operator	Identification card (\$10): 5 days of field training before working. 4 hours of classroom training within 6 months. 2 hours before each card renewal. All confirmed.	The operator, state-approved courses	40 h + 4 h
Month 3–6	Chainsaw users	Chainsaw safety course	To research	1 day
Month 6 onwards	Foreman track	Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association Certified Horticulture Professional	The association's manual, The Horticulture Professional (2nd edition)	3 h a week for 8 weeks
Optional	Irrigation-minded crew	Irrigation Association Certified Irrigation Technician (100 questions, 3 hours; to confirm)	irrigation.org	Later
Optional	Paver crew	Concrete paver installer course	Concrete Masonry and Hardscapes Association	1–2 days

The limits of personal certificates (confirmed by statute). The bed-spraying and fertilizer certificates are personal. Each worker who sprays beds or spreads fertilizer needs their own, and no holder may supervise uncertified people. Only the pest control business licence, run by the certified operator, lets crew work on identification cards. This is the reason for the hire in section 7.

6. Study tools

The rule for every tool: the official books and pages are the source of truth. An AI tool can explain, quiz and read aloud, but a Florida rule is only believed when it can be found in an official book.

NotebookLM: one notebook per exam

On the free tier, NotebookLM works only from the sources loaded into it and cites them. Reported free limits are 100 notebooks, 50 sources per notebook and 3 audio overviews a day; these are **to confirm**, because the official page redirected. It also makes flashcards, quizzes, mind maps and audio overviews that can be played in the truck between jobs.

Notebook	Load these sources	Where they are
1. Fertilizer	The Green Industries manual. Section 482.1562. Miami-Dade Chapter 18-C page. Broward fertilizer rules.	Manual: download from the University of Florida. County page: 21 September package, file official/text/md-fertilizer-regs.txt.
2. Bed spraying	Landscape Maintenance manual (16 chapters and appendices). Applying Pesticides Correctly (7th edition). Sections 482.156 and 482.071. Rule 5E-14. The kit's 53 flashcards.	21 September package: corpus-text/ (OCR text), official/text/, study/
3. Lawn and Ornamental operator	Lawn and Ornamental Pest Management. The Florida weeds identification guide. Applying Pesticides Correctly. Sections 482.132, 482.152 and 482.091.	University of Florida bookstore (to buy later). Statutes from leg.state.fl.us.
4. General contractor, Business and Finance	Candidate Information Booklet. 2026 Business and Finance reference list. Chapter 455 (free). Chapter 489 (free). Contractors Manual (as a PDF once bought). Circular E, Internal Revenue Service Publication 15 (free).	Booklet and list: this package, sources/official/. Statutes: flsenate.gov.
5. General contractor, Contract Administration and Project Management	2026 general contractor reference list. Florida Building Code chapters (free to read on codes.iccsafe.org). Occupational safety rules Part 1926 (free on ecfr.gov). A201 summary notes.	The books themselves are paid; load only what is legally free or bought.
6. Arborist	The study guide's chapter notes (typed by Alan). Florida chapter course handouts.	After purchase
7. Company rules	Every official page in the 21 and 22 September packages. Alan's Government Procurement note. This plan.	Both packages

Prompts to paste into NotebookLM. Swap in the notebook's own topic.

1. "Using only these sources, write 20 multiple-choice questions on [module], four options each, one correct. Put the answer and the page it comes from after all 20."
2. "List every number in [chapter] that could be an exam question: limits, dates, fees, distances, percentages. Show each with its sentence and source."
3. "Where do these sources disagree with each other, or look out of date? List each case."
4. "Explain [topic] to a landscaping business owner in plain words, then give three trick questions an examiner might ask."
5. "Make a 10-minute audio overview of [module] for listening while driving, focused on what is most likely to be tested."
6. After a practice test: "I got these wrong: [list]. For each, show the source passage and one new question on the same point."

Practice formats.

- Built-in flashcards and quizzes, once per module.
- Audio overviews for driving time.
- A mind map per book, to learn the layout of an open-book exam.
- The weak-spot loop from the 21 September kit.

Gemini: explanations and a study coach

Gemini is good at plain-word explanations and at drilling. It has no grounded knowledge of the current Florida rules, so every rule it states needs checking. Google AI Pro is \$19.99 a month (confirmed) and is not needed to start.

- **Make a Gem called "Urth exam coach"** with these instructions: "I am studying for [exam]. Quiz me one question at a time from the topic I name. Wait for my answer, then tell me whether it is right and why, citing which official book I should open. Never state a Florida rule without saying it must be checked in the official source. Keep a running list of my misses and re-ask them at the end."
- **Guided Learning mode.** For concepts: ratios, depreciation, critical path, calibration maths.
- **The exam maths.** "Give me 10 calibration problems (gallons per acre, ounces per 1,000 square feet) and check my working." The same for job costing and percentage-complete billing.
- **Not for:** looking up Florida fees, dates or rules.

Flashcards

- **Anki.** Free on desktop and Android; \$24.99 once on iPhone (confirmed). Import the kit's CSV of 53 cards and every NotebookLM card set. 15 minutes a day.
- **Quizlet.** An alternative if phone-first matters more (about \$36 a year; to confirm).

Prep courses and books worth paying for (prices only; nothing bought)

Exam	Option	Price	Worth it?
General contractor (all three parts)	1 Exam Prep "Ultimate": 19 rented, tabbed and highlighted books, plus courses	\$2,895 plus a \$1,000 refundable book deposit (confirmed on the vendor page)	Only when Alan decides to sit. Until then, buy the three Business and Finance books and the free booklet.
General contractor	1 Exam Prep all-inclusive	\$4,695 (listed as down from \$5,695)	No, not before a sitting date
General contractor	Gold Coast Schools, and CEI (MyContractorExam)	Price not shown (to confirm)	Compare before any purchase
General contractor, Business and Finance	Books only: Contractors Manual, Builder's Guide to Accounting, chapter 455 (free), the three American Institute of Architects documents	To price	Yes: the start of Block C
Bed spraying and operator	Everblue exam fee on top of the state fee	About \$32 remote, \$59 in person (to confirm)	Needed to sit

Exam	Option	Price	Worth it?
Bed spraying and operator	State paper exam days: proctoring free, application fee still applies	Next: 2–3 Nov 2026, Tallahassee. Register by about 18–19 Oct.	Too soon for Block B; watch for 2027 dates
Fertilizer	Green Industries course	About \$20 online (to confirm)	Yes
Arborist	Florida chapter virtual prep (October and April)	By phone (to confirm)	Yes, if Alan's eligibility is confirmed
Arborist	Arborists' Certification Study Guide, 4th edition	To price	Yes
Horticulture	The Horticulture Professional manual	\$120 member, \$180 non-member (confirmed)	Yes, for the foreman track
Free	State Candidate Information Booklet, reference lists, statutes, Florida Building Code read-only, Part 1926 on ecfr.gov, University of Florida extension pages	Free	Always first

7. The certified operator hire

Why one hire matters

Only one pesticide licence belongs to the company: the **pest control business licence** from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The department issues it only when the business has a **certified operator in charge** who holds the Lawn and Ornamental category. The law ties that person to one business: the operator in charge "shall have her or his primary occupation with the licensee and shall be a full-time employee of the licensee" (section 482.152, Florida Statutes; confirmed on the official page on 22 September).

Alan cannot earn this certificate by study alone. The exam is open only to someone with three years as a service employee of a licensed pest control company (one year of it in Florida), or a degree in entomology, botany, agronomy or horticulture plus one year (section 482.132; confirmed 22 September). So the company licence depends on hiring one person, which fits Alan's rule "license the company, not personnel who come and go" as closely as the law allows: one qualifying person instead of a certificate for every sprayer. Once the business licence exists, crew members spray lawns under the operator with a \$10 identification card and five days of field training each, not a certificate each.

If that person leaves, the company must tell the department at once and may run under a temporary operator for up to 30 days (rule 5E-14.142). Plan a second person on the path (a crew member working towards the three years, or Alan's own clock if Alan ever works under a licensee) so the licence is not a single point of failure.

What to ask the headhunters for

Send this as the search brief (Alan sends it; nothing has been sent):

- **Title:** Certified Pest Control Operator in charge, Lawn and Ornamental, for a new Miami-Dade and Broward landscape company. Full-time, on payroll (not a contractor, not shared with another company).
- **Must hold today:** an active Florida certified operator certificate in the **Lawn and Ornamental** category, current on continuing education, with no disciplinary history. The candidate gives the certificate number; Urth checks it on the department's public licence lookup before any interview.
- **Must be willing to:** be named as the operator in charge on Urth's pest control business licence, resign as operator in charge of any other licensee first, and work full time for Urth as the primary occupation.
- **Should have:** the Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer certificate (or be willing to get it in a week), Green Industries training, three or more years running turf and ornamental routes in South Florida, experience training identification-card employees, record-keeping for restricted-use products, calibration of power sprayers.
- **Useful extras:** International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist; Spanish and English; a clean driving record (commercial auto insurance); experience leading a two- to four-person crew (the "foreman who already has it" option).
- **Two shapes to present:** (a) a working foreman who holds the certificate and runs a crew; (b) a dedicated spray-route lead. Alan named (a) as possible ("a foreman who already has it"); the lane suggests (a) for the early years because one person covers both roles.
- **Pay:** ask the headhunter for the current Miami range for both shapes and for the fee structure (percentage of first-year salary, guarantee period). Urth pays crew by the day; ask whether candidates accept a day rate plus a licence stipend, or need a salary.

Interview questions

Licence and history

1. What is your certificate number, category and expiry, and how many continuing education units do you have for this renewal year?
2. Are you the operator in charge for any licensee today? What would you need to do to leave that role?
3. Have you ever received a warning, fine or stop order from the department? Tell me what happened.

Technical (answers Alan can check against the manuals)

1. Walk me through calibrating a 100-gallon skid sprayer for a turf herbicide at a label rate per 1,000 square feet.
2. A St. Augustine lawn in Kendall is yellowing in patches in August. What do you look for before you spray anything?
3. Chinch bugs versus drought stress: how do you tell them apart on site?
4. Which Miami-Dade fertilizer rules change what you do between 15 May and 31 October? What about near a canal?
5. What records do you keep for each application, and for how long? What changes for a restricted-use product?
6. A customer's dog was on the lawn ten minutes after treatment. What do you do?
7. What personal protective equipment do you require for each crew member, and how do you check it daily?

Running a crew and a licence

1. How do you train a new identification-card employee in their first five days?
2. How would you set up spray routes so they sit next to our mowing routes?
3. What would you change first in a company that has never held a pest control licence?
4. If you left, how much notice would you give, and would you help us bring in a temporary operator?

Fit

1. Why a small new company instead of a large lawn-care firm?
2. How do you feel about being paid by the day, with deliverables tracked, like the rest of the crew?

8. Open questions for Alan

1. **The county business tax receipt.** Is the 2025–26 receipt paid, and will you renew it by Wednesday 30 September?
2. **Order of Alan's blocks.** Fertilizer, then bed spraying, then Business and Finance is proposed. Would you rather start the general contractor work first?
3. **Weekly hours.** Is 5 hours a week (7 in general contractor blocks) right for "slow and steady"?
4. **The operator hire.** A working foreman who holds the certificate, or a dedicated spray lead? And when: before the first spring season (the spraying season) or later?
5. **Irrigation in-house or subcontracted.** This decides whether the Master Lawn Sprinkler or the state irrigation licence is ever sat for real.

6. **Arborist eligibility.** Do your Earthy years count as the three years of tree work? One call or email to the International Society of Arboriculture settles it.
7. **Six phone calls that would close most "to confirm" facts** (none made by the lane):
- Miami-Dade Tax Collector: the receipt fee and category.
 - Broward Tax Collector: whether work-only visits need a Broward receipt.
 - Miami-Dade Construction Trades Qualifying Board: current fees, and a paver category.
 - Broward Central Examining Board: irrigation, and whether it honours Miami-Dade certificates.
 - State Department of Agriculture pest control licensing: exam question counts, operator continuing education hours.
 - The Florida chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture: prep course price.

9. Sources

- **Fetches today (23 Sep), official**, in `sources/official/` with fingerprints in `MANIFEST.sha256` :
 - The state construction Candidate Information Booklet (`const_cib.pdf`).
 - The 2026 general, building and residential contractor reference list.
 - The 2026 Business and Finance reference list.
 - The 2025 general contractor reference list (for comparison).
 - The state reference-list index page.
 - The Miami-Dade Construction Trades Qualifying Board category list.
 - The county personal certification application with its fees.
- **Research notes (23 Sep)**, in `sources/research/` : three read-only web passes, each fact marked confirmed or to confirm, with its address:
 - general contractor (`cgc.md`);
 - Miami-Dade and Broward (`counties.md`);
 - applicators, arborist, industry credentials and study tools (`applicators-tools.md`).
- **Earlier packages, not changed:**
 - 21 September licensing package: official statute and rule texts, the bed-spraying study kit, the corpus.
 - 22 September licence map, its JSON and the 23-fact confirmation pass (`growth/C3-licensing/`).
- **Alan's notes** (`context/ios-notes-urth-20260922.md`): LICENCING, and Government Procurement (priorities, hauling permit, Small Business Enterprise, dealer's licence).