



# Vermont Certified Horticulturist Application

To receive your certificate and become an official Vermont Certified Horticulturist, please submit a completed application with all attachments, a signed code of ethics, and \$35.00 (\$50.00 for non-members) payable to VNLA at the above address.

**Eligibility Requirements Two (2) letters of recommendation from Green Works/VNLA members. (Please attach to application).**

**Six (6) years of \*full-time nursery, greenhouse, garden center, landscape or related employment or three (3) years of \*full-time employment and two (2) years minimum of post-secondary related school education, or one (1) year of \*full-time nursery employment and a bachelor's degree in a horticulture related field. Please provide letters of reference to verify all employment necessary to meet the requirements. If you are using education to meet requirements, please provide the following:**

School(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Full-time is defined as a full growing season, spring to fall.**

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

VCH Brochure Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different) City State Zip Code

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_

Twitter: \_\_\_\_\_ Instagram: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell#: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax#: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please answer the following questions:

Please list my: \_\_\_Brochure Address \_\_\_Mailing Address in the VCH brochure & on the Green Works Website **(check one)**

Please list my Email Address and Website: \_\_\_In the VCH brochure \_\_\_On the Green Works Website \_\_\_Not at all

May we contact you via email regarding Green Works/VNLA/horticulture related news & events: YES NO **(circle one)**

### Check the categories below that best describe your company's primary business?

- \_\_\_Agency \_\_\_Arborist \_\_\_Educator \_\_\_Florist \_\_\_Garden Center \_\_\_Greenhouse-Retail
- \_\_\_Greenhouse-Wholesale \_\_\_Hardscaping \_\_\_Landscape Architect \_\_\_Landscape Designer
- \_\_\_Landscape Design/Build \_\_\_Landscape Install/Maintenance \_\_\_Nursery-Retail \_\_\_Nursery-Wholesale
- \_\_\_Propagator \_\_\_Turf Care \_\_\_Supplier \_\_\_Student \_\_\_Wholesale Broker \_\_\_\_\_Other(describe)

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE BACK OF THIS FORM**

**To become, and remain, a Vermont Certified Horticulturist, you must:**

1. Review the code of ethics, sign it and agree to abide by it.
2. Pass the exam. The examination will consist of two parts. The first will be written and consist of 150 questions based on this study guide, each question worth one point. Terms are key part. You do not need to memorize tables (for future reference only) or steps in processes (like building a wall), or lists (like of regulations), except as items are in italics or bold.  
  
The second part of the exam will consist of identification based on lists in the manual and photos from the linked websites, each question worth one point, with 50 questions (10 each of perennials, trees, shrubs, pests, diseases). You must achieve a successful score on the certification parts of at least 70% correct answers on each. Parts of exams may be retaken independently if they are not passed.
3. Exams can only be taken by candidates that meet the above eligibility requirements. Exams will be given at the VNLA annual winter and summer meetings, or by appointment with Dr. Leonard Perry, University of Vermont Horticulture Professor Emeritus, PO Box 735, Milton, VT 05468; 802-318-8453; leonard.perry@uvm.edu.
4. Certification examinations will be based on the Vermont Certified Horticulturist study manual. Manuals may be obtained from the VNLA office, P.O. Box 92, N. Ferrisburgh, VT 05473. Cost for the manuals is \$50.00 for VNLA members and students and \$75.00 for non-members (subject to change). Checks made payable to the VNLA must accompany the order. You may also purchase the manual with a credit card.
5. A test fee of \$10.00 for VNLA members and \$25.00 for non-members must be paid at the time of testing. All who pass the exam will be notified by mail and/or email. A VCH Application, signed Code of Ethics, and a processing fee of \$35.00 for VNLA members and \$50.00 for non-members must be sent to the VNLA Office. The Board of Directors will then vote on the application. Once approved, a certification notice will be sent out.
6. A VCH must earn 10 continuing education credits related to horticulture yearly (see listing in section following). The renewal application is sent out in October of each year. The forms and fee must be submitted by December 31 or the VCH status will expire.

**Code of Ethics**

This Code provides guiding principles of conduct for all members of the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association and all horticulturists certified by the Association in conjunction with its Vermont Certified Horticulturists Program. It shall be a requirement that all these members abide by this Code of Ethics:

1. Uphold the highest standards of professional comportment in the conduct of their occupational affairs/ horticultural enterprise(s).
2. Demonstrate an uncompromising commitment to the advancement of horticultural knowledge and its associated industries.
3. Provide honest and impartial advice only on subjects about which they are informed and qualified through professional training or experience.
4. Honor the rights and accomplishments of others and properly credit the work and ideas of others.
5. As mentors of the next generation of horticultural leaders, strive to instill these ethical standards in students at all educational levels.
6. Refrain from representing themselves as spokespersons for the Association without express authorization of the Board of Directors of the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association.
7. Refrain from using any distinguishing emblems or titles of membership/certification in the event that such membership/certification is not renewed or is revoked.

**I AGREE TO THE ABOVE CODE OF ETHICS WITH NO RESERVATIONS IN MAKING THIS REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION.**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:**

- Check for \$35 enclosed (made payable to VNLA)     Visa     MasterCard

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_