

New training requirements for mixing, loading and applying paraquat.  
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According to the EPA's website, there have been 17 deaths (three involving children) and multiple injuries caused by the ingestion of or contact (skin, eyes) with paraquat dichloride (a.k.a. paraquat).

In order to reduce the potential for harm and/or fatalities, the use of paraquat (mixing, loading, applying or otherwise handling) will be restricted to certified applicators who successfully complete an additional EPA approved training program every three years. This is required according to the EPA's 'Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision' (<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855-0115>) and amended product labels.

The training can be accessed at the eXtension.org website (<https://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=1660>) and is available in both English and Spanish.

Some notes: Because paraquat is a restricted use pesticide, this training is restricted to certified pesticide applicators only; noncertified persons working under the supervision of a certified applicator are prohibited from using paraquat. This includes mixing, loading, applying the pesticide, and any other pesticide-related activities.

As a first-time eXtension user, you will need to set up an eXtension account before you can complete the training. Follow directions at the site; i.e. "Is this your first time...", "Create new account..."). A confirmation email will be sent to you after which you can access the module. You cannot take the training as a "guest".

You should expect to spend about 60 minutes on the course plus the test at the end. You must score 100% on the test. You can take the test as many times as needed to achieve the required score.

Your account can be accessed at any time to print the certificate following successful completion of the training module; print the certificate and keep it on file.

According to a Rutgers' website, some users have reported difficulty accessing the training program in Spanish when using Google Chrome; consider using a different browser if you encounter similar problems.

These training requirements only apply to newly labeled (2019 and beyond) products. They do not apply to paraquat products with labels prior to 2019.

For more details see, EPA's list of Frequently Asked Questions about the paraquat dichloride training. [https:// www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applica](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applica)