



Missouri Landscape & Nursery Association, P.O. Box 81, Bowling Green, Missouri 63334, (636) 542-1234

Explanation of the Missouri Certified Green Industry Star Program

Who is a Missouri Certified Green Industry Star?

A specialized green industry professional that has been tested on basic principles / knowledge of horticulture as well as excelled in a particular specialized area of the Green Industry.

What does the STARS Test Consist?

There are 5 Modules –

Star Module 1 – General Knowledge

Star Module 2 – Annual & Perennial Plants

Star Module 3 – Woody Ornamental Plants

Star Module 4 – Landscape Design & Construction

Star Module 5 – Business Management (This is administered by PLANET)

How much does it cost to test?

MLNA members or employee members: \$50.00 per module testing required, Non-members: \$100.00 per module. Payment is due upon enrollment in the STAR program with submission of application for certification, (payments are non-refundable).

How do you prepare to be a STAR?

Study guide information will be made available following certification application include website information, recommended reading and plant lists pertinent to the module selected. Due to the updating and the need to revise plant list each year, information will be primarily electronic. Applicants will be required to test from the most recent plant lists available at the time of the administration of the test. Only registered individuals that have applied and paid the module fee will be permitted to test and only for the module requested with the application. Test sites and dates will be set by the test administrator. Applicant will be responsible to check website information for possible times changes etc. Administrators will vary according to location general area.

How do you maintain your STAR status?

You are required to attend at least one MLNA hosted event within a calendar year and obtain a minimum of 10 Green Industry Professional STARS (GIP credits by attending educationally focused seminars, workshops and events. Events/ programs wishing to promote CEU opportunities will need to apply for GIP credit request. Other events may be considered but the MLNA requires the events be organized educational functions taught by qualified individuals. Pre-approval must be obtained by completing a form and submitting it with a non-fundable \$25.00 administration fee 30 days prior to the event. Preapproval applications are available on the MLNA website. Credits cannot be banked or accumulated beyond the year of the event. *All events not hosted by MLNA require submission of a pre-approval form.*

How soon will I become a STAR?

Certification will be offered at various times and places throughout the state. Not all modules will necessarily be testing at the same time but we are making every effort to make this possible. Since this program has required major undertaking to update and remodel, the first modules to be offered will be the General Knowledge and Woody Ornamentals. The next module availability will be based on application requests. Plans are for all modules to be offered by January 2010.

What if I have already completed MLNA's Plant Pro training?

For those who had certification with the previous program and wish to remain certified you will need to register to attend a horticulture ID refresher course which will review the new additions to all the plant lists. Completion of this requirement will permit you to be eligible for four of the five modules. The refresher course cost is \$100.00 (nonrefundable) and available only to previously certified professionals. Scheduling will be set by the STAR program administrator following registration.

What if I am already a PLANET CLP (Certified Landscape Professional) in good standing?

The Missouri Green Industry Business Star model is the nationally recognized PLANET's Professional Landcare Network's certified landscape professional program (CLP). All study material and testing for this module is administered through the national program. Proof of CLP Certification required before sitting for the general knowledge module. Those who are already PLANET CLP certified and wish to complete the business module to be a Missouri Certified GIP Business Management STAR need only to submit proof of PLANET CLP Certification to register for the General Knowledge module at the cost of \$50.00 (nonrefundable).

How will anyone know I am a STAR?

Successful candidates will be awarded a The Missouri Certified Green Industry Star certificate, identification card and the right to advertise the star status acquired through this certification on letterhead, business cards, clothing, etc. MLNA will also assist with promoting certified professionals as part of our mission and whenever professional and public opportunities arise.

Can my company be a STAR?

Green Industry STAR title may be promoted only in relation to individuals at this time. The Green Industry STAR Business Certification program and award recognition is still being developed along with MLNA's statewide Landscape Specification Guidelines, Best Management Practices, Mentoring programs and other partnering opportunities. We do promote MLNA members regularly with press releases and special announcements pertaining to our mission and sustainability platform. Many of our members have been identified by the MLNA as Green Leaders in their communities.

What will change when I become a STAR?

Becoming a MC GIP STAR lets the world know you're qualified to step to the top of your profession as a Certified Green Industry Professional STAR. Whether you are a landscape architect or designer, garden supplier, wholesaler, retailer, sales person, educator or writer, this MLNA sponsored program benefits your career by providing the means to improve your knowledge and skills. As a STAR, you'll shine in your profession and be recognized for your achievement. The gardening public and the industry needs the expertise that you will be well qualified to share. When you are a certified green industry professional, the difference shows in the vitality beauty and diversity of your client's property, in your ability to share regionally accurate and specific horticulture information with your clients and customers.