

Custom Applicator

Description

Custom applicators are responsible for the operation of spray equipment and the effective application of pesticides or fertilizer. They mix, load and apply pesticides and fertilizers to fields at approved applicable rates. Custom applicators also operate and maintain a variety of equipment and vehicles including sprayers, spreaders and trucks. They must maintain accurate application records and communicate with customers.

Education/Training Requirements

- Commercial Applicator certificate (required)
- Associate's degree (helpful)

Recommended High School Coursework

- Agriculture Education
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Mathematics

Common Responsibilities

- Operate and maintain all equipment and vehicles
- Mix, load and apply pesticides and fertilizers
- Apply pesticides and fertilizers at applicable rates to the appropriate fields
- Handle and deliver bulk and packaged chemicals
- Maintain application/spray records
- Manage customer service relations
- Organize and coordinate application timetable with customers
- Knowledgeable of seed, chemicals and fertilizer to make informed decisions
- Re-certify spraying technician license and safety training every two years

Typical Employers

Custom Applicators can be employed by seed companies, crop protection companies cooperative and large farms. There are also opportunities for self-employment.

Additional Resources

[American Society of Agronomy](#)

[Crop Science Society of America](#)

[National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants](#)

[Soil Science Society of America](#)

[Weed Science Society of America](#)