



# The Massachusetts Certified Arborists (MCA)

The Massachusetts Arborists Association (MAA) is proud to sponsor the Massachusetts Certified Arborists (MCA) program. This voluntary certification program gives certified individuals, as well as the companies that employ them, the opportunity to increase their knowledge and their ability to perform while enhancing the overall image of the tree care profession.

Professional certification is one of the most important steps an individual can take to demonstrate knowledge and commitment to his or her career. Certified individuals stand out as examples of excellence in the green industry.

The Massachusetts Certified Arborists (MCA) program advances the practice of professional arboriculture through the administration of an annual examination and recertification requirement. Today's tree care professional must demonstrate the knowledge to accurately assess the condition of woody plants, develop management strategies, and implement appropriate procedures.

## MCA Program

The purpose of the MCA program is to test the core competencies and knowledge of Massachusetts arborists; to raise the level of public awareness as to the importance of working with trained professionals; and to provide a means of continuing education for the certified professional. The designation of Massachusetts Certified Arborist has become *the* symbol of professionalism in arboriculture within the state and across the region.

## Certification Candidate Information

The MCA examination is designed to assess the fundamental knowledge and core competencies that all tree care professionals should possess, regardless of their area of practice. The knowledge required to pass the exam is significant. Certification candidates should begin preparing for the exam well in advance. Applications are due two weeks prior to the scheduled examination date.

The written MCA examination is based on information found in this Study Guide as well as practical field experience. It tests on a variety of subjects, including:

- Tree Biology
- Soils / Soil Management
- Tree & Shrub ID
- Safety & Laws
- Pruning
- Cabling & Bracing
- Tree Planting
- Tree Risk Management
- Insects & Diseases
- Tree Decay
- Plant Health Care / IPM
- Construction Damage

The examination consists of two parts. A passing score of 70% must be achieved on both parts to earn the MCA designation. Part I uses visual prompts and candidates are asked to identify approximately 25 trees with both the scientific and common name, as well as a variety of insects and diseases. Part II consists of approximately 130 questions that can take the form of multiple choice or true/false. It typically takes about three (3) hours to complete the MCA examination.

Any individual who does not successfully complete the MCA examination has the opportunity to take the re-examination at a reduced rate within twelve months of their original examination date.

MCA candidates must provide an original *Study Guide* CD Identification Number in order to take the MCA examination.

The *Study Guide* is designed to help certification candidates review the topics covered in the examination. Certification candidates should be aware that the *Study Guide* does not necessarily represent the full range of examination content. MCA *Study Guide* updates are posted at [www.MassArbor.org](http://www.MassArbor.org) on a regular basis.

The MAA does not and cannot guarantee improved performance on the certification examination as a result of using the *Study Guide*.

## Exam Fees & Registration

	MAA Member	Non-Member
<i>Study Guide</i> CD-ROM	\$95.00	\$195.00
Original Exam (requires original <i>Study Guide</i> CD ID Number)	\$75.00	\$150.00
Re-Examination (required within 12 months of original exam date)	\$50.00	\$100.00
Annual Renewal (5 CEU credits required per year)	included in dues	\$ 50.00

MCA exam application and applicable testing fees are due to the MAA two weeks prior to the scheduled examination date.

## Recertification/CEU

MCA certification is valid for one calendar year. During that time, MCAs must accumulate five (5) continuing education credits and non-members pay an annual administration fee. There are a variety of opportunities to obtain CEU credit, many of which parallel other industry certification and licensing programs. Association involvement, industry seminars, community service, and participation in New England Grows are a few of the ways MCAs may obtain their annual CEU credit. Complete recertification information will be sent upon successful completion of the MCA examination.



Learn more about the benefits of MAA membership:

- Educational Dinner Meetings
- Safety Saves Seminars
- Member Publications
- Member Discounts
- and more...

**Massachusetts Arborists Association**  
Where the best in the tree care industry come together  
[www.MassArbor.org](http://www.MassArbor.org)

# Order Form

## The Massachusetts Certified Arborist Study Guide CD – Version 2.0

Every MCA Study Guide CD is assigned a specific identification number. All MCA candidates must provide an original MCA Study Guide CD identification number in order to take the MCA examination.

\_\_\_\_\_ Study Guide CD(s) @ \$95.00  
MAA member fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Study Guide CD(s) @ \$195.00  
non-member fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- Check made payable to MAA enclosed  
 MasterCard     VISA

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SEC. CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM BELOW \_\_\_\_\_

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**Massachusetts Arborists Association**  
8-D Pleasant Street South • Natick, MA 01760  
(508) 653-3320 • FAX: (508) 653-4112  
www.MassArbor.org • info@MassArbor.org



## An essential resource & comprehensive guide for Massachusetts tree care professionals

- Prepare for greater job responsibility
- Strengthen competency & knowledge
- Demonstrate commitment to the tree care profession
- Earn professional credentials
- Reflect a greater level of expertise
- Gain professional recognition
- Receive marketing support
- Build confidence

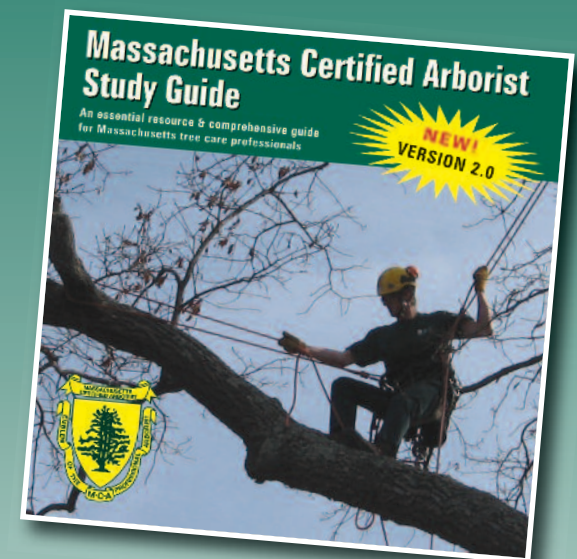
### MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Adobe Reader 10.1 is recommended

Windows:	Macintosh:
Intel Core Solo 2 Duo 1.86 GHz or equivalent	Intel Core i5 3.60 GHz Mac OS 10.6 (Snow Leopard)
Microsoft Windows XP Professional SP3 (free via MSDNAA)	4 GB RAM
1 GB RAM	100 GB internal hard drive
100 GB internal hard drive	

Brought to you, in part, with ongoing support from  
New England Grows, Inc.



# Massachusetts Certified Arborist Study Guide



### FEATURES:

- Enhanced tutorials
- Improved tree identification
- Updated information
- Easy navigation

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