



**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AND
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

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**OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A LICENSED MAINTENANCE GARDENER AND APPLY
PESTICIDES SAFELY**

Modesto, CA –Inspectors with the Stanislaus County Department of Agriculture are currently looking for people that apply pesticides in the county, without proper licensing. The effort will focus on individuals who perform pest control using pesticides in urban and residential landscape settings.

State law requires all businesses that apply pesticides, even those who apply weed killers incidental to their primary landscape gardening tasks, be licensed by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Licensing requirements include having properly qualified and trained applicators familiar with safe pesticide application practices, and possessing liability insurance.

“We are seeing more and more maintenance gardeners applying pesticides without a license,” said Agricultural Commissioner Gary Caseri. “Our goal in looking for them is to bring them into compliance, thus protecting the public’s health and safety by insuring pesticides are used safely and legally.”

Through increased field surveillance, inspections, and community outreach, the Department is seeking to not only inform unlicensed applicators that what they’re doing is illegal, but also to reach those who hire them.

“Homeowners who hire a maintenance gardener to perform pest control, such as weed spraying, should ask to see the company’s pest control business license or call our office and verify if a company is licensed,” said Gary Caseri.

Anyone seeking licensing information or maintenance gardeners interested in becoming licensed are encouraged to contact the County Agricultural Commissioner’s Offices. Licensing information is also available online at www.cdpr.ca.gov.

Inspectors will continue to monitor businesses to ensure compliance with pesticide laws and regulations in areas such as worker safety, general standards of care, and environmental safety. The County Department of Agriculture is responsible for enforcing state pesticides laws and regulations. Violators may be subject to fines of up to \$5,000 per violation.