

## PGTRUST REPORT

My name is Adam Smart im 38 and live in the North West of England. I started gardening with a friend in the Bolton area. I Also do some labouring work for a local lawn care company over the winter time mainly aeration and scarification, but as I didn't have a pesticide spraying license I couldn't be used by them the rest of the year and as my own gardening customers were asking me to do weed spraying on the their properties I had to decline them until I got my certificates that's when I looked on the internet to see if any grants would be available to me and that's when I stumbled upon the PG trust. I got in contact with Helen who guided me through the entire process which was very easy to do. I applied for a PA1 PA6 SAFE USE AND HANDLING OF PESTICIDES course which would cost £430.00 at Millhouse training in Skemersdale. I was granted the full amount of £430.00 and attended the course on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of July with my examination on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July.

On the first day we met our tutor he was very friendly and had a good teaching manner not minding if you chipped in at any time to ask questions. He emphasised the impact that using pesticides incorrectly could have on the environment and that we should always follow the good code of practice and keep up to date with the current legislations. On the first day we were taught about the laws, legislation, good practices and how to read the product labels correctly which mainly dealt with the pa1 aspect of the course. We also did some mock examinations to test us. He also asked us to do some revision that night to get the points into our heads.

Day 2 was the pa6 aspect looking at calibration of the our knapsack, using the correct ppe and cleaning techniques, and safe disposal of packaging and contaminated materials, then outside to look at the area we are working in doing a risk assessment and having a go at using a knapsack and doing our calibrations.

The course definitely opened my eyes as to reading the labels correctly and that its not just a case of put some water in a sprayer and a glug of weed killer. It showed how we need to be responsible for the environment for others and ourselves and to do this as safely as we can by following all the guidelines and legislations we are given and to check up on the website regularly to see if there have been any changes made to the product we are using.

As I am now qualified PA1 PA6 it will definatley make me follow the things I have learned on this course and to put it in to practice the things that we were taught to do to make sure things are done safely and legally.



Me taking my pa1 computer test

calibration time PA6 assessment

