



The Florida Chapter of
the International Society
of Arboriculture
presents:

Virtual Certified Arborist Preparation Course

Tuesdays and Thursdays
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Beginning September 8, 2026



Course Fees:

\$298 – Member with study guide

\$368 – Non-Member with study guide

\$199 – Member without study guide

\$228 – Non-Member without study guide

You will have the option to purchase your ISA Certified Arborist Study Guide during online registration!

Join ISA and the Florida Chapter to save money on your prep course, study guide and exam!

Virtual Instructions

Make sure you have access to your computer for the entire length of each class. Log-in with the email address that you utilized during registration. Plan on being at your computer 15 minutes prior to the start of each class. The instructor will be unable to admit you if you arrive late.

Weekly Agenda & Class Topics

September 8 and 10 – Week 1: Introduction and Fundamentals – Andrew Koeser

Reading: Study Guide Chapter 1

- Introduction to the course, resources, and exam format.
- Overview of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and its mission.
- Tree Biology Basics: Cells, tissues, growth, and development.
- Tree Structure: Roots, stems, leaves, and their functions.

September 15 and 17 – Week 2: Tree Identification and Selection – John Roberts

Reading: Study Guide Chapters 2 & 6

- Importance of tree identification.
- Tree taxonomy and nomenclature.
- Commonly found species and their characteristics.
- Tree selection for urban and landscape settings.

September 22 and 24 – Week 3: Tree, Soil and Water Management – John Roberts/Roz Remsen

Reading: Study Guide Chapters 3, 4 & 5

- Introduction to soils and their importance to trees.
- Soil texture, structure, and pH.
- Basics of tree nutrition and soil fertility.
- Water requirements, drainage, and irrigation techniques.

September 29 – Week 4a: Tree Installation and Establishment – Richard Hauer

Reading: Study Guide Chapter 7

- Proper planting procedures.
- Transplanting considerations and techniques.
- Post-planting care: Watering, staking, mulching, and more.
- Importance of the first few years post-planting.

October 1 – Week 4b: Tree Pruning and Maintenance Kristoffer Rasmussen

Reading: Study Guide Chapter 8

- Principles of tree pruning: When, why, and how.
- Different types of pruning cuts and their implications.
- Equipment and safety.
- Common tree maintenance practices.

October 6 and 8 – Week 5: Tree Support and Lightning Protection – Jordan Upcavage

Reading: Study Guide Chapter 9

- Need for tree support: Cables, braces, and other systems.
- Proper installation of support mechanisms.
- Basics of lightning and its effects on trees.
- Lightning protection systems for trees.

October 13 and 15 – Week 6: Tree Health: Pests and Diseases – Ronnie Simpson

Reading: Study Guide Chapters 10 & 11

- Common pests and their management.
- Tree diseases: Identification, prevention, and control.
- The role of integrated pest management (IPM) in tree health.
- Biosecurity and preventing the spread of pests/diseases.

October 20 – Week 7a: Tree Risk Assessment Ryan Klein

Reading: Study Guide Chapter 12

- Fundamentals of tree risk assessment.
- Identifying hazardous trees.
- Techniques for assessing risk.
- Risk mitigation strategies.

October 22 – Week 7b: Trees and Construction – Ryan Klein

Reading: Study Guide Chapters 13

- Impact of construction on trees.
- Preserving trees during construction projects.
- Mitigation measures and tree protection zones.
- Post-construction care for affected trees.

October 27 and 29 – Week 8: Safety and Climbing Techniques – Tim Walters

Reading: Study Guide Chapters 15 & 16

- Safety protocols and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Basics of climbing: Ropes, knots, harnesses, and techniques.
- Working aloft safely.
- Aerial rescue scenarios and techniques.

November 3 – Week 9a: Urban Forestry and Tree Management – Todd Little

Reading: Study Guide Chapter 14

- The role of trees in urban environments.
- Benefits of urban trees: Environmental, social, and economic.
- Tree inventories and urban forest management.
- Community engagement and urban tree policies.

November 5 – Week 9b: Review – Andrew Koeser

- Recap of major topics covered.
- Open Q&A session.
- Exam process and test taking tips.

Please read the ISA Certified Arborist Instruction Handbook prior to registering to ensure you meet the requirements to sit for the exam.