



Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

[MDARD - Licensing \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov)

Nursery Stock Licensing FAQ

Revised February 9, 2026

Q1: Who needs a nursery license?

A1: Any person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation engaged in the business of growing, selling, or re-selling winter-hardy perennial plants must be licensed in Michigan. Winter-hardy perennial plants include trees, shrubs, perennials, fruit trees, berry plants, rose bushes, vines, herbs, rhubarb and asparagus crowns, strawberries, bulbs and other plants capable of surviving the winter, without special care, when planted outdoors in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 6 (see planthardiness.ars.usda.gov)

Q2: Who does not need a nursery license?

A2: Those who sell only annual flowers, cut flowers, non-hardy vegetable plants, cut Christmas trees or greens, cut herbs, and Chrysanthemums not advertised as hardy do not need a license to sell within Michigan.

Q3: What types of nursery licenses are there?

A3: There are four types of nursery licenses: Grower, Small-Scale Grower, Dealer, and Registered Dealer. The grower licenses apply to those who grow and sell winter-hardy plants. The dealer licenses apply to those who buy and resell winter-hardy plants. For detailed differences see the "Explanation of Nursery License Types" document at www.michigan.gov/mdardnursery.

Q4: How do I apply for a new license?

A4: You can now apply online here: <https://www2.mda.state.mi.us/LPS/login> with instructions located here: [LPS Help Page](#). Or complete the application form for grower or dealer at www.michigan.gov/mdardnursery.

Q5: What if I sell nursery stock at more than one location?

A5: Separate nursery licenses are required for each location or vehicle from which nursery stock is sold. To determine what license is needed for each location see the “Explanation of Nursery License Types” at www.michigan.gov/mdardnursery.

Q6: How do I renew an existing license?

A6: MDARD will mail or email you a license renewal form in late September or early October. Complete the form and return it with payment. You can also now renew online here: <https://www2.mda.state.mi.us/LPS/login> with instructions located here: [LPS Help Page](#)

Q7: How can I change my license type?

A7: If you need to change your license type, please contact Lisa Leibrand at 517-284-5656, LeibrandL@Michigan.gov.

Q8: When do nursery licenses expire?

A8: Licenses issued before September 1st expire on October 31st of the same year. Licenses issued on September 1st or later expire on October 31st of the following year.

Q9: What fees are required to obtain a license?

A9: Nursery Grower and Nursery Dealer licenses are \$100 per year, Small-scale Nursery Grower licenses are \$40 per year, and Registered Nursery Dealer licenses are \$35 per year.

Q10: What can I do to avoid having my new or renewal license application delayed?

A10: Sign the application and enclose the proper amount for payment. Licenses cannot be issued for unsigned applications or partial payment. Applications may take as long as 90 days to be processed.

Q11: What should I do if there are changes in company ownership, name or address?

A11: Contact Lisa Leibrand at 517-284-5656, LeibrandL@Michigan.gov.

Q12: What other fees are related to nursery licenses?

A12: Nursery growers are subject to annual inspection and fee. Nursery dealers are subject to inspection up to every other year charged an hourly rate. Mileage and other fees may apply. More information and current fee amounts can be found in the “Explanation of Inspection Fees” document found at www.michigan.gov/mdardnursery.

Q13: How do I schedule an inspection?

A13: Growers can arrange for an inspection by contacting their inspector directly (see the “Map of Inspection Districts” document found at www.michigan.gov/mdardnursery or by contacting the MDARD Plant Health Specialist, Bryan Webster at 517-719-1693 or by e-mail at

WebsterB3@Michigan.gov. Dealers do not have to arrange for an inspection; MDARD will contact them directly when they are due for an inspection. Registered Dealers will be periodically audited.

Q14: What are the recordkeeping requirements for nurseries?

A14: All nursery growers and dealers that purchase nursery stock must keep copies of shipping documents, including invoices and certificates of inspection, for a period of 36 months from the date of receipt. Growers and dealers that sell to wholesale customers are required to keep records of those sales for 36 months.

Q15: What is the legal basis for the licensing and inspection of nurseries in Michigan?

A15: The Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act, Public Act 189 of 1931, is the primary statute that regulates the sale and movement of nursery stock in Michigan.

Q16: What are the prohibited and restricted weeds within Michigan Law?

A16: There are several different weeds and plants that have been prohibited or restricted within Michigan. Visit [this link](#) to see the list. To see the list of Michigan invasive species, visit the [Michigan Invasive Species Website](#).