



Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Nursery Stock Licensing FAQ

Revised 8 January 2021

Q1: Who needs a nursery license?

A1: Any person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation engaged in the business of growing, selling, or re-shipping 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, vegetable plants, cut Christmas trees or greens, cut herbs, and *Chrysanthemum* not advertised as hardy do not need a license to sell within Michigan.

Q3: What types of nursery license 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 to 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: Complete the application form for grower or dealer at www.michigan.gov/mdardnursery or contact Lisa Leibrand at 517-284-5656. You can now apply online here: <https://www2.mda.state.mi.us/LPS/login> with instructions located here: [LPS Help Page](#)

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?

Q6: MDARD will mail 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: The license type may be changed through the license renewal form that is sent to all licensees in late September or early October. To request a change in license type through a renewal notice, please mark the box “Request a change in license type to ____” and write in the name of the new license type on the line provided. If you need to change your license type outside the renewal period, please contact Lisa Leibrand at 517-284-5656.

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 next 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 license application or renewal delayed?

A10: Sign the application or renewal and enclose the proper amount for payment. Licenses cannot be issued for unsigned applications or partial payment. Applications and renewals 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.

Q12: What other fees are related to nursery licenses?

A12: Nursery growers are subject to annual inspection charged at a rate of \$57 for the first acre and \$34 for each additional acre. Nursery dealers are subject to inspection up to every other year charged at a rate of \$63 per hour. Mileage and other fees may apply. More information 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 Nursery and Seed Program Specialist, Andria McCubbin-Green, at 517-599-5748 or by e-mail at MccubbingreenA@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; this requirement does not apply to retail sales.

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 sales and movement of nursery stock in Michigan.