

Wisconsin Nursery License

Growing, Buying & Selling Plants



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

Division Of Agricultural Resource Management

2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53708

Phone 608 - 224 - 4500 Website: <http://datcp.state.wi.us/>

The History of Nursery Licensing

In 1899, the Wisconsin state legislature created the office of State Orchard and Nursery Inspector. This position was created to monitor for San Jose scale, a major orchard and nursery pest introduced from China to California in 1870.

As early as 1911, the legislature required that all nursery growers and dealers obtain certification to sell nursery stock. All plants had to be inspected and found free of injurious pests and diseases. The certification charge to growers was \$5 for less than one acre, \$10 for more than one acre, and \$5 for dealers. That would be nearly \$100 and \$200 in current dollars!

Why does Wisconsin license?

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), is entrusted by the legislature to license nursery growers, dealers and Christmas tree growers. DATCP licenses primarily to manage and monitor pests and diseases, and to ensure that healthy nursery stock is being sold. Having a listing of all growers and dealers and their sources allows for efficient tracking and interception of harmful pests or diseases. Other states and countries also require certification of nursery stock as being free of injurious pests and diseases.

Who needs a Nursery License?

Anyone selling more than \$250 in nursery stock or Christmas trees annually needs to be licensed.

Nursery stock as defined by state statute (ch. 94.10 Wis. Stats.) means plants and plant parts that can be propagated and grown, excluding seeds, sod, cranberry cuttings, annuals, and evergreen trees grown for eventual harvest and sale as Christmas trees. Christmas trees growers are licensed separately under this statute.

What are the benefits of being licensed?

It is a goal of the Nursery Program to be grower-friendly. In addition to surveying for regulated pests, we hope to be a resource for any pest or disease issues you may encounter. After your nursery is licensed, you will receive regular inspections of your nursery stock. This inspection will take place every one to three years. During the inspection, the inspector will look for regulated pests and diseases and provide a report of general pests, diseases, and cultural conditions found during the inspection. Inspectors can provide additional information on management of pests and cultural problems, when requested.

For growers desiring to send stock out of Wisconsin, we can assist with complying with the regulatory requirements of the receiving state/country. Call us before planning to ship (a year before, if possible) to ensure that all the regulatory issues are attended to.

What does the license fee pay for?

Your annual license fee pays for inspectors and management of the nursery program. These fees, when collected, go into a special fund set aside for these purposes.

How do I get licensed?

To obtain a license application, call the nursery program at (608) 224-4572, or download a copy of the license application at: <http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/plants/nursery-stock/>



Types of Licenses

Grower

A nursery grower is a person who grows any plants (including perennials) which are capable of over-wintering in Wisconsin. Growers of annual plants do not need a license. This license is an “umbrella” license that covers the activities of growers, dealers and Christmas tree growers. A person holding a grower’s license does not need an additional license to resell stock or grow Christmas trees.

Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS



Dealer

A nursery dealer is a person who buys and resells any plants (including perennials) which are capable of over-wintering in Wisconsin. This may include garden centers, landscape contractors, perennial installers, tree spaders, or brokers.



Christmas Tree Grower

A Christmas tree grower is a person who grows evergreen trees for eventual harvest and sale as Christmas trees.



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

How much does a license cost?

License fees are based on gross annual sales for growers and on gross annual purchases of perennial/nursery stock for dealers. If your sales/purchases are less than \$250, a license is not required, but can be obtained by paying the minimum fee.

Table 1

Nursery Growers use all 3 tables.

(Add the fees from each of the tables.)

Gross Annual Sales of Nursery Stock You Grew	Your Gross Annual Sales (check one)	Your Nursery License Fee
\$251 to \$5,000		\$40
\$5,001 to \$20,000		\$75
\$20,001 to \$100,000		\$125
\$100,001 to \$200,000		\$200
\$200,001 to \$500,000		\$350
\$500,001 to \$2,000,000		\$600
>\$2,000,001		\$1,200

Table 2.

Nursery Dealers use this table

Gross Annual Purchases of Nursery Stock You Bought for Resale	Your Gross Annual Purchases (check one)	Your Nursery License Fee
\$251 to \$5,000		\$30
\$5,001 to \$20,000		\$50
\$20,001 to \$100,000		\$100
\$100,001 to \$200,000		\$150
\$200,001 to \$500,000		\$200
\$500,001 to \$2,000,000		\$300
>\$2,000,001		\$400

Table 3.

Christmas Tree Growers use this table.

Gross Annual Sales of Christmas Trees You Grew	Your Gross Annual Sales (check one)	Your Christmas Tree License Fee
\$251 to \$5,000		\$20
\$5,001 to \$20,000		\$55
\$20,001 to \$100,000		\$90
\$100,001 to \$200,000		\$150
\$200,001 to \$500,000		\$250
\$500,001 to \$2,000,000		\$450
>\$2,000,001		\$900

Certification of plant material

Nurseries wishing to send stock out of state or out of the country may need to send along certification that the stock is free of certain pests or diseases (plant health certificates or phytosanitary certificates). Information about these certificates can be obtained by calling DATCP at (608) 224-4596, or email agriculture@datcp.state.wi.us.

Certification of nursery workers

The Wisconsin Landscape Contractor Association offers certification for Landscape Technicians. The Associated Landscape Contractors of America offers certification for Landscape Professionals aimed at owners and managers. The Wisconsin Nursery Association also offers certification for nursery growers. Please contact these organizations for more information.

Other licenses or certification a nursery may need:

Seed: if you package any of your own seed. For more information call DATCP (608) 224-4596

Pesticide Dealer: if you sell restricted use pesticides. For more information call DATCP at (608) 224-4548.

Pesticide Applicator: if you apply or your operators apply restricted use pesticides. For more information call DATCP at (608) 224-4548.

Resources:

Nursery License Information:

Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) - Nursery (608) 224-4572
<http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/plants/nursery-stock/>

Christmas Trees (608) 224-4576
http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/crops/specialty-products/xmastree_grwr.html

Tax information:

Department of Revenue (608) 266-2772 -
<http://www.dor.state.wi.us>

Horticulture Information:

University of Wisconsin Extension (608) 262-3980 -
<http://www.uwex.edu>

Master Gardeners (608) 265-4504 -
<http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>

Pesticide Applicator Training and Certification:

University of Wisconsin (608) 262-7588 -
<http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pat/>

DATCP (608) 224-4548
http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/pest-fert/pesticides/licenses/comm_app_cert.html

University/Technical Horticulture Schools:

UW-Madison - <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/>

UW-Platteville -
http://www.uwplatt.edu/academics/factsheets/hort_minor.html

UW-River Falls -
<http://www.uwrf.edu/pes/horticulture/welcome.html>

Milwaukee Area Tech. College -
<http://www.matc.edu/utility/clas/prog/hort/index.htm>

Gateway Tech. College (Racine)
http://www.gateway.tec.wi.us/Academics/Programs/Service_Careers/Horticulture/horticulture.html

Grower Associations:

Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin (CFGW) -
(262) 363-3007 - dickdsh@elknet.net

Wisconsin Nursery Association (WNA) - (920) 478-2121 -
Bernie Fourrier, President

Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association -
(800) 933-9522 - <http://www.findlandscaper.org/>

American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) -
(202) 789-2900 - <http://www.anla.org/>

Wisconsin Landscape Federation (WLF) -
(414) 529-4705 - <http://www.wislf.org/>

Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association
(WCTPA) - (608) 635-7734 -
<http://www.christmastrees-wi.org/>

