
Are there penalties for license/permit violations?

Yes, persons who violate the license/permit requirements are subject to a civil penalty up to \$1,000. Violations may also result in a license or permit being denied, suspended or revoked.

For additional information on obtaining a nursery license, a master business license or for the location of the licensing office nearest you, call or write to the Department of Licensing at:

**Washington State Department of
Licensing
Business License Services
405 Black Lake Boulevard
P.O. Box 9034
Olympia, WA 98507-9034
360-664-1400
www.dol.wa.gov**

For additional information on nursery licensing laws and rules, interstate shipment of plant materials, laws and regulations governing plant health or to obtain a nursery permit, call or write the Washington State Department of Agriculture at:

**WSDA - Plant Services Program
P. O. Box 42560
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
Email: scampbell@agr.wa.gov**

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Inquiries regarding availability of this publication in alternative format should be directed to the WSDA Public Information Office at 360-902-1813 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at 360-902-1996.



LICENSING
REQUIREMENTS
for the sale of
PLANT MATERIALS
in
WASHINGTON STATE

**Chapter 15.13 RCW
Horticultural Plants & Facilities -
Inspection & Licensing**



**Washington State
Department of Agriculture
Plant Protection Division
P.O. Box 42560
Olympia, WA 98504-42560**

Who must obtain a nursery license/permit?

Any person who handles or sells horticultural plants is considered a “nursery dealer” and is required by law to have a license for **each place of business where horticultural plants are sold**. This includes wholesalers, retailers, growers, shippers and landscapers who sell or install plants as a part of their business, regardless of the dollar volume.

Garden clubs, charitable non-profit associations, educational organizations and conservation districts, under certain conditions, are exempted from the licensing requirements (RCW 15.13.270), but they are required to have a plant sale permit.

Persons who sell only cut plant material and persons making casual or isolated sales that **do not exceed \$100 annually** are exempted from licensing and permit requirements.

Why do I need a nursery license/plant sale permit?

License fees, along with charges for certain types of inspections, help support the Washington State Nursery Inspection Program.

Inspections help protect the nursery industry, as well as the consumer, by ensuring horticultural plants offered for

sale are free from infestation by pests and diseases, are properly labeled and are not otherwise damaged or dying.

Plant Services Inspectors also enforce agricultural quarantines to keep out such exotic pests as Japanese beetle and Asian gypsy moth, as well as provide inspection services to allow shipment of Washington nursery products to other states and countries.

In 1992, the nursery industry requested a 20% surcharge be added to nursery licensing fees to be used solely, with advice from the WSDA Nursery Advisory Committee, for research projects of general interest to the nursery industry.

Where do I get a plant sale permit?

Educational or non-profit groups may receive a plant sale permit by contacting the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). **The fee is \$6.70 per permit.**

Where do I get a nursery license?

The Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) is responsible for issuing nursery licenses in conjunction with their Master Business License Program. There are over 40 locations where nursery license applications can be obtained. To find the location nearest you or obtain an application and license by mail, call DOL at 360-664-1400 or apply online at:

www.dol.wa.gov

How is the nursery license fee determined?

Nursery license fees are based on gross sales in horticultural plants and whether a person is a retail or wholesale nursery dealer. Persons who conduct both retail and wholesale business are required to obtain a license for the class of sales with the highest gross business. For the current fee, refer to the chart listed below:

CLASS	ANNUAL GROSS SALES	COST
Retailer	\$100 - \$2,500	\$46.48*
	\$2,501 - \$15,000	\$99.59*
	Over \$15,000	\$199.20*
Wholesale r	\$15,000 or under	\$99.59*
	Over \$15,000	\$199.20*

* per location

Where do I display the nursery license?

A separate nursery license must be posted in a conspicuous place at **each** location where horticultural plants are sold to the public.

When do I need to renew my nursery license?

Nursery licenses must be renewed annually. A late fee is charged for renewal license applications filed after the expiration date on the master business license.