

## What do nursery license and acreage fees support?

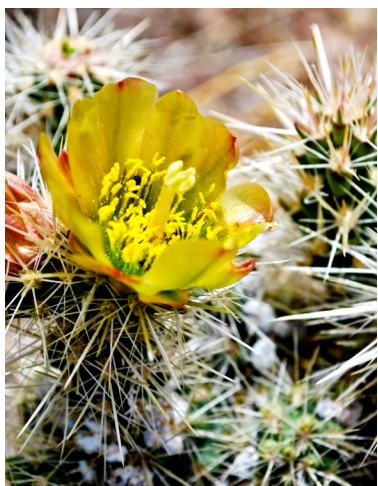
Nursery regulatory activities conducted by the county agricultural commissioners and their staffs are an integral part of the State's agriculture pest prevention system. Nursery stock is the highest risk pathway for the movement of pests worldwide. Maintaining a system of clean, healthy nursery stock is essential to the protection of California's agriculture and environment.

## Nursery Directory

CDFA maintains a real time directory of licensed nurseries in the State of California.

You may access the nursery directory by visiting our website:

<http://plant.cdfa.ca.gov/nurserylicense/nlmenu.asp>



Photos by PK Cathy

## How to apply for a nursery stock license?

There are two ways to obtain an application for a nursery stock license:

1. Download the application from [www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/nursery](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/nursery)
2. Obtain an application from your local agricultural commissioner's office

A check or money order for your nursery license is due at the time you submit your application.

**Please make check payable to: CDFA 90054**

Mail check and application to the address below.

Nursery license holders can renew their license online during the month of their expiration date by visiting the following website:

<https://secure.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/nl/>



California Department of Food & Agriculture  
Plant Health Pest Prevention Services  
**Nursery Services Program**  
1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-654-0435  
Email: [nurseryservices@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:nurseryservices@cdfa.ca.gov)  
[www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/nursery](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/nursery)

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# Licensing Requirements for Sale of Plant Materials in California



## Why do you need a nursery license?

A License to Sell Nursery Stock is required for any person who sells plants for propagation or ornamentation in California. The sale of nursery stock without a valid license is a violation of California Food and Agricultural Code § 6721.

A license to sell nursery stock shall be obtained from the Secretary of Food and Agriculture before any sales are made.

The license is issued to the person operating the business where nursery stock is sold.

## What type of businesses need a nursery stock license?

Here are a few examples of businesses that are required to be licensed:

- Cut Flowers/Cut Ornamentals nursery
- A landscaper or contractor who buys and resells plants to customers
- Jobber/Broker/Commission Merchant
- Production nursery who grows and sells nursery stock
- A retailer/incidental retailers store that sells plant



If you are unsure if your business needs a nursery license, please contact the Nursery Services Program at (916) 654-0435.

## Nursery Stock License Fees

**Annual License Fee for each sales location: \$150.00**

**Acreage Fee (equals the sum of all locations; sales and growing grounds)**

Required for land in excess of one acre used in the production, sale or storage of nursery stock.

0.0 — 1.0 acre	\$0
1.01— 5.0 acres	\$100
5.01— 20.0 acres	\$250
20.01— 50.0 acres	\$400
50.01— 200.0 acres	\$600
200.01— 500.0 acres	\$800
500.01 acres or higher	\$900

\* An acreage fee is not owed if greater than 75% of a nursery’s gross income comes from sales of cut flowers and/or cut ornamentals.

## Fees Exempt License

A person is exempt from a nursery stock license if all of the following requirements are met: (Food and Agricultural Code § 6721).

- Total plant sales amount to less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) annually.
- The person has reported to the Commissioner their intention to make those sales.
- All plants which are sold are of his/her own production.
- Plant are sold within the county in which they were grown .

The fee exempt license to sell nursery is issued by the county. Please contact your local agricultural commissioner’s office for more information.

## Processing new license applications

Please note that the entire process may take between 4-8 weeks.

After processing the application and payment, the local agricultural commissioner is notified.

The county will contact the nursery for inspection and to deliver a temporary license.

Feel free to contact Nursery Services if you have questions or would like an update on the status of an application or payment.

## Change of Ownership, Acreage, Address, or Out of Business

Changes to your business information require written notification to Nursery Services.

Notification can be sent to the program via mail or email. Failure to notify CDFA of an address change may lead to missed correspondence and delayed renewal.

## Penalties

Licenses not renewed within 10 days after expiration date are forfeited and no longer valid.

Restoration of a forfeited license requires written application to the Nursery Services Program, as well as payment of a restoration fee of \$150 per sales location.

Any person who sells nursery stock without a valid license may be subject to penalty action, up to and including civil action brought by the Attorney General.