



Things You Should Know Before You Start Selling Plants in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Agricultural Resource Management • Bureau of Plant Industry
<https://datcp.wi.gov> • datcpnursery@wi.gov • 608.516.7617

1. Contact the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) - Plant Industry Bureau to purchase your [Nursery Grower/Nursery Dealer/Christmas Tree Grower License](#). This is an annual license required for anyone selling more than \$250 in perennial plants that can survive a Wisconsin winter outdoors.
2. If you plan to [ship your stock out of a quarantine](#), state, or country, you may need a [Compliance Agreement](#), Plant Health Certificate, or Phytosanitary Certificate from DATCP.
3. Do you need a pesticide applicator's license? See DATCP [Bureau of Agrichemical Management](#).
4. Is the property zoned for business use/agricultural use? Can you sell/grow nursery stock on this piece of property? (check your county zoning ordinances)
5. Check with your local county zoning office as permits are needed for building, conditional use/special exemption, sanitary, or signage. If needed, is there wildlife damage help?
6. Check with your local Department of Natural Resources for [storm water permits](#). Water regulations may apply next to running streams. A well contractor would need a well permit to drill a new well.
7. DNR regulates invasive species. Review the [list of invasive plants](#) that cannot be sold in Wisconsin. (www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives)
8. Check with the [Department of Transportation](#) if any signage is within highway right-of-ways.
9. Contact the Wisconsin Department of Revenue to obtain a [Sales Tax Permit](#).
10. Check with the [Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions](#) to see if your business name is available or has already been chosen.
11. Do you sell seed from open bulk containers or sell seed that you have produced or packaged? You may need a [Seed Labelers License](#) from DATCP.
12. Contact your local resources with questions you may have. [UW-Extension](#), UW researchers in Entomology, Pathology and Horticulture Studies, Professional Industry Grower Associations; [Wisconsin Nursery and Landscape Association](#), [Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin](#), Wisconsin Landscape Federation, [Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association](#), [Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association](#) and [American Nursery and Landscape Association/AmericanHort](#) are all valuable resources.

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2811 Agriculture Drive • PO Box 8911 • Madison, WI 53708-8911 • Wisconsin.gov
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