

# Selling Nursery Stock in North Carolina Regulatory Requirements



*Plant Industry Division-Plant Protection Section  
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services*



**The purpose of this information sheet is to assist in determining whether a nursery or nursery dealer license might be needed for your operation.**

## **Nursery or nursery dealer license?**

A license issued by the NCDA&CS is required by any person selling nursery stock in North Carolina. A *nursery license* is required for any person growing and selling nursery stock whereas a *nursery dealer license* is required for any person obtaining and re-selling nursery stock. These licenses certify that plant material has been inspected for and is apparently free from potentially harmful quarantine pests and must be renewed yearly. The *nursery and nursery dealer license* fee structures as well as further information can be found at the following website: <http://www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry/plant/nursery/lictbl.htm>.

## **What is nursery stock?**

Nursery stock is defined as “All wild or cultivated plants or parts thereof, trees, shrubs, vines, bulbous plants and roots, grafts, scions and buds”. Excluded in North Carolina’s definition are “annual plants; cut flowers; tree, field, vegetable, flower or other true seeds; decorative plants or plant parts without roots not intended for propagation; and perennial plants intended for indoor use that are produced in North Carolina.”

## **Why are nursery or nursery dealer licenses required?**

The purpose for the *nursery and nursery dealer* licenses is to assist with preventing the movement of potentially harmful pests (such as insects, diseases or weeds) from one area to another. This helps protect all agricultural and horticultural industries in North Carolina.

## **How do I obtain a nursery or nursery dealer license?**

An NCDA&CS Plant Pest Specialist must inspect plant material at the nursery for potentially harmful pests prior to the issuance of a *nursery* license. After the inspection, the appropriate fees must be paid. To register for a *nursery dealer* license, the individual must also complete an application providing details on the sources of plant material and submit to the NCDA&CS, along with appropriate fees. Each of these licenses serves as documentation that the *nursery or nursery dealer* has been inspected and is “apparently free from injurious plant pests”.

To schedule an inspection, or if you have any questions, please contact Tammy Morgan ([Tammy.Morgan@ncagr.gov](mailto:Tammy.Morgan@ncagr.gov)) at (919) 707-3751, Michelle McGinnis ([Michelle.McGinnis@ncagr.gov](mailto:Michelle.McGinnis@ncagr.gov)) at (919) 707-3742, or the Plant Pest Specialist in your county. The Plant Pests Specialist for each county can be found at the following website: <http://www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry/Plant/nursery/fwatxt.htm>.