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You can't run a fish farm without a license.

You can't hold a raffle without a license.

And you can't operate a nursery business or  
Christmas tree farm without a license.

Licensing businesses is good for consumers,  
good for your industry,  
good for Wisconsin and  
good for you.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

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**Wisconsin law** (Wis. Stats. 94.10) requires a nursery license if you sell more than \$250 a year in perennial plants, shrubs or trees. This law has been on the books for nearly a century. A newer part of the law also requires licenses for Christmas tree growers selling more than \$250 a year in cut trees.

If you do not get the proper licenses and continue to operate as a nursery, you could face civil or criminal charges with severe penalties. Financial penalties range from \$200 to \$5,000 per offense. We may issue holding orders that stop you from selling your stock. You could even face imprisonment in severe cases.

Why do we take the licensing requirement so seriously? Because licensing is the only way to know where plants are being propagated and sold, so we can monitor for pests and diseases that could have enormous economic impact in Wisconsin:

- **More than 16,000 people in the state depend on the nursery industry for their jobs.**
- **Our trading partners in other states and nations demand healthy plants and pest-free plant material.**
- **Consumers deserve to buy healthy plants.**

Licensing helps you, too. Most licensees see our inspectors as advisors and consultants. Not every pest or disease comes under regulation, but every one can hurt your bottom line. Our inspectors can help you prevent and manage pests and diseases and keep your business healthy.

Licensing is easy and a bargain compared to the legal penalties of operating unlicensed or dealing with uncontrolled pests and diseases that you could have prevented with help from our inspectors.

**Learn more at [datcp.wi.gov](http://datcp.wi.gov), keyword: nursery license, or call 608-224-4572**

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