

Operational Guidance for Minnesota Garden Centers/Nurseries During COVID-19 Pandemic

This document provides COVID-19 operational recommendations for Minnesota Garden Centers/Nurseries to implement in order to conduct business under Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-04 that closed restaurants, bars and other businesses where people gather. Minnesota Garden Centers/Nurseries are exempt from this order as long as they do not offer onsite food consumption (including food sampling).

Garden Centers/Nurseries will:

- Implement COVID-19 sick leave policies and follow CDC guidance and other best practices for employee health and safety.
- Implement social distancing for employees.
- Implement preventive cleanliness measures for employees and the equipment and vehicles they use.
- Limit the number of customers in Garden Center/Nursery at one time so that social distance of 6-feet between customer groups may be maintained.
- Work to minimize amount of time customers spend near one another while shopping in Garden Center/Nursery.
- Consider encouraging customers to minimize the number of family members participating in a shopping trip, if possible, so that social distance may be maintained.
- Direct and monitor people and traffic and, where feasible, implement one-way traffic in and one-way traffic out to reduce congestion in-store and in parking areas.
- Work to provide space for social distancing for customers, i.e. provide more space between shelving, tables, and check-out lanes to allow for customers to be 6-feet apart.
- Follow CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting and implement sanitation practices, including for equipment such as carts, check out areas, and display stands.
- Work to reduce in-person payment transactions.
- Encourage online pre-orders and offer drive through or curbside pick-up areas for pre-order purchases.
- Consider different days or locations for customers to pick up pre-ordered products and will limit assistance to customers when loading large stock.
- Consider offering delivery service.
- Not offer any food or beverages on-site – either for sale or for free to the public.