



COVID-19 and Guidance for Nurseries and Retail Garden Centers April 17, 2020

This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19. This guidance will be updated as needed as additional information is available from the CDC, the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

GUIDANCE AND BEST PRACTICES FOR NURSERIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19, the following best practices at wholesale nurseries are recommended:

- Minimize people at the nursery to essential personnel only which includes necessary employees to operate the nursery, regulatory employees, and buyers (e.g., no additional visitors or social gatherings)
- Have consignors remain in their trucks as much as possible, unload plants promptly, and leave premises as soon as possible
- Use nursery staff to assist in unloading/loading plants
- Clean and sanitize restrooms and other high-contact areas at least twice a day
- Follow CDC guidelines for COVID-19 when doing business at the nurseries:
 - Avoid shaking hands
 - Stay six feet (three paces) away from non-family members (physical distancing) at all times
 - Avoid touching your face
 - Cover a cough with your elbow and sneeze into a tissue
 - Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or If soap and water aren't available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Have supplies readily accessible for people to follow CDC guidelines including hand sanitizer or hand wash station, napkins/paper towels, garbage cans, etc.
- Encourage people to stay away from the nursery if they:
 - Are sick or showing symptoms related to COVID-19 such as:
 - Fever
 - Dry cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
 - Are in a high-risk category including:
 - Over age 65
 - Have underlying health conditions

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GUIDANCE AND BEST PRACTICES FOR NURSERIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In order to minimize the spread of COVID–19, the following best practices at retail nurseries are recommended:

- Ensure that physical distancing of six feet for non-family members is maintained and make clear that family members can participate in activities together, stand in line together, etc.
- Limiting the number of customers at any given time as necessary to reduce outdoor/indoor crowding and lines to meet physical distancing guidance.
- Increase cleaning and sanitizing frequency of restrooms and other high-contact areas.
- Train employees on best hygiene practices including washing their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Offer additional hand washing or sanitizing stations throughout the venue.
- Eliminate non-essential/non-related services, such as gardening classes or tours.
- Eliminate events/marketing that target individuals that the Georgia Department of Public Health and CDC have identified as higher risk of serious illness for COVID-19.
- Increase frequency of cleaning of tables, payment devices, and other surfaces.
- Stores that have online ordering with outside pick-up or delivery options should encourage use of these when possible in lieu of indoor shopping.
- Employees who appear to have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) upon arrival at work or who become sick during their shift should immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors and sent home.

FOR ADDITIONAL AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

- Georgia Department of Agriculture Guidance: <http://agr.georgia.gov/COVID-19.aspx>
- Georgia Department of Public Health Guidance: <https://dph.georgia.gov/>
- CDC Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>