

MINNESOTA
SUMMARY OF PLANT PROTECTION REGULATIONS
Updated March 2019

Plant Protection Division
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-201-6020
Fax: 651-201-6108

Mark Abrahamson:.....Division Director
Telephone:.....651-201-6505
Email:.....mark.abrahamson@state.mn.us

Angie Ambourn:.....Pest Detection and Export Certification Unit Supervisor
Telephone:.....651-201-6073
Email:.....angie.ambourn@state.mn.us

Eric Byre.....Potato Inspection Program Supervisor
Telephone:.....218-773-4956
Email:.....eric.byre@state.mn.us

Anthony Cortilet:.....Noxious Weed and Industrial Hemp Unit Supervisor
Telephone:.....612-201-6538
Email:.....anthony.cortilet@state.mn.us

Nicholas Milanowski:.....Fruit, Vegetable & Grain Section Manager
Telephone:.....612-201-6076
Email:.....nicholas.milanowski@state.mn.us

Denise Thiede:.....Seed, Weed, Hemp and Biotechnology Section Manager
Telephone:.....651-201-6531
Email:.....denise.thiede@state.mn.us

Kimberly Thielen Cremers:.....Pest Pest Regulatory and Mitigation Section Manager
Telephone:.....651-201-6329
Email:.....kimberly.tcremers@state.mn.us

The information, as provided, is for informational purposes only and should not be interpreted as complete, nor should it be considered legally binding. Coordination with both the originating state and the destination state plant regulatory agency listed above may be necessary to stay current on revised requirements.

Plant Pest Regulatory and Mitigation Section

Kimberly Thielen Cremers, Manager

Nursery Inspection Program

The mission of this program is to prevent the introduction into and dissemination and spread within Minnesota of serious plant pests. This is accomplished through the annual inspection of all nursery stock-growing acreage and certification audits of nursery stock dealers, paying particular attention to stock originating from states with federally and/or state regulated plant pests. Nursery staff participates in various plant pest surveys and cooperate with the USDA in plant pest enforcement actions.

Steven Shimek, Nursery Inspection Program Coordinator

Phone: 651-201-6619 or 612-600-6558

Email: steven.shimek@state.mn.us

Nursery Stock Definition: "Nursery stock" means a plant intended for planting or propagation, including, but not limited to, trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, biennials, grafts, cuttings, and buds that may be sold for propagation, whether cultivated or wild, and all viable parts of these plants. Nursery stock does not include: field and forage crops or sod; seeds; vegetable plants, bulbs, or tubers; cut flowers, unless stems or other portions are intended for propagation; annuals; or Christmas trees.

General Shipping Requirements: Any person from another state shipping nursery stock into Minnesota shall be accorded treatment similar to that which is required of Minnesota nursery operators, dealers, or agents who ship or sell nursery stock. The Commissioner may accept, in lieu of individual certificates/licenses, a certified list of current certified nursery operators or dealers from the regulatory agency having jurisdiction in the state or origin. Each shipment must be accompanied by documentation as to shipper (or origin if different from the shipper) along with proof of compliance with applicable state and/or federal plant pest quarantines.

Plants, plant materials, or nursery stock must not be labeled or advertised with false or misleading information including, but not limited to, scientific name, variety, place of origin, hardiness zone as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, and growth habit. The MDA has established a list of plant cold hardiness zones with which plant labels must be consistent. This list of plants and hardiness ratings is available at:

www.mda.state.mn.us/licensing/licensetypes/nurseryprogram/hardinesslist.aspx

Pre-Notification of Shipments to Minnesota: Notification of nursery stock shipment to Minnesota can be sent via E-mail to steven.shimek@state.mn.us or faxed to 651-215- 9687. Mailing address: Steven Shimek, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection Division, 625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Quarantines

Exterior quarantine: mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopkins)

- Pests: mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopkins)
- Area regulated: Any area where mountain pine beetle is established including: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and any other area of the U.S. as determined by MDA to have established mountain pine beetle populations. Refer to the MDA website

listed below for a current list of regulated areas.

- **Materials regulated:** Any living stage of the mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopkins); pine wood with bark and any article, product or means of conveyance when it is determined by the State Plant Regulatory Official to present the risk of spread of the mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopkins) Exceptions are: Pine wood without bark (100% debarked), Pine mulch or chips, Pine Christmas trees, and Pine nursery stock
- **Restrictions:** The sale and/or movement of all regulated articles originating in areas other than those listed above but transiting through those areas into Minnesota are prohibited pursuant to Minnesota Statute 18G.06, subd. 4 (2010).
- <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/insects/mpb/mpbquarantine.aspx>

Exterior quarantine: thousand cankers disease of walnut (*Juglans* spp.)

- **Pests:** Walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*) and *Geosmithia morbida*
- **Area regulated:** States in which or near where thousand cankers disease (TCD) occurs, and any other areas of the United States as determined by the State Plant Regulatory Official to have TCD. Refer to the MDA website listed below for a current list of quarantined areas.
- **Materials regulated:** Living and non-living articles of walnut (*Juglans* spp.) trees are regulated: logs, lumber, wood chips, mulch, packaging materials, and live trees. All hardwood firewood is regulated. Exceptions: Nuts, nutmeat, and hulls; processed lumber = 100% bark free and kiln dried, with squared edges; finished wood products without bark, including walnut furniture, musical instruments and gun stocks.
- **Restrictions:** No person shall move or cause to be moved a regulated article which originates in, or has transited through, a regulated area into or through the state of Minnesota unless:
 - The person first enters in a compliance agreement with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and;
 - The regulated article is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from the originating state verifying that the material complies with the conditions of the associated Minnesota Department of Agriculture compliance agreement.
 - The sale and/or movement of all regulated articles originating in areas other than those listed above must provide proof of harvest location of the wood by state.
- <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/tcd-quarantine>

Interior quarantine: emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire)

- **Pest:** Emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire
- **Areas regulated:** All currently under federal program regulation for this pest. Refer to the MDA website listed below for a current list of quarantined areas within Minnesota.
- **Materials regulated:** The emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, in any stage of development, entire ash trees, Ash limbs and branches, Ash stumps and roots, Ash logs, Ash lumber, Ash chips and ash bark chips, firewood of any non- coniferous (hardwood) species and any article, product, or means of conveyance which the Commissioner determines to present a risk of spread of EAB.
- **Restrictions:** Regulated items must be in compliance with federal quarantine regulations for counties/states containing a regulated site. Within the state, an interior quarantine has been placed on several counties.
- <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/emerald-ash-borer-quarantine>

Interior quarantine: gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar* Linneaus)

- Pest: gypsy moth, *Lamantria dispar* Linneaus
- Areas regulated: All currently under federal program regulation for this pest. Refer to the MDA website listed below for a current list of quarantined areas within Minnesota.
- Materials regulated: the gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar* L., in any stage of development (egg, larva, pupa, adult), trees without roots (e.g., Christmas trees), trees with roots, and shrubs with roots and persistent woody stems, unless they are greenhouse grown throughout the year, logs, pulpwood, and bark and bark products, mobile homes and associated equipment or any other products, articles, or means of conveyance, of any character whatsoever, when it is determined by an inspector that any life stage of gypsy moth is in proximity to such articles and the articles present a high risk of artificial spread of gypsy moth infestation and the person in possession thereof has been so notified.
- Restrictions: Regulated articles and outdoor household articles from generally infested areas shall not be moved intrastate or interstate from any regulated area into or through any area that is not generally infested unless a certificate or permit has been issued and attached to such regulated article. Requirements under all other applicable State and Federal domestic plant quarantines must also be met.
- <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/gmunit/gmregulations.aspx>

Exterior quarantine: importation or transportation of Irish or common potatoes

- Pests: All injurious bacteria, insects and nematodes associated with Irish or common potatoes.
- Areas regulated: All states, districts and territories of the United States
- Materials regulated: Irish or common potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) and other materials capable of carrying plant pests.
- Restrictions: The regulated products may not be moved into all of Lake of the Woods County, the townships of Laona and Oaks in Roseau County, and the township of Williams in Koochiching County, Minnesota from the regulated area.

Exterior quarantine: potato container regulations

- Pests: All injurious bacteria, insects and nematodes associated with used containers.
- Areas Regulated: All states except Minnesota and North Dakota.
- Materials regulated: Bags, boxes and other containers which have been used for potatoes.
- Restrictions: The regulated products may not be moved into the State of Minnesota from the regulated area unless cleaned and disinfected in an authorized and approved manner so as to kill all bacteria, insects and nematodes.

Gypsy Moth Program

Since 1973, Minnesota has conducted annual surveys for early detection of gypsy moth. In 2004, MN became a member of the Slow the Spread (STS) Foundation. Annual survey program staff place approximately 20,000 detection traps annually, and since 1980, the MDA has successfully treated over 905,000 acres eliminating more than 123 gypsy moth infestations. Moth numbers have increased sharply in northeastern counties prompting quarantines to be implemented in 2014 for Lake and Cook Counties. Populations are relatively low along the MN eastern edge and virtually non-existent elsewhere in the state. The natural rate of spread has been reduced to approximately six miles per year in the state from 15 on a national average. Through these efforts, the Gypsy Moth Program protects forest health, local property values and the state's vital tourism industry.

www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsymoth

Firewood Heat Treatment Certification

MDA offers a fee-based heat treatment certification program for firewood producers/dealers that operate a kiln that has passed a rigorous inspection and testing process and has successfully demonstrated the ability to heat their firewood to a minimum core temperature of 140 F° for 60 minutes.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/firewood/firewooddealers.aspx>

Tree Care Registry

MDA shall maintain a list of all persons, businesses, and companies that employ persons who provide tree care or tree trimming services in Minnesota. All commercial tree care providers, tree trimmers, and employers that direct employees to remove trees, limbs, branches, brush, or shrubs for hire must be registered annually with the Commissioner of Agriculture. Annual registration fee is \$25 for initial application or renewing the registration. Applications and questions may be emailed to mda.tcr@state.mn.us

Pest Detection and Export Certification Unit

Angie Ambourn, Supervisor

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives>

The Pest Detection Program works to prevent and mitigate problems caused by invasive insects and pathogens by:

- Identifying threats to Minnesota's agricultural and natural systems as well as export markets
- Working to intercept new threats early in the invasion process
- Certifying production areas as free from pests of export concern
- Tracking the distribution and abundance of non-regulated invasive insects and pathogens present in Minnesota
- Limiting impacts within infested areas and slowing natural spread through biological control and facilitation of local management

The Export Certification Program facilitates and expedites the movement of Minnesota's agricultural products into and through the international marketplace. This is accomplished by staff trained by the USDA as Authorized Certification Officials responsible for interpreting the foreign import regulations governing the entry of raw or processed plant products. The program staff conducts field inspections, examines the actual shipment or official samples, certifies the product and issues the appropriate export document. The Apiary Program provides inspection services for apiary industry needing certification to ship bees to other states.

- Jean Ciborowski, State Survey Coordinator
Phone: 651-201-6217
jeanne.ciborowski@state.mn.us
- Blaine White, State Apiary Coordinator
Phone: 651-201-6578
blaine.white@state.mn.us
- Stephanie Visker, Export Certification Program Coordinator
Phone: 651-201-6558
Fax 651-215-9687
mda.exports@state.mn.us

Seed, Weed, Hemp and Biotechnology Section

Denise Thiede, Manager

Seed Regulatory Program

The seed regulatory program inspects seed marketing facilities, samples seed, reviews advertisements, and takes appropriate enforcement action in order to provide effective and uniform administration of the Minnesota Seed Law and Rules. This results in protection for consumers within the state, and a fair and competitive marketplace for seed labelers.

Prohibited Noxious Weed Seeds

None allowed in seeds intended for planting:

- *Amaranthus palmeri* Palmer amaranth
- *Cannabis sativa* hemp
- *Carduus acanthoides* plumeless thistle
- *Carduus nutans* musk thistle
- *Centaurea repens* Russian knapweed
- *Cirsium vulgare* bull thistle
- *Cirsium arvense* Canada thistle
- *Convolvulus arvensis* field bindweed
- *Euphorbia esula* leafy spurge
- *Lepidium draba* perennial peppergrass
- *Sonchus arvensis* perennial sowthistle

Restricted Noxious Weed Seeds

Maximum allowed is 25 per pound when found in seed intended for planting:

- *Agropyron repens* quack grass
- *Berteroa incana* hoary alyssum
- *Brassica arvensis* wild mustard
- *Cuscuta spp* dodder
- *Plantago lanceolata* buckhorn plantain
- *Raphanus raphanistrum* wild radish
- *Setaria faberi* giant foxtail
- *Solanum carolinense* horse nettle
- *Solanum ptycanthum* Eastern black nightshade
- *Thlaspi arvense* Frenchweed

Noxious Weed and Industrial Hemp Unit

Anthony Cortilet, Supervisor

Noxious and Invasive Weed Program

The Noxious and Invasive Weed Program works with local governments and landowners to protect the environment, public health, public roads, crops, livestock, or other property in Minnesota from the injurious impacts of noxious and invasive weeds. The Noxious Weed Advisory Committee represents a wide range of agencies and organizations. This committee advises the Commissioner of Agriculture about plant species regulation, weed management and implementation of Minnesota's Noxious Weed Law. Enforcement of the Noxious Weed Law is a shared responsibility with local governments.

- Monika Chandler, Early Detection, Biocontrol, Data Management
Phone: 651-201-6537
Monika.Chandler@state.mn.us
- Emilie Justen, Weed Law Coordinator
Phone: 651-201-6360
Emilie.Justen@state.mn.us
- Shane Blair, Palmer Amaranth Eradication Coordinator
Phone: 507-884-2116
Shane.Blair@state.mn.us
- Christina Basch, Eradication Specialist
Phone: 507-649-1949
Christina.Basch@state.mn.us
- Mari Hardel, Eradication Specialist
Phone: 218-328-4397
Mari.Hardel@state.mn.us

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/noxious-and-invasive-weed-program>

2019 Minnesota Noxious Weed List

Prohibited Noxious Weeds must be controlled or eradicated by all landowners in the state. These species cannot be sold, intentionally propagated or illegally transported.

Eradicate List: Prohibited noxious weeds that are listed to be eradicated are plants that are not currently known to be present in Minnesota or are not widely established. These species must be eradicated, meaning all of the above and below ground parts of the plant must be destroyed, as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.78. Additionally, transportation, propagation, or sale of these is prohibited except as allowed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.82. Measures must also be taken to prevent and exclude these species from being introduced into Minnesota. Eradicate species are listed along with the year they were added to the eradicate list.

1.	Palmer Amaranth - 2014	<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i> S.Watson
2.	Oriental Bittersweet - 2010	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> Thunb.
3.	Diffuse Knapweed - 2014	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i> Lam.
4.	Brown Knapweed - 2012	<i>Centaurea jacea</i> L.
5.	Yellow Starthistle* - 2010	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> L.
6.	Meadow Knapweed - 2012	<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i> C.E. Britton
7.	Poison Hemlock - 2017	<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.
8.	Black Swallow-wort - 2012	<i>Cynanchum louiseae</i> Kartesz & Gandhi

9.	Grecian Foxglove - 2010	<i>Digitalis lanata</i> Ehrh.
10.	Common Teasel - 2011	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> L.
11.	Cutleaf Teasel - 2011	<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i> L.
12.	Giant Hogweed* - 2011	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> Sommier & Levier
13.	Japanese Hops - 2011	<i>Humulus japonicus</i> Siebold & Zucc.
14.	Dalmatian Toadflax - 2011	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i> (L.) Mill.

*Species not known to be in Minnesota, but have been determined to be a threat to invade the state.

Control List: Prohibited noxious weeds listed to be controlled are plants established throughout Minnesota or regions of the state. Species on this list must be controlled, meaning efforts must be made to prevent the spread, maturation and dispersal of any propagating parts, thereby reducing established populations and preventing reproduction and spread as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.78. Additionally, propagation, sale, or transportation of these plants is prohibited except as allowed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.82. Control species are listed along with the year they were added to the control list.

1.	Common Barberry - 2016	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> L.
2.	Narrowleaf Bittercress - 2011	<i>Cardamine impatiens</i> L.
3.	Plumeless Thistle - 1975	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i> L.
4.	Spotted Knapweed - 2001	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> L. ssp. <i>micranthos</i> (Gugler) Hayek
5.	Canada Thistle - 1872	<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.) Scop.
6.	Leafy Spurge - 1992	<i>Euphorbia esula</i> L.
7.	Purple Loosestrife - 1992	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> L., <i>L. virgatum</i> L.
8.	Wild Parsnip - 2010	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> L. (Except for non-wild cultivated varieties)
9.	Common Tansy - 2010	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> L.

Restricted List: Restricted noxious weeds are plants that are widely distributed in Minnesota and are detrimental to human or animal health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock or other property, but whose only feasible means of control is to prevent their spread by prohibiting the importation, sale, and transportation of their propagating parts in the state except as allowed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.82. Plants designated as Restricted Noxious Weeds may be reclassified if effective means of control are developed. Restricted weeds are listed along with the year they were added to the restricted list.

1.	Tree of Heaven - 2016	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (Mill.) Swingle
2.	Garlic Mustard - 2013	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (M. Bieb) Cavara & Grande
3.	Porcelain Berry - 2016	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> (Maxim.) Trautv.
4.	Crown Vetch - 2016	<i>Securigera varia</i> (L.) – Formerly known as <i>Coronilla varia</i> L.
5.	Wild Carrot/Queen Anne’s Lace - 2016	<i>Dacus carota</i> L.
6.	Glossy Buckthorn (and all cultivars) - 1999	<i>Frangula alnus</i> Mill.
7.	Amur Honeysuckle – 2016	<i>Lonicera maackii</i> (Rupr.) Herder
8.	Morrow’s Honeysuckle - 2016	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> A. Gray
9.	Bell’s Honeysuckle - 2016	<i>Lonicera x bella</i> Zabel
10.	Common Reed (non-native) - 2013	<i>Phragmites australis</i> (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud. ssp. <i>australis</i>
11.	Common or European Buckthorn - 1999	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> L.
12.	Black Locust - 2016	<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i> L.

13. Multiflora Rose - 2011	<i>Rosa multiflora</i> Thunb.
14. Tatarian Honeysuckle - 2016	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> L.
15. Japanese Barberry Cultivars** - 2017	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> DC.

**Japanese barberry cultivars regulated as restricted noxious weeds in Minnesota:

• ‘Angel Wings’ • ‘Antares’ • var. *atropurpurea* • ‘Bailtwo’ (*Burgundy Carousel*®) • ‘Monomb’ (*Cherry Bomb*™) • ‘Crimson Velvet’ • ‘Erecta’ • ‘Gold Ring’ • ‘Bailsel’ (*Golden Carousel*®; *B. koreana* × *B. thunbergii* hybrid) • ‘Inermis’ • ‘Bailgreen’ (*Jade Carousel*®) • ‘JN Redleaf’ (*Ruby Jewel*™) • ‘JN Variegated’ (*Stardust*™) • ‘Kelleris’ • ‘Kobold’ • ‘Anderson’ (*Lustre Green*™) • ‘Marshall Upright’ • ‘Painter’s Palette’ • ‘Pow Wow’ • ‘Red Rocket’ • ‘Rose Glow’ • ‘Bailone’ (*Ruby Carousel*®) • ‘Silver Mile’ • ‘Sparkle’ • ‘Tara’ (*Emerald Carousel*®; *B. koreana* × *B. thunbergii* hybrid) • *Wild Type* (parent species – green barberry)

Specially regulated plants are plants that may be native species or have demonstrated economic value, but also have the potential to cause harm in non-controlled environments. Plants designated as specially regulated have been determined to pose ecological, economical, or human or animal health concerns. Plant specific management plans and or rules that define the use and management requirements for these plants will be developed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for each plant designated as specially regulated. Measures must also be taken to minimize the potential for harm caused by these plants.

1. Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans* L. Kuntze and *T. rydbergii* (Small ex Rhdb.) Greene) – 2010. Must be eradicated or controlled for public safety along rights-of-ways, trails, public accesses, business properties open to the public or on parts of lands where public access for business or commerce is granted. Must also be eradicated or controlled along property borders when requested by adjoining landowners.
2. Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum* Seib. & Zucc.) - 2013
3. Giant Knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense* F. Schmidt ex Maxim.) – 2013. Any person, corporation, business or other retail entity distributing Japanese and/or giant knotweeds for sale within the state, must have information directly affixed to the plant or container packaging that it is being sold with, indicating that it is inadvisable to plant this species within 100 feet of a water body or its designated flood plain as defined by Minnesota Statute 103F.111, Subdivision 4.
4. Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala* Maxim.) – 2016. Sellers shall affix a label that advises buyers to only plant Amur maple and its cultivars in landscapes where the seedlings will be controlled by mowing or other means. Amur maple should be planted at least 100 yards from natural areas.

County Noxious Weeds are plants that are designated by individual county boards to be prohibited within the county’s jurisdiction and must be approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. Each county board must submit newly proposed County Noxious Weeds to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for review. Approved County Noxious Weeds shall also be posted with the county’s general weed notice prior to May 15th each year. Counties are solely responsible for developing County Noxious Weed lists and their enforcement.

Industrial Hemp

In 2015, the Minnesota Industrial Hemp Development Act (IHDA), Minnesota Statutes 18K, became law. This allowed MDA to create an industrial hemp research pilot program in order to study the growth, cultivation, and marketing of industrial hemp. This law directed the

commissioner of agriculture to make program rules, determine a fee structure, and perform testing and other regulatory activities.

- Industrial hemp is defined as *Cannabis sativa* L. that contains no more than 0.3% delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).
- Pilot participants are required to provide reports to MDA regarding seed varieties planted, agronomic findings, and any processing, distribution and sales of products.
- MDA maintains a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Schedule 1 Narcotic Research Registration for all hemp seed imported into the United States for the Pilot Program.
- Minnesota industrial hemp producers are exploring a variety of opportunities and markets including grain, fiber, and cannabidiol (CBD).

Most recently, the 2018 Farm Bill (signed into law on Dec. 20th, 2018) made several amendments to federal law and gave the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversight for industrial hemp production in the country. States and Tribes may submit plans to the USDA for approval to maintain primary enforcement responsibilities over industrial hemp production in their jurisdictions. However, states are still waiting for guidance from the USDA regarding these new changes. Until federal guidance is given, Minnesota will continue to operate an expanded pilot program.

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/hemp>

Margaret Wiatrowski, Industrial Hemp Coordinator

Phone: 651-201-6123

Email: margaret.wiatrowski@state.mn.us

Fruit, Vegetable & Grain Section

Nicholas Milanowski, Manager

Food Safety Audit Program

Licensed by the USDA to provide Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices audits for any growers, shippers, receivers, wholesalers, retailers, and re-packers in Minnesota. These audits consist of asking questions, reviewing documentation, and onsite viewing of warehouse, storage, packing, and transportation facilities. The audits verify that the practices and procedures of growers or sellers meet USDA Food Safety Standards and reduce or eliminate food safety hazards.

Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program

The Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program operates under a cooperative agreement between the State of Minnesota and the USDA. The program inspects fruits, vegetables, raw nuts, and ornamental crops, based on USDA-established U.S. standards for commodities; and certifies the various grades for each commodity. Inspections are performed for any financially interested party including growers, packers, shippers, brokers, transporters, and receivers. Providing unbiased third party inspections ensures that the proper quality of produce is being delivered, and receiver and grower contracts are being met. This results in protection for both grower and receiver, and lower costs to the public. This Program's staff is federally licensed by the USDA and have the authority to inspect all commodities from around the world.

Inspection Requests: 651-201-6067

Grain Licensing Program

The Grain Licensing Program licenses grain buyers, grain warehouses, and general merchandise warehouses to protect sellers and depositors of grain and those who deposit goods in general merchandise warehouses. These three different license types have different requirements to obtain each license.

License to Buy Grain: Required by anyone to buy grain. A license is required for each buying location; additionally must obtain a bond ranging from \$10,000 to \$150,000 dollars, based on the dollar amount of annual grain purchases.

License to Store Grain: Required by persons operating grain warehouses (elevators) to store grain for the public. All licensed grain storage elevators must also obtain a grain buyers license. Grain storage elevators must provide a storage bond which provides reimbursement to depositors experiencing damage or other grain loss. This bond which ranges from \$20,000 to \$500,000 is based on average annual liability for stored grain.

General Merchandise Storage License: Issued to persons not storing grain but who operates a warehouse to store other property such as household goods, for the public. A \$10,000 general warehouse bond for each warehouse operated is required (companies that do not store household goods may substitute \$50,000 of warehouse liability insurance instead of a bond).

Licensing Requests and Information: 651-201-6011

Wholesale Produce Dealers Licensing Program

The Wholesale Produce Dealers Program licenses the buyers of fresh fruits & vegetables, milk, poultry, and eggs. This provides protection to the sellers (farmers as well as wholesalers) by requiring a surety bond. Other provisions of the law include the trust and contract language requirements.

Christine Mader, State Program Administrator

Phone: 651-201-6620

Email: christine.mader@state.mn.us

Potato Inspection Program

Eric Byre, Program Supervisor

Phone: 218-773-4956

Potato Shipping Point Inspections

Shipping Point Inspection enables the industry to ship seed potatoes as “certified” and provides grades for fresh, processing and seed potatoes. The program provides voluntary and mandatory shipping point inspection to the industry, which certifies the shipments as within grade. This is the last control measure to prevent diseased potatoes from being shipped and the first look by government at our food supply.

Seed Potato Certification

The main objectives of the seed potato certification are to ensure that there are available to the public: dependable sources of quality, disease-tested seed potatoes of recognized cultivars, and to encourage better methods of production. Planting certified seed potatoes is required in most of the U.S. and in any importing country. Crop insurance also requires the planting of certified seed potatoes as they meet the minimum disease standards. Planting certified seed potatoes in Minnesota prevents the spread of plant diseases and pests.

Minimum Standards for Planting: Seed potatoes may not be planted in the state in lots of ten or more acres unless the seed meets minimum disease standards.

Restricted Seed Potato Growing Area: Qualifying potatoes, grown in the counties that are designated as restricted seed potato growing areas, must be certified as seed potatoes.

Seed Potato Certification: Potatoes for certification shall be inspected while growing in the field and again after harvest at the time of shipment. Certification shall be based upon visual inspection by the Commissioner of sample plants and tubers from each field and lot, or, for varieties that do not express visible symptoms of a specific pathogen, seed potatoes must be subjected to laboratory tests to determine the level of the pathogen in a seed lot. This testing may occur during the growing season, storage season, or winter testing. Certificates shall be issued to show the varietal purity, relative freedom from disease, and physical defects of the potatoes at the time of inspection.

Animal Damage Compensation Program

Livestock or crop losses resulting from wolf or elk may be compensated through a fund provided by the state of Minnesota. Verification of the damage and loss assessment by appropriate officials is required. Individual claims are limited to \$1,800 annually for fence damage from elk and up to \$20,000 annually for crop damage from elk or livestock loss to wolves. Up to \$330,000 is currently available on an annual basis to fund the program.

Blane White, Animal Damage Compensation Program Coordinator

Phone: 651-201-6578

Email: blane.white@state.mn.us