

Specific guidance for retail nurseries and garden centers

To minimize the spread of COVID-19 at retail nurseries and garden centers the following best practices are recommended⁵:

- ~~• Limit the number of individuals who can enter areas to comply with the 20% occupancy limit established April 6, 2020.⁴ Occupancy limits technically apply to indoor areas only, but it is good practice to maintain similar density restrictions in outdoor areas to enable social distancing.~~
- (Georgia) Limit the number of individuals who can enter areas to comply with social distancing rules and maintain 6 feet of space between one another. It is good practice to maintain similar density restrictions in both indoor and outdoor areas to enable social distancing.
- When possible, stores that have online ordering with outside pick-up or delivery options should encourage use of these *instead of* in-store shopping.
- Ensure social distancing of non-family members is maintained. Family members can participate in activities together (e.g., picking out plants, standing in line, etc.), but should maintain a minimum of six feet or three paces from all other non-family individuals while shopping and standing in line.
- Sanitize high-traffic surfaces and areas frequently during the day, including restrooms.
- Increase frequency of cleaning payment devices, pens, tables, and other surfaces
- Offer handwashing (water, soap, napkins/paper towels, and trash cans) or hand-sanitizing stations throughout the site.
- Train employees on hygiene practices – including frequent, 20 second handwashing with soap and water.
- Eliminate non-essential services (e.g., gardening classes, tours, etc.).
- Eliminate targeted advertising or marketing materials to individuals considered at higher risk of serious illness with COVID-19 by the CDC.⁷
- If an employee appears ill or has symptoms (e.g., shortness of breath, fever, dry cough) upon arrival at work or if symptoms develop during the workday, the employee should immediately be separated from other employees and customers and sent home.

Specific guidance for landscapers

To minimize the spread of COVID-19 and ensure worker safety, the following best safety practices are recommended⁸:

- Before going to a client's site for service - contact and gain permission for service from each client. Get and retain documentation (e.g., email or other time/date stamped electronic communication) of permission to continue to service.
- Communicate daily with all staff reinforcing Standard Operating Procedures, best safety practices, and contingency plans.⁸
- Develop a flexible attendance policy, allow any employee who is uncomfortable working to stay home, permitting them to use paid time off or apply for unemployment (assuring job will be there when pandemic is over).
- Reduce crew size to minimize number of employees who should go into isolation if one person in their crew were to become infected.

- Limit crews to one person per truck or vehicle. All crew personnel should drive individually to the job site.
- Each crew should have one designated vehicle that carries tools and equipment for use by that crew, do not rotate vehicle assignments among crews.
- Minimize sharing of equipment or tools, if sharing is required ensure it is sanitized prior to use by another individual.
- Train crew personnel to maintain social distancing (six feet or three pace distance) from non-family members.
- Develop answers for common client questions so crew members can professionally respond to client questions.
- Be prepared to stop work at any moment if a customer is concerned about safety or health.
- Enforce daily cleaning and sanitation protocols for all common spaces including trucks, equipment, and restrooms. Particularly focus on frequently touched items including tools, handles, steering wheels, etc.
- Minimize opportunities for alternate crews to interact (e.g., common areas, maintenance shop) by staggering crew start times.

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