



Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association

1813 Lexington Ave N • Roseville, MN 55113
651-633-4987 • Fax 651-633-4986 • www.MNLA.biz

March 25, 2020

Honorable Governor Tim Walz
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan
Commissioner Tom Peterson
130 State Capitol
75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

This letter follows MNLA's March 21, 2020 letter to furnish additional information on several of the sectors of the Minnesota Green Industry and the essential services they provide as Minnesota works to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The greater Green Industry is comprised of many segments, each with unique skills, services, and products that may prove to be critical to the public. Much of the work performed by Green Industry professionals constitute essential services, as outlined in the list below.

- Growers, Nurseries, and Garden Centers produce many types of plants, including vegetable plants, and provide essential gardening and agricultural supplies to communities. Further, these companies furnish myriad services for home plant cultivation, gardening, and food production.
- Tree care companies help keep the public infrastructure operating and the public safe by managing dead and damaged trees. These companies are essential to maintaining public safety, reducing injuries, and preventing undue stress on Minnesota's health systems.
- Pest management companies furnish a vital public health service to keep pests and weeds at bay in and around our homes, crops, school kitchens and public places.
- Irrigation professionals water our vegetable gardens, landscapes and furnish public safety services including backflow testing to protect the public water supply and stormwater management services to reduce surface water pollution.
- Landscape professionals are a vital component of our construction economy and must continue to function in similar consideration to electricians, plumber and other trades to ensure construction and home projects continue or are completed.
- Stewardship professionals maintain our vegetable and pollinator gardens, furnish vital support to homeowners and businesses to keep healthy, clean and safe, our gardens, parks and common spaces
- Snow & Ice professionals perform a vital service to keep Minnesotans safe on commercial and residential properties.



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The list above is not comprehensive but instead, intended to illustrate the breadth and depth of the greater Green Industry in Minnesota, and the way each sector of the green industry can provide essential services during this time of stress to the Minnesota economy and public sphere.

Our industry members have been taking seriously the actions required to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our population, implementing means and methods to avoid spreading the virus while still delivering services. Examples of actions to promote personal and public safety include:

- Amended vehicle occupancy
- Proximity-of-work protocols
- Safety clothing, masks and other protection
- Client contact protocols
- Procedures to act on observations of sick or symptom-based employees

As mentioned in our letter dated March 21, 2020, the members and leadership of the MNLA support you and others charged with difficult decisions during this time of challenges presented by COVID-19 and its effects on our society and economy.

On behalf of the Minnesota Green Industry, we respectfully request that you and your trusted leadership consider our products and services essential and exempt from Shelter-in-Place orders that may be considered.

If MNLA or any of our component sub-industry members may be of specific assistance in helping you and other leaders during this time of extraordinary measures, please call upon us.

Sincerely,

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