



NURSERY LICENSE FEE RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY:

The purpose of the Nursery Fee License Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) is to review and update Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 603-054-0016 to 603-054-0018 relating to nursery license fees for greenhouse grower, nursery stock grower or a nursery stock dealer. Members of this RAC were invited to participate by the director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to represent the interests of the nursery industry.

RAC members “represent the interests of persons and communities likely to be affected by the rule” as required by House Bill 2993, Section 1 (2021). This rule change would specifically affect business that are required to hold a nursery license with the Oregon Department of Agriculture because they grow or sell nursery stock in Oregon and sell more than \$250 of nursery stock in a fiscal year ([ORS 571.055 and 571.045](#)). As of 2026 the Oregon Department of Agriculture currently licenses roughly 2,867 nurseries across all three categories: greenhouse grower (310), nursery stock grower (812) and nursery stock dealer (1,745). The Oregon Association of Nurseries is the industry association representing roughly 700 businesses (2025).

The Nursery Program provides inspection and certification services; educational resources on plant pest management; and guidance on best management practices. In addition, staff provide information and guidance on interpreting plant pest quarantines and shipping requirements.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a member of the RAC your responsibilities are as follows:

- Participate in good faith and to act in the best interests of the group and its charge.
- Consider a range of issues and options to address them, discuss pros and cons, and seek to develop recommendations reflecting the “sense of the group.”
- Acknowledge that the group is an advisory body to the department and that the role is to provide advice and frame policy choices and that rulemaking authority rests with the ODA.
- Review any background materials to understand the issues to be addressed in the review process.
- Work collaboratively with one another to explore issues and develop recommendations.
- Agree to be respectful at all times of other RAC members, staff, and audience members. Listen to each other to seek to understand the other’s perspective, even if they disagree.

The ODA will provide the following:

- Technical support, expertise, logistical assistance, administrative assistance, and advice to the RAC.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER:

Meetings are open to the public and will be conducted under the provisions of Oregon Public Meetings Law (ORS 192.610-690). RAC records, including formal documents, discussion drafts, meeting summaries and exhibits, are public records. Communications of the RAC are not confidential because the meetings and records of the RAC are open to the public. “Communications” refers to all statements and votes made during meetings, memoranda, work projects, records, documents or materials developed to fulfill the charge, including electronic mail correspondence. (ORS 192.410(4)).

RAC MEMBERS:

RAC members below are listed by the group/audience they represent. Affiliations, as well as other descriptors of each member's representative group, are included after each member's name below.

Oregon Nursery Industry

Pat Thompson, Secret Garden Growers, specialty plants. Clackamas County
Cody Thompson, Bearly Farms, fruit trees and berry shrubs. Clackamas County
Mike Durkin, Durkin's Nursery, balled & burlap plants, emphasis on conifers. Clackamas County
Ross Dumdi, Bailey Nursery, wholesale. Yamhill and Multnomah counties
Leigh Gershwill, F&B Farms, wholesale. Marion County
Amanda Staehly, Columbia Nursery, wholesale, Clackamas County

State Agency Representation

Chris Benemann, Director, Plant Protection & Conservation Division Director, ODA
Kevin Bailey, Program Manager, Nursery & Christmas Tree, ODA