

HORTICULTURE AND NURSERY LICENSES AND PERMITS

The Louisiana Horticulture Law states that no person shall receive fees, advertise, or solicit business in a regulated profession or occupation unless he holds the appropriate license or permit, or has a regular employee who holds the appropriate license or permit, or is employed by a person who holds the appropriate license or permit. For specifics on what each license or permit authorizes, see Section 3808 of the Horticulture Commission Law. All licensees are required to place at least one of their license numbers on all business related vehicles that have advertisements on them (Section 115 E of regulations).

Retail Florist License

Authorizes the holder to arrange and sell floral designs, cut flowers and ornamental plants. Does not include the sale of woody ornamentals, such as tall trees or fruit trees. Must have a regular employee (minimum of 32 hours per week) at each place of business who is a licensed florist. Does not apply to artificial materials or dried plant materials.

Requirements: Written Exam – By appointment
Fee - \$114
License Fee - \$100

Landscape Horticulturist License

Authorizes the holder to recommend and execute measures for interior and exterior beautification through the use of nursery stock, may sell or lease and maintain nursery stock. Includes bed preparation, plant installation, sod installation, pruning, fertilizing, landscape maintenance and operating a nursery. Cannot draw landscape designs for a fee. May prepare drawings to indicate the placement of nursery stock. Must have licensees name, the words "Landscape Horticulturist", and license number on all drawings. We do not regulate yard work (cutting lawns, edging and hand-weeding beds).

Requirements: Written Exam - By appointment
Fee - \$114
License Fee - \$100

Landscape Irrigation Contractor License

Authorizes the holder to construct, install, connect, repair, maintain, improve or alter any portion of a landscape irrigation system, including the required wiring for that system. Requires the licensee to obtain a water supply protection specialist endorsement from the State Plumbing Board before connecting to a public or private water supply system. Licensees must enter into a written contract with the property owner specifying the landscape irrigation services to be performed and the sum to be paid for the services.

Requirements: Written Exam - By appointment
Fee - \$114
Certificate of Liability Insurance -
 \$25,000 per person bodily injury
 And
 \$50,000 per person for property damage
Attendance of continuing education seminar every three
years for renewal of license.
License Fee - \$100

Wholesale Florist License

Authorizes the holder to prepare and sell cut flowers, plant materials and ornamental plants to retail florists and cut flower dealers. Cannot make and/or sell floral arrangements.

Requirements: Written Exam - By appointment
Fee - \$114
License Fee - \$100

Arborist License

Authorizes the holder to make recommendations or execute tree surgery type work including tree removal, pruning, trimming, cabling, fertilization and cavity work. Licensees must enter into a written contract with property owners specifying work to be done and sum to be paid.

Requirements: Written Exam - By appointment
Fee - \$114
Certificate of Liability Insurance -
 \$25,000 per person for bodily injury
 And
 \$50,000 per person for property damage
Attendance of continuing education seminar annually for
renewal of license.
License Fee - \$100 per year.

Utility Arborist License

Authorizes the holder to recommend and execute the removal of trees or portions of trees along utility rights of way.

Requirements: Written Exam - By appointment
Fee - \$114
Certificate of Liability Insurance -
 \$25,000 per person for bodily injury
 And
 \$50,000 per person for property damages
Attendance of continuing education seminar annually for
 renewal of license.
License Fee - \$100 per year.

Landscape Architect License

Authorizes the holder to prepare landscape design plans, landscape grading and drainage plans, landscape irrigation plans, planting plans, and related landscape construction details and specifications, for a fee.

Requirements: National Exam: Register for the Landscape Architect
Registration Exam (LARE) through the Council of Landscape
Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) www.clarb.org.

Louisiana State Section: New applicants, retakes, and
reciprocity exam applicants can get exam information by
calling LDAF at (225) 952-8100.

All applicants for the Louisiana State Section (new applicants
and reciprocity) must pay a \$200.00 exam fee. Retake
applicants must pay a \$100.00 exam fee.

A minimum of 8 credit hours of continuing education must be
obtained annually for license renewal.

License Fee - \$100 per year.

Nursery Certificate Permit (Growers Permit)

Authorizes a grower to sell nursery stock, cut flowers, and bulbs which he/she grows. Permit is issued after inspection is made. Nursery is inspected for any major insects or diseases. No exam is required. Fees are as follows:

NCI - Area greater than 2,500 sq. feet and/or Greenhouse greater than 200
sq. ft. - \$50 per year. For permits effective beginning Jan. 1, 2004 fee
is \$100 per year.

NC2 - Home Yard (less than 2,500 sq. ft.) and/or Greenhouse less than 200 sq. ft. - \$10 per year. For permits effective beginning Jan. 1, 2004 fee is \$25.00 per year.

If a person wants to both grow and buy nursery stock to sell from only one location, they would need either a grower's permit or a nursery stock dealer permit, not both. If they will be growing the majority of their stock, then they can operate under just a nursery grower's permit. However, if they plan on growing and selling nursery stock at one location, and also selling at additional locations, they would need both the grower's permit and a nursery stock dealer permit for each additional location.

Nursery Stock Dealer Permit

Authorizes the holder to sell nursery stock. In order to apply for a nursery stock dealer permit, the applicant must be involved in the business of selling nursery stock. A Louisiana State Sales Tax number, issued by Louisiana Department of Revenue and Taxation ((225) 219-7318), is required prior to issuance of permit.

Requirements: Permit only - no exam - separate permit required for each outlet.
Fee - \$150 per outlet per year.

Cut Flower Dealer Permit

Authorizes the holder to sell cut flowers, either singly or in bunches. Cannot arrange flowers in any fashion. In order to apply for a cut flower dealer permit, the applicant must be involved in the business of selling cut flowers. A Louisiana State Sales Tax number, issued by Louisiana Department of Revenue and Taxation ((225) 219-7318), is required prior to issuance of permit.

Requirements: Permit only - no exam - separate permit required for each outlet.
Fee - \$90 per outlet per year.

Many of these licenses and permits have overlaps. For example:

1. If a nursery grower wants to install and maintain landscapes, they are required to have a landscape horticulturist license.
2. A retail nursery outlet selling nursery stock may operate with a landscape horticulturist license or a nursery stock dealer permit. If they install nursery stock, they are required to have a landscape horticulturist license.
3. A retail florist is not required to have a cut flower dealer permit if they want to sell cut flowers that are not in an arrangement. Also, they are not required to have a nursery stock dealer permit to sell potted plants. However, if they have sod (grass) or woody ornamentals (such as trees, shrubs, etc.) for sale, they would need a nursery stock dealer permit as well as a retail florist license.