

IOWA NURSERY &  
LANDSCAPE  
ASSOCIATION

NEWS

**INLA Keeping Members Updated on COVID-19**

**CLARIFYING FLORIST DESIGNATION VS. GREENHOUSES/NURSERY STOCK OPERATIONS FROM IOWA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

Governor Reynolds Emergency Declaration in March expanded the closure of businesses to include florists. However, **greenhouses or nursery stock** operations may remain open. This includes greenhouses or nursery stock dealers selling flowers or cut flowers from their non-florist establishments.

INLA has been in contact with IDALS and confirmed the clarification. According to IDALS, the governor's office specifically clarified greenhouse and nursery stock operations are exempt from the executive order.

**INCOME TAX FILING AND PAYMENT**

In March, the IRS announced it would extend filing and payment deadlines for individual and business filers until July 15, 2020. Also Governor Reynolds announced first quarter payments due April 30 shall be delayed until second quarter, July 31, 2020. There are to be no penalties or interest on taxes owed if filed by the new deadline.

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>

**SECURING INCLUSION IN USDA'S CARES ACT RESPONSE**

On April 10, INLA joined a letter led by AmericanHort to Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, in which 105 organizations urged the Secretary to ensure any forthcoming USDA assistance includes nursery and floriculture crop farmers devastated by this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

<https://www.americanhort.org/resource/resmgr/nursery-flo-sec-perdue.pdf>

**CISA INCLUDES LANDSCAPERS IN RECOMMENDATIONS**

On March 28, the Department of Homeland Security issued revised federal guidance on critical infrastructure sectors and essential workers. The most significant change for horticulture businesses is the explicit inclusion of "landscapers" under the Public Works and Infrastructure Support sector. The list is advisory in nature. It is not, nor should it be considered, a federal directive or standard.

<https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.americanhort.org/resource/resmgr/cisa-guidance-3-29.pdf>

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**Utilize Webinars to Help Steady Your Business**

The INLA leadership is continuously working hard to provide out members with the best knowledge and up to date information in this uncertain time. We would like to recommend that you participate in or review the AmericanHort Webinar series on their Coronavirus Resource page.

The following are helpful past webinars that are available for replay or slide download from AmericanHort.

- No-contact Sales: A discussion with garden center retailers
- Updates to the SBA Paycheck Protection Program application process

- Communication through crisis
- A discussion on the Coronavirus Aid Relief and CARES Act - loans, grants, and business relief
- Shopping from the customer's perspective
- The families first Coronavirus Response Act - answering tax and labor questions
- Legislative and economic update

You can view and download materials on <https://www.americanhort.org/page/coronavirus#webinars>.

Additional resources can be found at <https://www.americanhort.org/page/coronavirus#resources>.

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# INLA Leadership Sends Letter to Governor with National and State Support

On March 23, the INLA leadership and board of directors approved a letter sent to Governor Kim Reynolds asking to add the landscape industry as an “essential service”. In the letter, it is requested to make landscape services an essential service and must continue during any emergency declaration or quarantine scenario.

**Our members are can read the letter to the Governor online.**

[https://iowanla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020.03.23.LettertoGov\\_essentialworkers\\_Covid-19.v2.pdf](https://iowanla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020.03.23.LettertoGov_essentialworkers_Covid-19.v2.pdf)

## Letter to the Governor Full Text

Along with the other 36 signors of this letter from 4 national organizations and 32 state associations are representatives of the landscape industry who are communicating with you today to highlight the essential role of the landscape industry. The landscape industry specialize in lawn care, landscape maintenance, tree care, irrigation, and water management. Landscape professionals work daily throughout the Nation servicing homes and businesses to maintain their landscapes, sustain the environment, and take pride in our communities by enhancing and maintaining healthy green spaces.

As a Nation, we are all struggling to combat the rapid transmission of the coronavirus “COVID19,” and we understand and acknowledge that in some instances, drastic steps are being taken, including shutting down businesses deemed non-essential. We are communicating with you today to assure you that landscape services are essential services and must continue during any emergency declaration or quarantine scenario. Landscapers are partners during this critical time in assisting in the protection of public health and public safety. Without the landscape industry conducting these valuable services, we will undoubtedly see increased instances where people may be harmed or become sick from other illnesses compounding our already stretched medical resources.

Recently, Counties in and around the greater San Francisco metropolitan area enacted a temporary “lock down.” We anticipate other municipalities and states to take similar precautionary steps. The “lock down” issued by these counties exempt “essential services,” pertinent for the landscape industry is the below portion of the exemption:

*ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses*

For the foregoing reasons, landscape services should be deemed “essential.”

**Landscapers are protectors of public health** performing essential treatments to lawns and green spaces to reduce the transmission of dangerous and deadly diseases through pests like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas.

**Landscapers protect property and maintain green spaces that could otherwise jeopardize public safety.** Unkept fields and green spaces increase the chance of injuries. Crime rates are increased in

areas where green spaces are not maintained. Tree removal is also a critical function of our industry to avoid damaging homes and their families.

**Landscapers play a critical role in boosting morale** and mental health during a difficult time for our Nation. Without landscape services fields, parks, businesses, and homes will become overgrown and unkept, which can have dramatic psychological effects on the mental and wellbeing of our communities.

Spring is a critical time of year for our industry due to the abundance of growth in the spring that requires prompt maintenance and care. Any halt or delay in landscape services during this time of year only magnifies potential safety problems and become much more difficult to maintain later in the year.

Lastly, our industry is taking aggressive steps within our organizations to stop the transmission of COVID-19. Because our industry functions outside this greatly reduces the chances to come into contact with other individuals. Within the industry, strong policies are being put in place to maintain social distancing with both clients and within our teams that are working in the field.

We are all in this together, and the Landscape industry stands with our public officials to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19 while also continuing to perform those essential functions that are necessary within our communities throughout the Nation.

### Signatories on the letter included:

AmericanHort  
Irrigation Association  
National Association of Landscape Professionals  
National Garden Bureau

Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association  
Arizona Nursery Association  
California Landscape Contractors Association  
Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association  
Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association  
Georgia Urban Agriculture Council  
Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association  
Illinois Green Industry Association  
Illinois Landscape Contractors Association  
Landscape Contractors Association (DC, MD, VA)  
Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association  
Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association  
Maine Landscape and Nursery Association  
Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association

Michigan Green Industry Association  
Montana Nursery and Landscape Association  
New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association  
New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association  
New York State Turfgrass Association  
North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association  
Ohio Landscape Association  
Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association  
Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Oregon Landscape Contractors Association  
Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association  
Southern Nursery Association  
Texas Nursery and Landscape Association  
Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association  
Virginia Turfgrass Council  
Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association  
West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association  
Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association

# INLA Continually Working to Assist Pesticide Applicators

As you may already know, Governor Reynolds extended the end date of the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration to April 30, 2020. As part of that decision, additional declaration language was added regarding commercial pesticide who are not currently certified.

The declaration provides an opportunity for companies to hire new applicators during the Emergency Declaration period using the private applicator exam. See the full press release (<https://iowaagriculture.gov/news/options-help-pesticide>) from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for details.

The association has been working diligently with Governor Reynolds and Secretary Naig on the commercial pesticide applicator certification issue.

## Next Steps for Pesticide Applicators

We received updated information about the priorities of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) concerning pesticide applicators. Both the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor have been working with us to find solutions and we appreciate the priority they have placed on keeping the food system as uninterrupted as possible. Their efforts to keep agriculture running in these unprecedented times is greatly appreciated.

We are aware of the difficulty INLA members are facing with the lack of certified applicator numbers in the face of needing to apply restricted use pesticides such as dicamba. This continues to be an ongoing conversation and high priority.

IDALS has shared with us they are working through regulatory relief to address pesticide applicator issues related to COVID-19 in a step-by-step process:

- The first step was to provide immediate options for those applicators who were certified as of Dec. 31, 2019.
- Provide options that address the cancellation of in-person testing sites for commercial and private applicator certification due to public health recommendations.
- Work with EPA and the Governor's office to address other pesticide-related regulatory issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Questions & Answers; as answered by IDALS

### 1) Once an applicator has his/her private applicator certification, can they apply dicamba and paraquat?

All applicators must follow pesticide label directions. We are in constant communication with EPA regarding pesticide label statements for these products and have requested clarification from EPA on the requirements of the federal label as they pertain to distinction of 'use' by private vs. commercial applicators. However, there has been no change to label requirements granted thus far.

### A) Do they receive their applicator license number at that point? I have heard applicators need to input that number when they apply chemicals like dicamba.

Applicators will be able to get their certified applicator number and pesticide company license number through the online pesticide

portal.

These recent challenges have slowed the processing of paper submissions. Processing of paper submissions for private pesticide certifications are very close to being caught up and available through the online pesticide portal. There continues to be a delay in processing paper submissions for commercial applicator certifications and the team is working to complete them as soon as possible.

### B) If they don't receive their applicator number online (after they've paid for a license), is there a way they can continue to utilize those chemicals, while waiting?

No, the applicator must follow all product label requirements. Dicamba and paraquat labels require a completed certification and applicator number.

### 2) After the proclamation expires, will there be any kind of grace period for the new commercial applicators that haven't yet been able to take their in-person tests?

The regulatory relief only applies through the duration of the proclamation and any extensions. We recognize this as a potential issue and are in constant communication with the Governor's office. We will work with her team to look for solutions to help ease the transition.

### 3) Can a person who already has a private applicators license go to work as a commercial applicator for an ag retailer only during this declaration period?

Yes, the provisions of the general supervision requirements apply to all private certified applicators. This includes all current private certified applicators, new private certified applicators, and private certified applicators who were certified as of 12/31/19. This regulatory relief only applies through the duration of this proclamation and any further extensions.

### 4) Is there any additional regulatory relief for aerial applicators since the commercial applicator waiver doesn't apply to them?

Not at this time. Aerial applicators requirements go beyond the agricultural pesticide applicator categories (1A, 1B, 1C, 1D) and are outlined in a separate category (11), which means the standards of competency for aerial applicators are different than those of agricultural categories.

## Additional Information

The COVID-19 pandemic has created delays in processing and mailing pesticide applicator cards and certifications. Applicators can view the status of their certifications on the Department's public search portal (<https://iowapestapplicators.secure.force.com/lookup>).

## Contacts

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Pesticide Bureau  
Email: [pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov)  
Phone: 515-281-8591

# AmericanHort Announces Cultivate'20 is Going Virtual



With continuing uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic, AmericanHort has made the decision to transform the annual in-person event in Columbus, OH this July to Cultivate'20 Virtual a new, 100% online event that will connect customers, suppliers, and colleagues across the industry.

Cultivate'20 Virtual will debut **the week of July 13, 2020** and feature:

- A 3-D digital tradeshow where exhibitors and attendees can share information, view video presentations, chat live and make the same connections one would at an in-person event
- Over 50 live education sessions covering all aspects of the horticulture industry

- Live keynote and state of the industry presentations
- Vibrant demonstrations of New Varieties and New Products debuting at Cultivate
- The HRI online Garden Party – an event to showcase our work and show appreciation for HRI supporters and researchers
- Online roundtable discussion groups
- Networking interaction with various industry communities
- Many other exciting ways to conduct business and work together with industry colleagues

Participants will enjoy this unique opportunity to grow their business and foster their team's expertise in a virtual environment. The Expo-Only pass is FREE for everyone, and the All-Access education pass is FREE for AmericanHort members and is discounted for non-members. To learn more visit [www.CultivateVirtual.org](http://www.CultivateVirtual.org).

## IDOT - Restricted CDLs Remotely

The Iowa DOT is issuing Restricted CDLs remotely. To limit the number of people who come into the service centers and reduce their potential exposure to COVID-19, the Iowa DOT will be reviewing applications and issuing restricted commercial driver's licenses remotely and mailing them out to these customers.

Governor Reynold's emergency proclamation provides that for ANY driver's license expiring January 16, 2020 or later, the expiration date will not be enforced during this declared disaster. If your CDL or CLP expired on January 16, 2020 or later, you can continue to operate validly in Iowa.

If you need to obtain a restricted commercial driver's license, please email the CDL Program administrators preferred method at [cdl.program@iowadot.us](mailto:cdl.program@iowadot.us). Info at <https://iowadot.gov/covid-19/Public-Response#cdlholders>

## 2020 Board Members

### President

Shawna Moss  
Kirkwood Community College

### Past President

John Hughes  
Hughes Nursery & Landscaping  
LLC

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Bob Smith  
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Brad Punke  
Unilock Chicago Inc.

Nick Reiter  
Escapes Landscape & Design

Dylan Schrock  
University of Iowa

## In Memory of Vic Scott



Victor (Vic) Gerald Scott, 76, passed away Friday, April 10th at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines.

Vic was born July 12, 1943 in Des Moines to Royal & Alma Scott, the 3rd of four sons. He graduated from Tech High School in January of 1962. After high school, he began working at Phil Johnson's Greenhouse in Des Moines and went on to work at Heard Gardens in Johnston for 21 years. Vic and his son, Todd, opened Vic Scott Landscaping and Nursery in the Spring of 1990 in Ankeny. Vic was a member of Prince of

Peace Lutheran Church. Vic was a member of the Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association for over 50 years and was a past president in 1988.

Vic married Linda Ellsworth, on September 14th, 1963. Together they had their only child, Todd, in February of 1965. Vic is survived by his wife, Linda, son Todd (Renee), Altoona, grandchildren, Matthew, Des Moines, and Katie (Austin) Denny, Altoona, and two great grandchildren Isaac & Isaiah Denny as well as sisters-in-law Connie, Barbara, Laureen (Bob) Campbell, Louise (Steve) Barmish, Lorrie Rungee, many nieces and nephews, and wonderful friends and acquaintances.

Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Des Moines, IA.

Condolences may be expressed at [HamiltonsFuneralHome.com](http://HamiltonsFuneralHome.com)