

Why does this rule matter?

Plant Services staff are often the first to learn of diseases (such as Sudden Oak Death), insect pests (Asian Longhorn Beetle), and other problems. Your invoices or packing lists allow us to track the movement of plants that might possibly be infected or infested with something that could pose a risk to the entire nursery industry.

If your inspector determines newly arrived plants may be affected, they can inspect them, notify you, begin controls, and trace the problem to its source.

We hope this information will make shipping plants into Washington and complying with the Notification Rule easy. Our intent is to prevent disease and pest outbreaks while making shipping as smooth as possible.

For more information,
email nursery@agr.wa.gov
or visit agr.wa.gov



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

**PLANT
PROTECTION
DIVISION**

AGR7-2505-034 REV 2505 Do you need this publication in an alternate format? Please call the WSDA Receptionist at 360-902-1976 or TTY 800-833-6388.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington State Notification Rule and Hold Requirement

WAC 16-402-100 through 130



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION
Plant Services Program

NOTIFICATION RULE

The Washington State Notification Rule requires all nurseries in the state to notify WSDA within 48 hours of receiving tree and shrub nursery stock from out-of-state sources. The rule is in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 16-402-120.

The rule applies to any “receiving nursery,” which means any nursery dealer within Washington State, including landscape firms and greenhouses required to be licensed as nursery dealers, that acquire tree and shrub nursery stock through interstate or international shipment.

What types of plants does the notification rule apply to?

The rule applies to “tree and shrub nursery stock” which is defined as: woody forest and ornamental trees, shrubs and vines grown or kept for propagation, distribution, or sale including bareroot, balled and burlaped, containerized plants, liners, budwood, seedlings, and cuttings.

Fruit, seeds, and tissue culture plantlets are not considered tree and shrub nursery stock and are exempt from this rule.

HOLD REQUIREMENT

Tree and shrub nursery stock shipments from outside the state must be held separate from other nursery stock for at least one full business day after WSDA receives notification of the shipment.

WSDA will contact the nursery before or during the hold period if the nursery stock needs to be held for inspection and will conduct the inspection as soon as possible.

Unless the receiving nursery has been instructed by WSDA to hold the shipment, the receiving nursery is allowed to distribute the stock before the expiration of the hold period, as long as the stock can be fully traced. ***Retail sales to cash customers are not permitted during the hold period.***

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

If you are the receiving nursery, you must notify WSDA no later than two business days after arrival of the shipment. Notification in advance of the shipment is encouraged.

1. Send your invoice or packing list to WSDA (email preferred)

Email: Plant Services Program at nursery@agr.wa.gov

Fax: Attention Plant Services Program Manager, (360) 902-2094. A fax cover sheet is available upon request.

Mail: Plant Protection Division
Plant Services Program
Washington State Dept of Agriculture
P.O. Box 42560
Olympia, WA 98504-2560

If you cannot notify us through one of these methods, WSDA may approve an alternative notification as long as it complies with state requirements.

The notification must include the species of plants, quantities of each species, source nursery or supplier of each shipment, and the receiving nursery's contact information including telephone number and e-mail address, if available.

Copies of regular shipping documents such as load lists with this information are encouraged. Phytosanitary certificates or other documentation of quarantine compliance must be included when shipping regulated plant material into Washington State.

2. After notifying WSDA, you must hold all woody plant shipments coming into Washington State for 24 hours to give inspectors time to look at the plants

Please notify WSDA at least 24 hours in advance of receiving a shipment. This will limit any delays in plant sales.

