

VIRGINIA

SUMMARY OF PLANT PROTECTION LAWS AND REGULATIONS Updated October 2026

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Consumer Protection
Office of Plant Industry Services
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Additional information on VDACS Office of Plant Industry Services may be found at
<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services.shtml>

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Notification of nursery stock shipments, when required, should be sent to Lori Chamberlin by mail, fax, or email at:

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The information, as provided, is for informational purposes only and should not be interpreted as complete, nor should it be considered legally binding. Coordination with both your state and the destination state plant regulatory agency listed above may be necessary to stay up-to-date on revised requirements.

NURSERY STOCK DEFINITION

Nursery stock is defined as all trees, shrubs, and woody vines (including ornamentals), bush fruits, grapevines, fruit trees and nut trees, whether cultivated, native or wild, and all buds, grafts, scions and cuttings from such plants; and any container, soil, and other packing material with such plants or plant products.

GENERAL SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS

All nursery stock being delivered, shipped, or transported within or into the Commonwealth of Virginia must have been inspected and found apparently free from plant pests. Nursery stock delivered, shipped, or transported within or into the Commonwealth must be accompanied by an inspection certificate that is plainly attached to each carload, truckload, box, bale, or package.

Valid inspection certificates must be issued by the proper official of the country, state, territory, district or county from which the nursery stock was shipped showing that such nursery stock, including soil, was found to be free from plant pests.

Nursery stock brought into the Commonwealth under an inspection certificate as required above, may be sold and moved by a properly licensed Virginia nurseryman or dealer or agent, but this shall not preclude inspection at any time within the Commonwealth. Any person who possesses nursery stock or plant products for sale or distribution must present those items for inspection and provide full information related to origin, number, and destination of such items.

REQUIRED SIGNAGE FOR INVASIVE PLANTS FOR SALE – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

Chapter 393 of the 2025 Acts of the Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation effective on January 1, 2027. The legislation added requirements for retail establishments selling invasive plants, which are listed in Virginia's [Plants and Plant Products Inspection Law](#), to post signage identifying these 39 species of plants as invasive, educating consumers regarding invasive plant species, and encouraging consumers to ask about alternatives. If such plants are being sold or offered for sale without the proper signage, VDACS will stop the sale of those plants until a sign is posted. VDACS has developed template signs for retail establishments to use. Retail establishments may create their own signs; however, the signs must meet certain criteria and include specific information, which is all listed in the Guidance Document titled "Guidance on Invasive Plant Species Signage Requirements at Retail Establishments". Sign templates and the guidance document can be found on VDACS' Nursery Inspection Resources webpage here: and can be found in the Nursery Inspection Resources section of VDACS' webpage here: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-nursery-inspection.shtml>.

Plant species requiring signage at retail establishments:

1. *Acer platanoides*; 2. *Akebia quinata*; 3. *Albizia julibrissin*; 4. *Arum italicum*; 5. *Berberis thunbergii*; 6. *Buddleja davidii*; 7. *Cenchrus purpurascens*; 8. *Citrus trifoliata*; 9. *Clematis terniflora*; 10. *Egeria densa*; 11. *Elaeagnus pungens*; 12. *Euonymus alatus*; 13. *Euonymus fortunei*; 14. *Glechoma hederacea*; 15. *Hedera helix*; 16. *Iris pseudacorus*; 17. *Ligustrum sinense*; 18. *Lonicera fragrantissima*; 19. *Lysimachia nummularia*; 20. *Mahonia bealei*; 21. *Miscanthus sinensis*; 22. *Morus alba*; 23. *Murdannia keisak*; 24. *Myriophyllum aquaticum*; 25. *Nandina domestica*; 26. *Oshuna crassipes*; 27. *Paulownia tomentosa*; 28. *Perilla frutescens*; 29. *Phyllostachys aurea*; 30. *Pyrus calleryana*; 31. *Rubus phoenicolasius*; 32. *Securigera varia*; 33. *Spiraea japonica*; 34. *Triadica sebifera*; 35. *Tripidium ravennae*; 36. *Vinca major*; 37. *Vinca minor*; 38. *Wisteria floribunda*; and 39. *Wisteria sinensis*.

Note: Businesses that ship plants into Virginia are not required to attach any signage onto the plant's pots, trays, or other package materials. It is the responsibility of the retail establishment in Virginia to erect signage at the retail establishment's displays where these plants are located.

HEMP/CANNABIS REGULATIONS

VDACS held responsibility for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Hemp Enforcement Program through its Office of Hemp Enforcement from 2023 until August 2026, when hemp enforcement was transferred to the [Virginia Cannabis Control Authority \(CCA\)](#).

Information about hemp product regulations and enforcement is on the [CCA website](#).

[Regulated Hemp Product Retail Facilities](#) can register or renew their application through the CCA.

Information for growers, processors, and handlers of industrial hemp is under the [VDACS Industrial Hemp Program](#).

Information for manufacturers of hemp-derived extracts for human consumption is under [Food Safety for Manufacturers](#).

NOXIOUS WEEDS

The movement of any listed noxious weed or any article or means of conveyance known to be infested or determined by an inspector to present a risk of spreading a listed noxious weed is prohibited, unless accompanied by a valid certificate or limited permit.

Permits for noxious weed movement will only be issued for the following reasons: the noxious weed is being requested to be moved to a specified destination under conditions that specify the (i) limited handling, (ii) utilization, (iii) processing, or (iv) treatment of the article when the commissioner determines that such movement will not result in the spread of the noxious weed. Additionally, state or federal agencies, or persons authorized by the department, for experimental or scientific purposes may request a permit. All requests must be formally submitted to VDACS by using the Noxious Weed Permit Application: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/noxious-weed-permit.pdf>.

In 2026, the Virginia General Assembly modified the definition of a noxious weed for Virginia. "Noxious weed" means any living plant, or part thereof, declared by the Board through regulations under this chapter to be detrimental to crops, surface waters, including lakes, or other desirable plants, livestock, land, or other property, or to be injurious to public health, the environment, or the economy.

VIRGINIA LISTED NOXIOUS WEEDS:

"Tier 1 noxious weed" means any noxious weed that is not known to be present in the Commonwealth.

"Tier 2 noxious weed" means any noxious weed that is present in the Commonwealth and for which successful eradication or suppression is feasible.

"Tier 3 noxious weed" means any noxious weed (i) that is present in the Commonwealth, (ii) whose spread may be slowed by restrictions on its movement, and (iii) for which successful eradication or suppression is not feasible.

A. The following plants are listed as Tier 1 noxious weeds

1. *Salvinia molesta*, Giant salvinia.
2. *Solanum viarum*, Tropical soda apple.
3. *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, Giant hogweed.

B. The following plants are listed as Tier 2 noxious weeds

1. *Imperata cylindrica*, Cogon grass.
2. *Lythrum salicaria*, Purple loosestrife.
3. *Ipomoea aquatica*, Water spinach.
4. *Vitex rotundifolia*, Beach vitex.
5. *Oplismenus hirtellus* spp. *undulatifolius*, Wavyleaf basketgrass.
6. *Corydalis incisa*, Incised fumewort.
7. *Trapa bispinosa*, Two-horned trapa.

C. The following plants are listed as Tier 3 noxious weeds.

1. *Ailanthus altissima*, Tree of heaven.
2. *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, Porcelain berry.
3. *Celastrus orbiculatus*, Oriental bittersweet.
4. *Hydrilla verticillata*, Hydrilla.
5. *Persicaria perfoliata*, Mile-a-minute weed.
6. *Alliaria petiolata*, Garlic mustard.
7. *Dioscorea polystachya*, Chinese yam.
8. *Elaeagnus umbellata*, Autumn olive.
9. *Ficaria verna*, Lesser celandine.
10. *Lespedeza bicolor*, Bicolor lespedeza.
11. *Lonicera maackii*, Amur honeysuckle.
12. *Lonicera japonica*, Japanese honeysuckle.
13. *Phragmites australis*, Common reed.
14. *Pueraria montana*, Kudzu.
15. *Reynoutria japonica*, Japanese knotweed.
16. *Ulmus pumila*, Siberian elm.

QUARANTINES OR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

BOX TREE MOTH QUARANTINE

PEST: Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*)

STATES REGULATED: Any area that is subject to a federal box tree moth quarantine, a box tree moth quarantine of another state, or state statute restricting the movement of box tree moth is considered a regulated area for the purposes of this chapter. See USDA Quarantine map here: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/box-tree-moth/box-tree-moth-federal-quarantine-boundary-viewer>.

In addition, the following areas in Virginia are quarantined for box tree moth: the entire Counties of Clarke and Frederick and the City of Winchester.

ARTICLES REGULATED: The box tree moth, in any living form; the whole plant, plant parts, cuttings, or nursery stock of any living or dead *Buxus spp.* plant, including cut or fallen stems or branches, stumps, stems, roots, branches, leaves, or debris; and any other article, commodity, item, product, or means of conveyance that an inspector determines (i) presents a risk of spread of the box tree moth or (ii) is infested or susceptible to infestation of the box tree moth.

RESTRICTIONS: Regulated articles may be moved from quarantined area by persons operating under a compliance agreement or with a certificate issued by regulatory official if articles meet one of the following conditions: (1) articles were inspected and found to be free of box tree moth; or (2) the persons or business has a valid compliance agreement and shipping certificate, indicating that articles have been inspected and treated by approved methods.

All shipments of boxwood plants, from quarantined areas, must send notification to the VA SPRO. Please contact the SPRO to establish a notification protocol.

QUARANTINE LANGUAGE:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincodefull/title2/agency5/chapter332/>

VDACS WEBPAGE:

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-box-tree-moth.shtml>

COTTON BOLL WEEVIL QUARANTINE

PEST: Boll Weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*)

STATES REGULATED: All

ARTICLES REGULATED: The boll weevil in any living stage, gin trash, cotton seed, cotton plants and used cotton harvesting equipment.

RESTRICTIONS: Certificates and permits may be issued to move regulated articles if an inspector certifies that: (1) the articles have not been exposed to infestation, (2) the articles have been inspected and found to be free of infestation, (3) the articles have been treated by approved methods, or (4) the articles were produced or handled to prevent infestation.

QUARANTINE LANGUAGE:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincodefull/title2/agency5/chapter440/>

VDACS WEBPAGE:

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-cotton-boll-weevil.shtml>

EUROPEAN BLACK CURRANT REGULATION

PEST: White Pine Blister Rust (*Cronartium ribicola*)

STATES REGULATED: All

ARTICLES REGULATED: European black currant plants (*Ribes nigrum*)

RESTRICTIONS: Since European black currant plants, *Ribes nigrum*, are capable of harboring and disseminating the destructive disease of white pine, commonly known as White Pine Blister Rust, *Cronartium ribicola*, European black currant plants may not be moved to any destination in Virginia.

QUARANTINE/BAN LANGUAGE:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title2/agency5/chapter450/section40/>

GYPSY MOTH QUARANTINE

PEST: Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*), formerly known as Gypsy Moth

STATES REGULATED: All areas identified as generally infested by USDA APHIS PPQ or other state legislation. See link to USDA Quarantine Map:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/spongy-moth/spongy-moth-quarantine-map>.

LOCALITIES IN VIRGINIA UNDER QUARANTINE: The Independent Cities of Alexandria, Bedford, Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Clifton Forge, Colonial Heights, Covington, Danville, Emporia, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Franklin, Fredericksburg, Hampton, Harrisonburg, Hopewell, Lexington, Lynchburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Radford,

Richmond, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Waynesboro, Williamsburg, and Winchester and the counties of Accomack, Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Arlington, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Gloucester, Goochland, Greene, Greenville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Highland, Isle of Wight, James City, King George, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Montgomery, Nelson, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Richmond, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Tazewell, Warren, Westmoreland, Wythe, and York.

ARTICLES REGULATED: Trees and shrubs with roots and persistent woody stems, firewood, cut Christmas trees, logs and pulpwood, mobile homes, recreational vehicles and associated equipment and any other article that could present a risk of spreading gypsy moth.

Regulated articles may be moved from quarantined area by persons operating under a compliance agreement or with a certificate issued by regulatory official if articles meet one of the following conditions: (1) articles have not been exposed to infestation; (2) articles were inspected and found to be free of gypsy moth; (3) articles have been treated by approved methods; or (4) the materials were produced or handled to prevent infestation.

QUARANTINE LANGUAGE:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincodefull/title2/agency5/chapter330/>

VDACS WEBPAGE:

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-spongy-moth.shtml>

IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINE

PEST: Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis spp.*)

STATES REGULATED: The entire state or infested portions of: AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, OK, Puerto Rico, SC, TN, and TX. USDA federal quarantine map: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/ifa/ifa-quarantine-map>.

LOCALITIES IN VIRGINIA UNDER QUARANTINE: The Independent Cities of Chesapeake, Colonial Heights, Danville, Emporia, Franklin, Hampton, Hopewell, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg and the counties of Brunswick, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Greenville, Halifax, Isle of Wight, James City, Lee, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway

Pittsylvania, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, and York

MATERIALS REGULATED: Any plants, soil, equipment or other article which may present a risk of moving the imported fire ant in any living stage of development.

RESTRICTIONS: Certification guidelines are those listed in the USDA APHIS PPQ Imported Fire Ant Program Manual.

QUARANTINE LANGUAGE:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincodefull/title2/agency5/chapter315/>

VDACS WEBPAGE:

<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-imported-fire-ant.shtml>

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY QUARANTINE (REPEALED MARCH 27, 2025)

Effective March 27, 2025, the Virginia Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine has been repealed. The quarantine repeal removes all regulatory requirements restricting intrastate movement in Virginia of the spotted lanternfly or articles capable of moving the spotted lanternfly. Interstate movement of spotted lanternfly or articles capable of moving the spotted lanternfly may still be regulated by the importing state.

APIARY INSPECTION LAW

STATES REGULATED: All

MATERIALS REGULATED: All types and life stages of the honey bee, empty used combs, used hives, or other used apiary appliances

RESTRICTIONS: All bees in combless packages transported into Virginia must be accompanied by a certificate of health issued by the proper official of the state of origin certifying that the apiaries of the producer have been inspected during the current year of the date of shipment and that such apiaries have been found apparently free of American Foulbrood and any other diseases, insects, mites, or bee pests that could cause a departure from a sound state of health of bees.

No person shall bring any bees on combs, empty used combs, used hives, or other used apiary appliances into Virginia without first receiving an entry permit to do so from the State Apiarist. Entry permits will be issued only upon receipt of satisfactory proof that the bees and other items are free from bee diseases, insects, mites, or bee pests that could cause a departure from a sound state of health of bees. Colonies must be brought into the Commonwealth within 60 days from the issuance of the entry permit.

Bees brought into Virginia shall be subject to inspection at any time by the State Apiarist or his representative.