SENATE STATE OF MINNESOTA NINETY-THIRD SESSION

S.F. No. 2550

(SENATE AUTHORS: SEEBERGER)

DATE 03/06/2023

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D-PG OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading

Referred to Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development

A bill for an act

relating to agriculture; modifying nursery and plant protection provisions; amending

Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 18G.02, subdivisions 2, 6, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, 1.3 24, 30, by adding a subdivision; 18G.03, subdivision 1; 18G.04, subdivision 2; 1.4 18G.05; 18G.06, subdivisions 2, 5; 18G.10, subdivisions 4, 5, 6; 18G.11, 1.5 subdivision 1; 18G.12, subdivisions 1, 2; 18H.02, subdivisions 2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 12b, 1.6 12c, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24, 24a, 25, 26, 28, 32, 33, by adding a subdivision; 18H.03, 1.7 subdivision 6; 18H.04; 18H.05; 18H.06, subdivision 2; 18H.07, subdivision 4, by 1.8 adding a subdivision; 18H.08, subdivision 1; 18H.09; 18H.10; 18H.12; 18H.13; 1.9 18H.14; 18H.15; 18H.18; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 18G.02, 1.10 subdivisions 12, 17, 21, 25, 29; 18H.02, subdivisions 10, 12a, 29, 31, 32a, 34; 1.11 18H.06, subdivision 1. 1.12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA: 1.13 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, subdivision 2, is amended to read: 1.14 Subd. 2. Biological control agent. "Biological control agent" means a parasite parasitoid, 1.15 predator, pathogen, or competitive organism intentionally released by humans for the purpose 1.16 of biological control with the intent of causing a reduction of a host or prey population. 1.17 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, subdivision 6, is amended to read: 1.18 Subd. 6. Compliance agreement. "Compliance agreement" means a written agreement 1.19 between a person an entity and a regulatory agency to achieve compliance with regulatory 1.20

Sec. 2. 1

requirements.

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Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, is amended by adding a subdivision to 2.1 read: 2.2 Subd. 12a. Individual. "Individual" means a single human being who is not the sole 2.3 proprietor of a registered business related to plant protection or export certification. 2.4 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, subdivision 14, is amended to read: 2.5 Subd. 14. **Infested.** "Infested" means a plant has been overrun by that contains an 2.6 unacceptable level of plant pests, including weeds, or contains or harbors plant pests in a 2.7 quantity that may threaten other plants. 2.8 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, subdivision 15, is amended to read: 2.9 Subd. 15. **Invasive species.** "Invasive species" means an exotic or nonnative species 2.10 whose introduction and establishment causes, or may cause, economic or environmental 2.11 harm or harm to human health. 2.12 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, subdivision 16, is amended to read: 2.13 2.14 Subd. 16. Mark. "Mark" means an official indicator affixed by the commissioner for purposes of identification or separation, to, on, around, or near, plants or plant material 2.15 known or suspected to be infested or infected with a plant pest or that otherwise needs to 2.16 be distinguished from other plants or materials. This includes, but is not limited to, paint, 2.17 markers, tags, seals, stickers, tape, ribbons, signs, or placards. 2.18 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, subdivision 20, is amended to read: 2.19 Subd. 20. Person Entity. "Person Entity" means an individual, a registered business 2.20 such as a firm, corporation, partnership, association, trust, joint stock company, or 2.21 unincorporated organization, or sole proprietorship; the state; a state agency; or a political 2.22 subdivision. 2.23 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, subdivision 22, is amended to read: 2.24 Subd. 22. Phytosanitary certificate or export certificate. "Phytosanitary certificate" 2.25 or "export certificate" means a document authorized or prepared by a duly authorized federal 2.26 or state official that affirms, declares, or verifies that an article, nursery stock, plant, plant 2.27 product, shipment, or any other officially regulated article meets applicable, legally 2.28 established, plant pest regulations, including this chapter. 2.29

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Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, subdivision 24, is amended to read:

- Subd. 24. Plant pest. "Plant pest" includes, but is not limited to, an invasive species or any pest of plants, agricultural commodities, horticultural products, nursery stock, or noncultivated plants by organisms such as means any organism determined by the commissioner to be capable of causing harm to terrestrial plants, including but not limited to insects, snails, nematodes, fungi, viruses, bacterium, microorganisms, mycoplasma-like organisms, weeds, plants, and parasitic plants.
- Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.02, subdivision 30, is amended to read:
- Subd. 30. Significant damage or harm. "Significant damage" or "harm" means a level of adverse impact that results in unacceptable economic damage, injury, or loss that exceeds 3.10 the cost of control for a particular erop plant. 3.11
- Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.03, subdivision 1, is amended to read: 3.12
 - Subdivision 1. Entry and inspection. (a) The commissioner may enter and inspect a public or private place that might harbor plant pests and may require that the owner destroy or treat plant pests, plants, or other material.
 - (b) If the owner fails to properly comply with a directive of the commissioner, the commissioner may have any necessary work done at the owner's expense. The commissioner shall notify the owner of the deadline for paying those expenses. If the owner does not reimburse the commissioner for an expense within a time specified by the commissioner, the expense is a charge upon the county as provided in subdivision 4.
 - (c) If a harmful plant pest infestation or infection threatens plants of an area in the state, the commissioner may take any measures necessary to eliminate or alleviate the potential significant damage or harm.
 - (d) The commissioner may collect fees required by this chapter.
- (e) The commissioner may issue and enforce written or printed "stop-sale" orders, 3.25 compliance agreements, and other directives and requests to the owner or custodian of any 3.26 plants or articles infested or infected with a harmful plant pest. 3.27
 - Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.04, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
- Subd. 2. Control order. In order to prevent the introduction or spread of harmful or 3.29 dangerous plant pests, the commissioner may issue orders for necessary control measures. 3.30 These orders may indicate the type of specific control to be used, the compound or material, 3.31

Sec. 12. 3 the manner or the time of application, and who is responsible for carrying out the control order. Control orders may include directions to control or abate the plant pest to an acceptable level; eradicate the plant pest; restrict the movement of the plant pest or any material, article, appliance, plant, or means of conveyance suspected to be carrying the plant pest; or destroy plants or plant products infested or infected with a plant pest. Material suspected of being infested or infected with a plant pest may be confiscated by the commissioner.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.05, is amended to read:

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18G.05 DISCOVERY OF PLANT PESTS; OFFICIAL MARKING OF INFESTED OR INFECTED ARTICLES.

Upon knowledge of the existence of a dangerous or injurious plant pest or invasive species within the state, the commissioner may conspicuously mark all plants, infested areas, materials, and articles known or suspected to be infected or infested with the plant pest or invasive species. Persons, owners, or tenants An entity or individual in possession of the premises or area in which the existence of the plant pest or invasive species is suspected must be notified by the commissioner with prescribed control measures. A person An entity or individual must comply with the commissioner's control order within the prescribed time. If the commissioner determines that satisfactory control or mitigation of the pest has been achieved, the order must be released.

- Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.06, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
- Subd. 2. **Quarantine notice.** (a) The commissioner may issue orders to take prompt regulatory action in plant pest emergencies on regulated articles. If continuing quarantine action is required, a formal quarantine may be imposed. Orders may be issued to retain necessary quarantine action on a few properties if eradication treatments have been applied and continuing quarantine action is no longer necessary for the majority of the regulated area.
- (b) The commissioner may place an emergency regulation or quarantine in effect without prior public notice in order to take immediate regulatory action to prevent the introduction or establishment of a plant pest.
- (c) The commissioner may enter into cooperative agreements with the United States

 Department of Agriculture and other federal, state, city, or county agencies to assist in the enforcement of federal quarantines. The commissioner may adopt a quarantine or regulation against a plant pest or an area not covered by a federal quarantine. The commissioner may seize, destroy, or require treatment of products moved from a federally regulated area if

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they were not moved in accordance with the federal quarantine regulations or, if certified, they were found to be infested with the pest organism.

- (d) The commissioner may impose a quarantine against a plant pest that is not quarantined in other states to prevent the spread of the plant pest within this state. The commissioner may enact a quarantine against a plant pest of regional or national significance even when no federal domestic quarantine has been adopted. These quarantines regulate intrastate movement between quarantined and nonquarantined areas of this state. The commissioner may enact a parallel state quarantine if there is a federal quarantine applied to a portion of the state.
- (e) The commissioner may impose a state exterior quarantine if the plant pest is not established in this state but is established in other states. State exterior quarantines may be enacted even if no federal domestic quarantine has been adopted. The commissioner may issue control orders at destinations necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of plant pests.
- Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.06, subdivision 5, is amended to read:
- Subd. 5. Public notification of a state quarantine or emergency regulation. (a) For plant pest threats of imminent concern, the commissioner may declare an emergency quarantine or enact emergency orders.
- (b) If circumstances permit, public notice and a public hearing must be held to solicit comments regarding the proposed state quarantine. If a plant pest threat is of imminent concern and there is insufficient time to allow full public comment on the proposed quarantine, the commissioner may impose an emergency quarantine until a state quarantine can be implemented.
- (c) Upon establishment of a state quarantine, and upon institution of modifications or repeal, notices must be sent to the principal parties of interest, including federal and state authorities, and to organizations representing the public involved in the restrictive measures.
- Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.10, subdivision 4, is amended to read:
- Subd. 4. **Phytosanitary and export certificates.** An exporter of plants or plant products desiring to originate shipments from Minnesota to a foreign country requiring a phytosanitary certificate or export certificate must submit an application to the commissioner. Application for phytosanitary certificates or export certificates must be made on forms provided or approved by the commissioner or the USDA. The commissioner may conduct inspections

Sec. 16. 5 of plants, plant products, or facilities for persons that have applied for or intend to apply for a phytosanitary certificate or export certificate from the commissioner.

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The commissioner may issue a phytosanitary certificate or export certificate if the plants or plant products satisfactorily meet the requirements of the importing state or foreign country and the United States Department of Agriculture requirements. The requirements of the destination states or countries must be met by the applicant.

- Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.10, subdivision 5, is amended to read:
- Subd. 5. Certificate fees. (a) The commissioner shall assess fees sufficient to recover all costs for the inspection, service, and work performed in carrying out the issuance of a phytosanitary certificate or export certificate.
- (b) If laboratory analysis or other technical analysis is required to issue a certificate, the commissioner must set and collect the fee to recover this additional cost.
- (c) The certificate fee is \$75 or a fee amount, not to exceed \$300, that is sufficient to recover all processing costs for each phytosanitary or export certificate issued. The certificate fee is in addition to any mileage or inspection time charges that are assessed.
- (d) For services provided for in subdivision 7 that are goods and services provided for the direct and primary use of a private individual, business, or other entity, the commissioner must set and collect the fees to cover the cost of the services provided.
- Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.10, subdivision 6, is amended to read:
- 6.20 Subd. 6. **Certificate denial or cancellation.** The commissioner may deny or cancel the issuance of a phytosanitary or export certificate for any of the following reasons:
 - (1) failure of the plants or plant products to meet quarantine, regulations, and requirements imposed by the country, state, or other jurisdiction for which the phytosanitary or export certificate is being requested;
 - (2) failure to completely or accurately provide the information requested on the application form;
- (3) failure to ship the exact plants or plant products which were inspected and approved;or
- 6.29 (4) failure to pay any fees or costs due the commissioner.

Sec. 18. 6

Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.11, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

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Subdivision 1. **Detection and control agreements.** The commissioner may enter into cooperative agreements with organizations, <u>persons entities</u>, civic groups, governmental agencies, or other organizations to adopt and execute plans to detect and control areas infested or infected with <u>harmful</u> plant pests. The cooperative agreements may include provisions of joint funding of any control treatment.

If a harmful plant pest infestation or infection occurs and cannot be adequately controlled by individual persons individuals, entities, owners, tenants, or local units of government, the commissioner may conduct the necessary control measures independently or on a cooperative basis with federal or other units of government.

- Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.12, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- 7.12 Subdivision 1. **Plant pest and invasive species research.** The commissioner shall conduct research to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species and plant pests that are also terrestrial invasive species into the state and to investigate the feasibility of their control or eradication.
- Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18G.12, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
- Subd. 2. **Statewide program.** The commissioner shall establish a statewide program to prevent the introduction and the spread of harmful plant pest and pests that are also terrestrial invasive species. To the extent possible, the program must provide coordination of efforts among governmental entities and private organizations.
- 7.21 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
- Subd. 2. **Agent.** "Agent" means a person an entity who, on behalf of another person entity, receives on consignment, contracts for, or solicits for sale on commission, a plant product from a producer or supplier of the product or negotiates the consignment or purchase of a plant product on behalf of another person entity.
- 7.26 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
- Subd. 3. **Annual.** "Annual" means a plant growing in Minnesota with a life cycle of less
 than one year when grown in Minnesota.

Sec. 23. 7

01/27/23 23-00338 **REVISOR** EB/CH as introduced Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 8, is amended to read: 8.1 Subd. 8. Consignee. "Consignee" means a person an entity to whom a plant, nursery 8.2 stock, horticultural product, or plant product is shipped for handling, planting, sale, resale, 8.3 or any other purpose. 8.4 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 9, is amended to read: 8.5 Subd. 9. **Consignor.** "Consignor" means a person an entity who ships or delivers to a 8.6 consignee a plant, nursery stock, horticultural product, or plant product for handling, planting, 8.7 sale, resale, or any other purpose. 8.8 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 12, is amended to read: 8.9 Subd. 12. Distribute. "Distribute" means offer for sale, sell, barter, give away, ship, 8.10 deliver for shipment, receive and deliver, offer to deliver, receive on consignment, contract 8.11 for, solicit for sale on commission, or negotiate the consignment or purchase in this state. 8.12 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 12b, is amended to read: 8.13 8.14 Subd. 12b. Etiolated growth. "Etiolated growth" means bleached and unnatural growth resulting from the exclusion of sunlight plant growth with reduced or no chlorophyll 8.15 production due to a lack of sunlight. Etiolated growth is evidenced by pale, yellowish or 8.16 white plants and weak, spindly stems. 8.17 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 12c, is amended to read: 8.18 Subd. 12c. Individual. "Individual" means a human being who is not the sole proprietor 8.19 of a registered business selling plants for planting. 8.20 Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 14, is amended to read: 8.21 8.22

8.22 Subd. 14. **Infested.** "Infested" means a plant has been overrun by that contains an unacceptable level of plant pests, including weeds, or contains or harbors plant pests in a quantity that may threaten other plants.

Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 15a. Label. "Label" means a legible tag or other signage attached to a specific plant or plant container that provides the identity of the plant and any other required or relevant information regarding the plant.

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Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 16, is amended to read:

Subd. 16. Mark. "Mark" means an official indicator affixed by the commissioner for purposes of identification or separation to, on, around, or near plants or plant material known or suspected to be infested or infected with a plant pest or to otherwise distinguish the plants or plant material from other plants or materials. This includes, but is not limited to, paint, markers, tags, seals, stickers, tape, ribbons, signs, or placards.

- Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 18, is amended to read:
- Subd. 18. Nursery certificate. "Nursery certificate" means a document issued by the commissioner recognizing that a person an entity is eligible to sell, offer for sale, or distribute certified nursery stock at a particular location under a specified business name.
- Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 20, is amended to read: 9.11
 - Subd. 20. Nursery stock. "Nursery stock" means a plant intended for planting or propagation, including, but not limited to, trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, biennials, grafts, cuttings, and buds that may be sold for propagation, whether cultivated or wild, and all viable parts of these plants. Nursery stock does not include:
- (1) field and forage crops or sod; 9.16
- (2) seeds; 9.17
- (3) vegetable plants, bulbs, or tubers; 9.18
- (4) cut material such as flowers or other herbaceous or woody plants, unless stems or 9.19 other portions are intended for propagation; 9.20
- 9.21 (5) tropical plants;
- (5) (6) annuals; or 9.22
- (6) (7) Christmas trees. 9.23
- Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 24, is amended to read: 9.24
- Subd. 24. **Owner.** "Owner" includes, but is not limited to, the person entity with the 9.25 legal right of possession, proprietorship of, or responsibility for the property or place where 9.26 any of the articles regulated in this chapter are found, or the person entity who is in possession 9.27 of, proprietorship of, or has responsibility for the regulated articles. 9.28

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Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 24a, is amended to read: 10.1 Subd. 24a. Packaged nursery stock. "Packaged nursery stock" means bare root nursery 10.2 stock packed with the roots in moisture-retaining material encased in plastic film or other 10.3 material designed to hold the moisture-retaining material in place. 10.4 Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 25, is amended to read: 10.5 Subd. 25. Person Entity. "Person" "Entity" means an individual, a registered business 10.6 such as a firm, a corporation, a partnership, an association, a trust, a joint stock company, 10.7 an unincorporated organization, or a sole proprietorship; the state;; a state agency;; or a 10.8 political subdivision. 10.9 Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 26, is amended to read: 10.10 Subd. 26. Place of origin. "Place of origin" means the county and state where nursery 10.11 stock was most recently certified or grown for at least one full growing season. 10.12 Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 28, is amended to read: 10.13 10.14 Subd. 28. Plant pest. "Plant pest" means a biotic agent that causes or may cause harm to any organism that the commissioner determines is capable of causing harm to terrestrial 10.15 plants, including but not limited to insects, snails, nematodes, fungi, viruses, bacteria, 10.16 microorganisms, mycoplasma-like organisms, weeds, and parasitic plants. 10.17 Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 32, is amended to read: 10.18 Subd. 32. Sales location. "Sales location" means a fixed location from which certified 10.19 nursery stock is displayed or distributed or displayed with the intent to sell. 10.20 Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.02, subdivision 33, is amended to read: 10.21 Subd. 33. **Tree spade.** "Tree spade" means a mechanical device or machinery capable 10.22 of removing nursery stock, root system, and soil from the a planting in one operation. 10.23 Sec. 41. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.03, subdivision 6, is amended to read: 10.24 Subd. 6. **Dissemination of information.** The commissioner may disseminate information 10.25 among growers relative to regarding the treatment of nursery stock in both prevention and 10.26

elimination of to prevent or eliminate the attack by of plant pests and diseases.

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Sec. 42. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.04, is amended to read:

18H.04 ADOPTION OF RULES.

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The commissioner may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The rules may include, but are not limited to, rules in regard to labeling and the maintenance of viability and vigor of nursery stock. Rules of the commissioner that are in effect on July 1, 2003, relating to plant protection, nursery inspection, or the Plant Pest Act remain in effect until they are superseded by new rules.

Sec. 43. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.05, is amended to read:

18H.05 NURSERY CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) No person may offer for sale or distribute certified nursery stock as a nursery stock grower or dealer without first obtaining the appropriate nursery stock certificate from the commissioner. The commissioner may not issue a certificate to a person an entity who does not sell certified nursery stock. Certificates are issued solely for these purposes and may not be used for other purposes.
- 11.15 (b) A certificate issued by the commissioner expires on December 31 of the year it is
 11.16 issued.
- 11.17 (c) A person An entity required to be certified by this section must apply for a certificate
 11.18 or for renewal on a form furnished established by the commissioner which that must contain:
- 11.19 (1) the name and, address, and contact information of the applicant;
- the number of locations to be operated by the applicant and their addresses, and
- (2) the assumed business name of the applicant;
- 11.22 (2) if other than an individual, a statement whether a person is a partnership, corporation,

 or other organization;
- 11.24 (3) the type of business to be operated and, if the applicant is an agent, the principals
 11.25 the applicant represents; and
- 11.26 (3) the address of the sales location;
- 11.27 (4) the address or geographical description of any additional location where nursery stock will be handled, if applicable; and
- (4) (5) the source or sources of purchased nursery stock.
- (d) No person entity may:

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(1) falsely claim to be a certified dealer, grower, broker, or agent; 12.1

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- (2) make willful false statements when applying for a certificate; or
- (3) sell or distribute certified nursery stock to an uncertified nursery stock dealer who 12.3 is required to be certified or nursery stock grower. 12.4
 - (e) Each application for a certificate must be accompanied by the appropriate certificate fee under section 18H.07.
 - (f) Certificates issued by the commissioner must should be prominently displayed to the public in the place of business where certified nursery stock is sold or distributed.
 - (g) The commissioner may refuse to issue a certificate for cause.
- (h) Each grower or dealer is entitled to one sales location under the certificate of the 12.10 grower or dealer. Each additional sales location maintained by the person entity requires 12.11 the payment of the full certificate fee for each additional sales outlet. 12.12
 - (i) A grower who is also a dealer is certified only as a grower for that specific site.
- (j) A certificate is personal to the applicant and may not be transferred. A new certificate 12.14 is necessary if the business entity is changed or if the membership of a partnership is changed, 12.15 whether or not the business name is changed. 12.16
- (k) The certificate issued to a dealer or grower applies to the particular premises named 12.17 in the certificate. However, if prior approval is obtained from the commissioner, the place of business may be moved to the other premises or location without an additional certificate 12.19 fee. 12.20
- (l) A collector of nursery stock from the wild is required to obtain a dealer's certificate 12.21 from the commissioner and is subject to all the requirements that apply to the inspection of 12.22 nursery stock. All collected nursery stock must be labeled as "collected from the wild." 12.23
- Sec. 44. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.06, subdivision 2, is amended to read: 12.24
- Subd. 2. Occasional sales. (a) An individual may offer nursery stock for sale and be 12.25 exempt from the requirement to obtain a nursery stock certificate if: 12.26
- (1) the gross sales of all nursery stock in a calendar year do not exceed \$2,000 \$1,000; 12.27
- (2) all nursery stock sold or distributed by the individual is intended for planting in 12.28 Minnesota; 12.29

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13.1	(3) all nursery stock purchased or procured for resale or distribution was grown in
13.2	Minnesota and has been certified by the commissioner sold or distributed was grown by
13.3	the individual in Minnesota; and
13.4	(4) the individual conducts sales or distributions of nursery stock on ten or fewer days
13.5	in a calendar year.
13.6	(b) A municipality may offer certified nursery stock for sale and be exempt from the
13.7	requirement to obtain a nursery stock certificate if:
13.8	(1) all nursery stock offered for sale or distributed is intended for planting by residents
13.9	of the municipality on public property or public easements within the municipal boundary
13.10	(2) all nursery stock purchased or procured for resale or distribution is grown in
13.11	Minnesota and has been certified by the commissioner; and
13.12	(3) the municipality submits to the commissioner before any sale or distribution of
13.13	nursery stock a list of all suppliers who provide the municipality with nursery stock.
13.14	(e) (b) The commissioner may prescribe the conditions of the exempt nursery sales under
13.15	this subdivision and may conduct routine inspections of the nursery stock offered for sale
13.16	Sec. 45. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.07, is amended by adding a subdivision to
13.17	read:
13.18	Subd. 3a. Waiver of fees. (a) A nonprofit organization or an individual may offer for
13.19	sale certified nursery stock and be exempt from the requirement to pay certificate fees if
13.20	the nonprofit organization or individual:
13.21	(1) sells or distributes certified nursery stock on ten or fewer days in a calendar year;
13.22	(2) uses the proceeds from certified nursery stock sales or distributions for nonprofit
13.23	purposes; and
13.24	(3) obtains a nursery stock certificate.
13.25	(b) A municipality may offer for sale certified nursery stock and be exempt from the
13.26	requirement to pay certificate fees if:
13.27	(1) all nursery stock offered for sale or distributed is intended for planting by residents
13.28	of the municipality on public property or public easements in the municipality;
13.29	(2) all nursery stock purchased or procured for resale or distribution is grown in
13.30	Minnesota and has been certified by the commissioner; and
13.31	(3) the municipality obtains a live plant dealer certificate.

Sec. 45. 13

(c) The commissioner may prescribe the conditions of nursery fee waivers and may 14.1 conduct routine inspections of nursery stock offered for sale. 14.2 Sec. 46. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.07, subdivision 4, is amended to read: 14.3 Subd. 4. Reinspection; additional or optional inspection fees. If a reinspection an 14.4 irregular inspection is required or an additional inspection is needed or requested, a fee must 14.5 may be assessed based on mileage and inspection time as follows: 14.6 (1) mileage must be charged at the current United States Internal Revenue Service 14.7 reimbursement rate; and 14.8 14.9 (2) inspection time must be charged at a rate sufficient to recover all inspection costs, including the driving time to and from the location in addition to the time spent conducting 14.10 the inspection. 14.11 Sec. 47. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.08, subdivision 1, is amended to read: 14.12 Subdivision 1. Services and fees. The commissioner may make small lot inspections 14.13 or perform other necessary services for which another charge is not specified. For these 14.14 services, the commissioner shall may set a fee plus expenses that will recover the cost of 14.15 performing this service. The commissioner may set an additional acreage fee for inspection 14.16 of seed production fields for exporters in order to meet domestic and foreign plant quarantine 14.17 requirements. 14.18 Sec. 48. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.09, is amended to read: 14.19 18H.09 NURSERY STOCK CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. 14.20 (a) All nursery stock growing at sites identified by nursery stock dealers or nursery stock 14.21 growers and submitted for inspection must be inspected by the commissioner within the 14.22 previous 12 months prior to sale and found apparently free from quarantine and regulated 14.23 nonquarantine pests as well as significantly dangerous or potentially damaging plant pests. 14.24 The commissioner may waive a site inspection under the following conditions: 14.25 (1) the nursery stock is not going to be sold within 12 months; 14.26 (2) the nursery stock will not be moved out of Minnesota; and 14.27 (3) the nursery site or stock is not subject to certification requirements associated with 14.28 a state or federally regulated or quarantined plant pest. 14.29

Sec. 48. 14

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All nursery stock originating from out of state and offered for sale in Minnesota must have been inspected by the appropriate state or federal agency during the previous 12 months and found free from quarantine and regulated nonquarantine pests as well as significantly dangerous or potentially damaging plant pests. A nursery stock certificate is valid from January 1 to December 31.

- (b) Nursery stock must be accessible to the commissioner for inspection during regular business hours. Weeds or other growth that hinder a proper inspection are grounds to suspend or withhold a certificate or require a reinspection for which a fee may be charged.
- (c) Inspection reports issued to growers must contain a list of the plant pests found at the time of inspection. Withdrawal-from-distribution <u>or other</u> orders are considered part of the inspection reports. A withdrawal-from-distribution <u>or other</u> order must contain a list of plants withdrawn from distribution and the location of the plants.
- (d) The commissioner may post signs to delineate <u>mark</u> sections withdrawn from distribution <u>or subject to other special circumstances</u>. These <u>signs marks</u> must remain in place until the commissioner removes <u>them the marks</u> or grants written permission to the grower to remove the <u>signs marks</u>.
- (e) Inspection reports issued to dealers must outline the violations involved and corrective actions to be taken including withdrawal-from-distribution orders which would specify nursery stock that could not be distributed from a certain area.
- (f) Optional inspections of plants may be conducted by the commissioner upon request by any <u>persons entity</u> desiring an inspection. A fee as provided in section 18H.07 must be charged for such an inspection.
 - Sec. 49. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.10, is amended to read:

18H.10 STORAGE OF NURSERY STOCK.

- (a) All nursery stock must be kept and displayed under conditions of temperature, light,
 and moisture sufficient to maintain the viability and vigor of the nursery stock.
 - (b) Packaged dormant nursery stock must be stored under conditions that retard growth, prevent etiolated growth, and protect its viability.
 - (c) Balled and burlapped nursery stock being held for sale to the public must be kept in a moisture-holding material approved by the commissioner and not toxic to plants. The moisture-holding material must adequately cover and protect the ball of earth and must be

Sec. 49. 15

kept moist at all times. The commissioner may approve alternative nursery stock management practices to maintain the viability of balled and burlapped stock.

Sec. 50. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.12, is amended to read:

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18H.12 DAMAGED, DISEASED, INFESTED, OR MISREPRESENTED STOCK.

- (a) No <u>person</u> <u>entity</u> may knowingly offer to distribute, advertise, or display nursery stock that is infested or infected with quarantine or regulated nonquarantine pests or significant dangerous or potentially damaging plant pests, including noxious weeds or nursery stock that is in a dying condition, desiccated, frozen or damaged by freezing, or materially damaged in any way.
- (b) No person entity may knowingly offer to distribute, advertise, or display nursery stock that may result in the capacity and tendency or effect of deceiving any purchaser or prospective purchaser as to the quantity, size, grade, kind, species name, age, variety, maturity, condition, vigor, hardiness, number of times transplanted, growth ability, growth characteristics, rate of growth, time required before flowering or fruiting, price, origin, place where grown, or any other material respect.
- (c) Upon discovery or notification of damaged, diseased, infested, or misrepresented stock, the commissioner may place a stop-sale stop sale and a withdrawal from distribution order on the material. The order makes it an illegal action to distribute, give away, destroy, alter, or tamper with the plants.
- (d) The commissioner may conspicuously mark all plants, materials, and articles known or suspected to be infected or infested with quarantine or regulated nonquarantine pests or significant dangerous or potentially damaging plant pests. The commissioner shall notify the persons, owners, or the tenants in possession of the premises or area in question of the existence of the plant pests.
- (e) If the commissioner determines that this chapter has been violated, the commissioner may order that the nuisance, infestation, infection, or plant pest be abated by whatever means necessary, including, but not limited to, destruction, confiscation, treatment, return shipment, or quarantine.
- (f) The plant owner is liable for all costs associated with a stop order or a quarantine, treatment, or destruction of plants. The commissioner is not liable for any actual or incidental costs incurred by a person an entity due to authorized actions of the commissioner. The commissioner must be reimbursed by the owner of plants for actual expenses incurred by the commissioner in carrying out a stop order.

Sec. 50.

Sec. 51. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.13, is amended to read:

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18H.13 SHIPMENT OF NURSERY STOCK INTO MINNESOTA.

- Subdivision 1. **Identification of origin.** Proof of valid nursery certification and origin of all nursery stock must accompany the any shipment. It is the shared responsibility of both the consignee and consignor to examine all shipments for the presence of current and applicable nursery stock certifications for all plant material from all sources of stock in each shipment.
- Subd. 2. **Reciprocity.** A person An entity residing outside the state may distribute nursery stock in Minnesota if:
 - (1) the <u>person entity</u> is duly certified under the nursery laws of the state where the nursery stock originates and the laws of that state are essentially equivalent to the laws of Minnesota as determined by the commissioner; and
- (2) the <u>person</u> <u>entity</u> complies with this chapter and the rules governing nursery stock distributed in Minnesota.
- Subd. 3. **Reciprocal agreements.** The commissioner may cooperate with and enter into reciprocal agreements with other states regarding licensing and movement of nursery stock. Reciprocal agreements with other states do not prevent the commissioner from prohibiting the distribution in Minnesota of any nursery stock that fails to meet minimum criteria for nursery stock of Minnesota certified growers, dealers, or both. An official directory of certified nurseries and related nursery industry businesses from other states is acceptable in lieu of individual nursery certificates.
- Subd. 4. **Foreign nursery stock.** A person An entity receiving a shipment of nursery stock from a foreign country that has not been inspected and released by the United States Department of Agriculture at the port of entry must notify the commissioner of the arrival of the shipment, its contents, and the name of the consignor. The person entity must hold the shipment unopened until inspected or released by the commissioner.
- Subd. 5. **Transportation companies.** A person An entity who acts as the representative of a transportation company, private carrier, commercial shipper, common carrier, express parcel carrier, or other transportation entity, and receives, ships, or otherwise distributes a carload, box, container, or any package of plants, plant materials, or nursery stock, that does not have all required certificates attached as required or fails to immediately notify the commissioner is in violation of this chapter.

Sec. 51. 17

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REVISOR

Sec. 52. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.14, is amended to read:

18H.14 LABELING AND ADVERTISING OF NURSERY STOCK.

- (a) Plants, plant materials, or nursery stock must not be labeled or advertised with false or misleading information including, but not limited to, the scientific name, variety, place of origin, and hardiness zone as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, and growth habit.
- (b) All nonhardy nursery stock as designated by the commissioner must be labeled correctly for hardiness or be labeled "nonhardy" in Minnesota.
- (c) A person An entity may not offer for distribution plants, plant materials, or nursery stock, represented by some specific or special form of notation, including, but not limited to, "free from" or "grown free of," unless the plants are produced under a specific program approved by the commissioner to address the specific plant properties addressed in the special notation claim.
- (d) Nursery stock collected from the wild state must be inspected and certified prior to sale and at the time of sale must be labeled "Collected from the Wild." The label must remain on each plant or clump of plants while it is offered for sale and during the distribution process. The collected stock may be grown in nursery rows at least two years, after which the plants may be sold without the labeling required by this paragraph.
- (e) A person An entity selling at retail or providing to an end user may not label or advertise an annual plant, bedding plant, or other plant, plant material, or nursery stock as beneficial to pollinators if the annual plant, bedding plant, plant material, or nursery stock has:
 - (1) been treated with a systemic insecticide that:
- (i) has a pollinator protection box on the label; or 18.24
- (ii) has a pollinator, bee, or honey bee precautionary statement in the environmental 18.25 hazards section of the insecticide product label; and 18.26
- (2) a concentration in its flowers greater than the no observed adverse effect level of a 18.27 systemic insecticide. 18.28
- The commissioner shall enforce this paragraph as provided in chapter 18J. 18.29
- 18.30 (f) For the purposes of paragraph (e):
- (1) "systemic insecticide" means an insecticide that is both absorbed by the plant and 18.31 translocated through the plant's vascular system; and 18.32

Sec. 52. 18 (2) "no observed adverse effect level" means the level established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for acute oral toxicity for adult honeybees.

Sec. 53. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.15, is amended to read:

18H.15 VIOLATIONS.

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- (a) A person An entity who offers to distribute nursery stock that is uncertified, uninspected, or falsely labeled or advertised possesses an illegal regulated commodity that is considered infested or infected with harmful plant pests and subject to regulatory action and control. If the commissioner determines that the provisions of this section have been violated, the commissioner may order the destruction of all of the plants unless the person entity:
- 19.11 (1) provides proper phytosanitary preclearance, phytosanitary certification, or nursery stock certification;
- 19.13 (2) agrees to have the plants, plant materials, or nursery stock returned to the consignor; 19.14 and
- 19.15 (3) provides proper documentation, certification, or compliance to support advertising claims.
 - (b) The plant owner is liable for all costs associated with a withdrawal-from-distribution order or the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of plants. The commissioner is not liable for actual or incidental costs incurred by a person an entity due to the commissioner's actions. The commissioner must be reimbursed by the owner of the plants for the actual expenses incurred in carrying out a withdrawal-from-distribution order or the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of any plants.
 - (c) It is unlawful for a person an entity to:
- 19.24 (1) misrepresent, falsify, or knowingly distribute, sell, advertise, or display damaged, 19.25 mislabeled, misrepresented, infested, or infected nursery stock;
 - (2) fail to obtain a nursery certificate as required by the commissioner;
- 19.27 (3) fail to renew a nursery certificate, but continue business operations;
- 19.28 (4) fail to display a nursery certificate;
- 19.29 (5) (4) misrepresent or falsify a nursery certificate;
- 19.30 (6) (5) refuse to submit to a nursery inspection;

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(7) (6) fail to provide the cooperation necessary to conduct a successful nursery 20.1 inspection; 20.2 (8) (7) offer for sale uncertified plants, plant materials, or nursery stock; 20.3 (9) (8) possess an illegal regulated commodity; 20.4 (10) (9) violate or disobey a commissioner's order; 20.5 (11) (10) violate a quarantine issued by the commissioner; 20.6 (12) (11) fail to obtain phytosanitary certification for plant material or nursery stock 20.7 brought into Minnesota; 20.8 (13) (12) deface, mutilate, or destroy a nursery stock certificate, phytosanitary certificate, 20.9 or phytosanitary preclearance certificate, or other commissioner mark, permit, or certificate; 20.10 (14) (13) fail to notify the commissioner of an uncertified shipment of plants, plant 20.11 materials, or nursery stock; 20.12 (14) transport uncertified plants, plant materials, or nursery stock in Minnesota; or 20.13 (16) (15) sell nursery stock to an uncertified nursery stock dealer who is required to be 20.14 certified. 20.15 Sec. 54. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 18H.18, is amended to read: 20.16 18H.18 CONSERVATION OF CERTAIN WILDFLOWERS. 20.17 Subdivision 1. **Restrictions on collecting.** No person entity shall distribute any species 20.18 of orchids (Orchidaceae), any gentian (Gentiana), arbutus (Epigaea repens), lilies (Lilium 20.19 species), coneflowers (Echinacea species), bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis), mayapple 20.20 (Podophyllum peltatutum), any species of trillium (Trillium species), or lotus (Nelumbo 20.21 lutea), which that have been collected in any manner from any public or private property 20.22 without the written permission of the property owner and. Plants intended to be offered for 20.23 sale must have the written authorization from the commissioner. 20.24 Subd. 2. Collection without sale. Wildflower collection from public or private land for 20.25 the purpose of transplanting the plants to a person's an entity's private property and not 20.26 offering for immediate sale, requires the written permission from the property owner of the 20.27 land on which the wildflowers are growing. 20.28 Subd. 3. Collection with intent to sell or distribute wildflowers. (a) The wildflowers 20.29 listed in this section may be offered for immediate sale only if the plants are to be used for 20.30 scientific or herbarium purposes. 20.31

Sec. 54. 20

21.1	(b) The wildflowers listed in this section must not be collected and sold commercially
21.2	unless the plants are:
21.3	(1) growing naturally, collected, and cultivated on the collector's property; or
21.4	(2) collected through the process described in subdivision 2 and transplanted and
21.5	cultivated on the collector's property for at least one growing season before the sale.
21.6	(c) The collector must obtain a written permit from the commissioner before the plants
21.7	may be offered for commercial sale.
21.8	(d) A plant sold commercially must be individually labeled with a department permit
21.9	number.

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as introduced

21.10 Sec. 55. **REPEALER.**

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REVISOR

Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 18G.02, subdivisions 12, 17, 21, 25, and 29; 18H.02, subdivisions 10, 12a, 29, 31, 32a, and 34; and 18H.06, subdivision 1, are repealed.

Sec. 55. 21

APPENDIX

Repealed Minnesota Statutes: 23-00338

18G.02 DEFINITIONS.

- Subd. 12. **Harmful plant pest.** "Harmful plant pest" means a plant pest that constitutes a significant threat to the agricultural, forest, or horticultural interests of Minnesota or the general environmental quality of the state.
- Subd. 17. **Nursery stock.** "Nursery stock" means a plant intended for planting or propagation, including, but not limited to, trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, biennials, grafts, cuttings, and buds that may be sold for propagation, whether cultivated or wild, and all viable parts of these plants. Nursery stock does not include:
 - (1) field and forage crops;
 - (2) the seeds of grasses, cereal grains, vegetable crops, and flowers;
 - (3) vegetable plants, bulbs, or tubers;
 - (4) cut flowers, unless stems or other portions are intended for propagation;
 - (5) annuals; or
 - (6) Christmas trees.
- Subd. 21. **Pest.** "Pest" means any living agent capable of reproducing itself that causes or may potentially cause harm to plants or other biotic organisms.
- Subd. 25. **Preclearance.** "Preclearance" means an agreement between quarantine officials of exporting and importing states to pass plants, plant material, or other items through quarantine by allowing the exporting state to inspect the plants preshipment, rather than the importing state inspecting the shipment upon arrival.
- Subd. 29. **Regulated nonquarantine pest.** "Regulated nonquarantine pest" means a plant pest that has not been quarantined by state or federal agencies and whose presence in plants or articles may pose an unacceptable risk to nursery stock, other plants, the environment, or human activities.

18H.02 DEFINITIONS.

- Subd. 10. **Container-grown.** "Container-grown" means a plant that was produced from a liner or cutting in a container.
 - Subd. 12a. **Dormant.** "Dormant" means nursery stock without etiolated growth.
 - Subd. 29. Public nuisance. "Public nuisance" means:
- (1) a plant, appliance, conveyance, or article that is infested with plant pests that may cause significant damage or harm; or
 - (2) premises where a plant pest is found.
- Subd. 31. **Regulated nonquarantine pest.** "Regulated nonquarantine pest" means a plant pest that has not been quarantined by state or federal agencies and whose presence in plants or articles may pose an unacceptable risk to nursery stock, other plants, the environment, or human activities.
- Subd. 32a. **Sod.** "Sod" means the upper portion of soil that contains the roots of grasses and the living grass plants.
- Subd. 34. **Tree spade operator.** "Tree spade operator" means a person who uses a tree spade to dig, sell, offer for sale, distribute, or transport certified nursery stock.

18H.06 EXEMPT NURSERY SALES.

- Subdivision 1. **Not-for-profit sales.** An organization or individual may offer for sale certified nursery stock and be exempt from the requirement to obtain a nursery stock dealer certificate if sales are conducted by a nonprofit charitable, educational, or religious organization that:
- (1) conducts sales or distributions of certified nursery stock on ten or fewer days in a calendar year; and
- (2) uses the proceeds from its certified nursery stock sales or distribution for charitable, educational, or religious purposes.