



**ALBERTA**  
**AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

*Office of the Minister*  
*MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

**APR 08 2020**

**Dear Horticulture Business Operator:**

The COVID-19 pandemic presents an extremely serious threat to public health. This has resulted in the advice for Albertans to stay home to stop the community spread infection and for the Government of Alberta to identify essential services that need to remain accessible to Albertans.

The Government of Alberta recognizes all agricultural businesses are essential. Including those that sell food (seed, crops, vegetables, and fruit), ornamental plants, hardware, and growing supplies (soil, fertilizer); including farmers markets, greenhouses, nurseries, and garden centres, are essential services that remain open.

The sale of flowers, ornamental shrubs, and other plants provides a vital source of revenue for Alberta horticultural operators. Supporting the ongoing viability of the industry also helps uphold the integrity of the supply chain.

Therefore, I am asking you to please consider food and non-food horticultural products as an essential service. Your support of the ongoing viability of the horticulture industry will help to secure the supply chain during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Honourable Devin Dreeshen  
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry

Cc: Hon. Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health