

FINAL DRAFT

Nutrient management guidance for licensed medical cannabis growers

Regulations regarding water, media, pesticides, and nutrients can be found in 10.62.11 of the regulations ([Medical Cannabis Growing Controls](#)).

Licensed growers are required to:

“Adopt a nutrient management plan prepared by a certified nutrient management consultant.”
10.62.11.03 B.1.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) administers the state’s [Agricultural Nutrient Management Program](#) under The Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998. This law requires all farmers grossing \$2,500 a year or more to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops, from either inorganic or organic sources.

Process for developing and following a nutrient management plan:

1. Learn about the [Agricultural Nutrient Management Program-
\[http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/farmer_information.aspx\]\(http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/farmer_information.aspx\)](#)
(includes requirements for farmers and consultants)
2. Contact the Program by phone (410-841-5959) or e-mail (nminfo.mda@maryland.gov) to have your operation registered with MDA.
3. Select a Certified Nutrient Management Consultant to write a plan for your medical cannabis operation. (Note: a licensed grower can become certified to write a nutrient management plan. However, the MMCC recommends that licensed growers hire an experienced Certified Nutrient Management Consultant).
4. Consultants must have taken the Nursery and Greenhouse Certification (FTC) training, in addition to being certified to write plans for agronomic operations.

Resources:

1. University of Maryland Extension- Writing Nutrient Management Plans for Nursery and Greenhouse Operations NGH [Nutrient Management Planning Manual 2015.pdf](#)
2. University of Maryland Agricultural Nutrient Management Program:
<https://extension.umd.edu/anmp>
3. Green Industry Knowledge Center – 26 open access learning modules:
<http://www.waternut.org/moodle/>
4. Green Industry Knowledge Center – Water and Nutrient Management Planning:
<http://www.waternut.org/moodle/course/view.php?id=6>
5. The [Southern Nursery Association Best Management Practice Manual](#) (3rd edition):
<http://contents.sna.org/bmpv30.html>
6. Rutgers University – Controlled Environment Production:
<http://nj-vegetable-crops-online-resources.rutgers.edu/2015/03/controlled-environment-agriculture/>;