

Nursery Inspection Wholesale nurseries are inspected annually to check for the presence of insect pests and plant diseases. Regular inspections allow businesses to ship nursery stock to other counties and states. Retail nurseries are inspected on a complaint basis for pest cleanliness and proper labeling.



Hydrangeas at a coastside wholesale nursery

OTHER SERVICES

Agricultural Crop Report The Department compiles crop statistics and publishes an annual San Mateo County Agricultural Crop Report for use by government agencies, the agricultural industry and other interested parties. San Mateo County is one of California's leading producers of ornamental nursery crops, including cut flowers. Other major crops include Brussels sprouts, mushrooms, leeks, peas, pumpkins and artichokes. The annual Crop Report is available on the Department website.

Pest Identification and Management A Biologist is available Monday through Friday in the afternoon at the main office (728 Heller Street, Redwood City) to assist homeowners and pest control businesses with the identification of landscape, home and structural insect pests, weeds and plant diseases. Effective control methods are recommended with an emphasis on integrated pest management.

The Department maintains a referral list of licensed pest control companies that will provide animal trapping services for problem skunks, raccoons and opossums. Information on other methods of wildlife damage control is also provided to homeowners.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (650) 363-4700
e-mail: smateoag@co.sanmateo.ca.us

**The San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/
Weights & Measures is a regulatory and informational
agency serving agriculture, industry and the community.
The County Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of
Weights and Measures is the local enforcement
authority for the California Department of
Food and Agriculture and the California
Department of Pesticide Regulation.**

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San Mateo County
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND
WEIGHTS & MEASURES



Environmental Protection

Protecting California's agricultural industry, natural resources, and the health and safety of residents and workers

Regulating Pesticide Use The Pesticide Use Enforcement Program protects the public, pesticide applicators, field workers, and the environment through education and the enforcement of state and federal laws and regulations. Department Biologists:

- **provide information and training** to workers, growers, applicators and homeowners on the safe use of pesticides;
- **monitor pesticide applications** at both urban and agricultural sites to ensure they are performed in a safe and effective manner, and that worker safety requirements are followed;
- **inspect application equipment**, pesticide storage sites, employee training documents and business pesticide use records;
- **investigate complaints** and pesticide-related illnesses.



Monitoring a structural termite fumigation

Pest Exclusion The Pest Exclusion Program provides the first line of defense for California's agricultural industry and environment from the introduction of exotic insects, weeds and plant diseases that "hitchhike" in from other states and countries. Incoming shipments of plants and produce arrive at various locations in the County including San Francisco International Airport and wholesale nurseries where they are inspected for harmful pests and diseases. Shipments of agricultural commodities destined to other states and countries are inspected and certified for compliance with quarantine requirements.

Pest Detection This proactive program is designed to detect pests before they become established. Insect traps are placed throughout the County to catch exotic pests such as medfly, gypsy moth and Japanese beetle. Early detection and eradication of harmful pests protects California's agricultural industry, home gardens, parks and natural resources and reduces the need for pesticides.



Inspection of produce for plant pests at the airport

San Mateo County Weed Management Area The Agricultural Commissioner provides administrative support for the San Mateo County Weed Management Area (WMA). The WMA is a regional coalition of agencies, private landowners, the agricultural industry, and environmental organizations concerned about the proliferation of invasive plant species in the County. The WMA promotes and coordinates efforts to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of noxious weeds.

Consumer Protection

Ensuring equity in the marketplace and fair business competition to foster consumer confidence

Weighing and Measuring Device Inspection Commercial scales are tested for accuracy; measuring devices such as gasoline pumps, taximeters and liquefied petroleum gas dispensers are inspected using State certified standards and testing procedures established by the California Division of Measurement Standards. Inaccurate devices are removed from service until repaired and re-inspected. Upon request, and for a fee, non-commercial devices can be tested for accuracy.



Testing gasoline meters for accuracy

Quantity Control and Price Verification Most retail purchases are completed using a scanner at check-out to determine the price. Annual price verification audits ensure that businesses are charging customers the correct price. Packaged products are checked to ensure proper weight, measure or count. This includes meat counter audits and undercover test purchases of deli products. Consumers can submit complaints regarding scanner overcharges by calling 650-599-SCAN or visiting the Department website.

Petroleum and Weighmaster The Department inspects petroleum products and service stations for compliance with quality, labeling and advertising requirements. Operation records of weighmasters who "weigh for hire" are audited for compliance with California laws and regulations.

Consumer complaints concerning inaccurate devices, incorrect quantity or price, and gasoline contamination are promptly investigated.

Produce Market Inspection The Golden Gate Produce Terminal in South San Francisco is the largest wholesale produce distribution center in Northern California. Fruits and vegetables are inspected daily at the market to protect consumers from substandard quality, deceptive packaging and mislabeled containers. Produce at retail stores is checked on a complaint basis for quality and labeling requirements.



Golden Gate Produce Terminal in South San Francisco

Certified Farmers' Markets San Mateo County Certified Farmers' Markets are where local growers can sell their fresh produce and flowers directly to county residents. The Department certifies each market and performs periodic inspections to ensure compliance with State regulations. Producer Certificates are issued to growers, verifying that they produce the agricultural commodities sold at the markets. Information on all the Certified Farmers' Markets in San Mateo County is available on the Department website.