

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. When can I apply for a cannabis cultivation license?

- A. Applications will be available for all cannabis cultivation licenses—both medical and adult-use (nonmedical)—on January 1, 2018.

### Q. What types of cannabis cultivation licenses will be offered in California?

#### A. 11 Types of State **Medical** Cannabis Cultivation Licenses

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is authorized to issue the following 11 types of medical cannabis cultivation licenses:

##### Type 1—Specialty Outdoor

For outdoor cultivation that uses no artificial lighting for a 5,000-square-foot or smaller total canopy size on one premises, *or* for up to 50 mature plants on noncontiguous plots

##### Type 1A—Specialty Indoor

For indoor cultivation that exclusively uses artificial lighting for 501 to 5,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

##### Type 1B—Specialty Mixed-Light

For cultivation that uses a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting at a maximum threshold (which will be determined by the licensing authority) for 2,501 to 5,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

##### Type 1C—Specialty Cottage

For cultivation that uses a combination of natural and supplemental artificial light at a maximum threshold (which will be determined by the licensing authority) on one premises for:

- 2,500 square feet or less of total canopy size for mixed-light cultivation
- up to 25 mature plants for outdoor cultivation, *or*
- 500 square feet or less of total canopy size for indoor cultivation

##### Type 2—Small Outdoor

For outdoor cultivation that uses no artificial lighting for 5,001 to 10,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

##### Type 2A—Small Indoor

For indoor cultivation that exclusively uses artificial lighting for 5,001 to 10,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

### **Type 2B—Small Mixed-Light**

For cultivation that uses a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting at a maximum threshold (which will be determined by the licensing authority) for 5,001 to 10,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

### **Type 3—Outdoor**

For outdoor cultivation that uses no artificial lighting for 10,001 square feet to up to 1 acre of total canopy size on one premises

Note: CDFA will limit the total number of Type 3 licenses allowed

### **Type 3A—Indoor**

For indoor cultivation that exclusively uses artificial lighting for 10,001 to 22,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

Note: CDFA will limit the total number of Type 3 licenses allowed

### **Type 3B—Mixed-Light**

For cultivation that uses a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting at a maximum threshold (which will be determined by the licensing authority) for 10,001 to 22,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

Note: CDFA will limit the total number of Type 3 licenses allowed

### **Type 4—Nursery**

For cultivation of medical cannabis solely as a nursery (examples of typical nursery activities include cloning and seed propagation)

Note: Type 4 licensees may transport live plants if they also hold a Type 12 transporter license; please contact the Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation for information on how to obtain a Type 12 transporter license via [email](#) or call (800) 952-5210

## **13 Types of State Adult-Use (Nonmedical) Cannabis Cultivation Licenses**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is authorized to issue the following 13 types of adult-use cannabis cultivation licenses:

### **Type 1—Small Specialty Outdoor**

### **Type 1A—Small Specialty Indoor**

### **Type 1B—Small Specialty Mixed-Light**

### **Type 2—Small Outdoor**

### **Type 2A—Small Indoor**

### **Type 2B—Small Mixed-Light**

### **Type 3—Medium Outdoor**

### **Type 3A—Medium Indoor**

### **Type 3B—Medium Mixed-Light**

### **Type 4—Nursery**

### **Type 5—Large Outdoor**

For outdoor cultivation that uses no artificial lighting for more than 1 acre of total canopy size on one premises

Note: CDFA will not issue any Type 5 licenses prior to January 1, 2023

### **Type 5A—Large Indoor**

For indoor cultivation that exclusively uses artificial lighting for more than 22,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

Note: CDFA will not issue any Type 5 licenses prior to January 1, 2023

### Type 5B—Large Mixed-Light

For cultivation using a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting at a maximum threshold (which will be determined by the licensing authority) for more than 22,000 square feet of total canopy size on one premises

Note: CDFA will not issue any Type 5 licenses prior to January 1, 2023

## Q. How are you developing the cannabis cultivation licensing regulations?

A. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is required to follow the statutory requirements found in the [California Administrative Procedure Act](#). CDFA works with stakeholders, the public, and licensing authorities to develop the standards and regulations necessary to successfully implement a statewide cannabis cultivation regulatory structure in California.

**SPECIAL NOTE: Proposed regulations for medical cannabis cultivation licensing** are now available for public review and comment. Read more [here](#).

**Proposed regulations for adult-use (nonmedical) cultivation licensing** will be available for public review and comment later in 2017. CDFA intends to use the [emergency rulemaking process](#) in 2017 for the adult-use licensing regulations and expects these regulations to be similar to the medical cannabis cultivation regulations. Until these proposed regulations are released, prospective adult-use cultivation applicants might benefit from reviewing the licensing requirements outlined in the [Adult Use of Marijuana Act](#) (AUMA, also known as Proposition 64). Examples of requirements listed in AUMA include providing a detailed description of the applicant's operating procedures and a comprehensive diagram of the proposed premises.

## Q. How do I apply for a cannabis cultivation license?

A. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is not issuing *any* cultivation licenses until January 1, 2018. However, in preparation for state licensure, CDFA recommends staying up to date on city and/or county government requirements for local cannabis cultivation licenses and permits.

## Q. How can I receive updates on the status of California's cultivation licensing regulations?

A. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) regularly posts information on its [CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing website](#) and via these three social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). Email alerts are another way to get information; please sign up [here](#).

Public input is greatly encouraged during the official public-comment periods. The 45-day comment period for the proposed medical cannabis cultivation licensing regulations is open now; the last day to submit comments is Wednesday, June 14, 2017, by 5pm (PST). For tips on how to submit comments, please click [here](#).

**Q. Where can I read a summary of California’s adult-use cannabis law (AUMA, also known as Proposition 64), and the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA)?**

A. For a summary of AUMA (Proposition 64) please click [here](#).

For a summary of MCRSA, please click [here](#).

**Q. How long will a license last before it must be renewed?**

A. All cannabis cultivation licenses will be valid for one year; a license must be renewed if a licensee wants to continue cultivating cannabis commercially.

**Q. What is the cannabis track-and-trace system? How will it work?**

A. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is developing a track-and-trace system for both medical and adult-use (nonmedical) cannabis. This system will record the movement of cannabis and cannabis products through the supply chain—from cultivation to sale—which will help ensure that if a public safety concern arises, the source will be identifiable. The track-and-trace system will also help prevent black-market cannabis products from entering the regulated market, and likewise help prevent regulated cannabis products from being diverted into the black market.

**Q. Will there be different rules for how medical and adult-use (nonmedical) cannabis may be grown in California?**

A. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is responsible for licensing all commercial cannabis cultivators, and the cultivation requirements are expected to be the same for growing medical and adult-use (nonmedical) cannabis. However, cannabis products sold to the public must be clearly differentiated as either medical or adult-use products.

**Q. Is cannabis considered an agricultural crop in California?**

A. California defines medical and adult-use (nonmedical) cannabis as an agricultural *product*. However, this identification as an agricultural product does not extend to other areas of the law. For example, cannabis is not an agricultural product with respect to local “right to farm” ordinances.

**Q. How can I contact CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing?**

A. Please call (916) 263-0801, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, or send an [email](#).

**Q. Which department should I contact to learn about other —noncultivation—types of state cannabis licenses?**

**A.** The Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation (BMCR, also known as the Bureau) is within the California Department of Consumer Affairs and will issue licenses for **transportation, distribution, dispensaries, microbusinesses, and (for medical cannabis only) testing laboratories.**

- visit the BMCR [website](#)
- send an [email](#)
- subscribe to BMCR's [email alerts](#)
- call (800) 952-5210

The Office of Manufactured Cannabis Safety (OMCS) is within the California Department of Public Health and will issue licenses for **manufacturing (such as edibles) and (for adult-use cannabis only) testing laboratories.**

- visit the OMCS [website](#)
- send an [email](#)
- call (916) 445-0275

All three of California's cannabis licensing authorities also can be reached via the new [California Cannabis Portal](#).