



MEMBERSHIP SECTION OF BY-LAWS

Membership is open to any business in Hillsborough County that is primarily engaged in the wholesale production and marketing of ornamental nursery stock, of high ethical character, and meet the following criteria:

- 1a. Must have been producing plants for at least 90 days prior to membership approval.
- 1b. Must be in possession of a valid certificate of inspection from the Division of Plant Industry prior to membership approval.
- 1c. If accepted, they will be placed on probationary status for 9 months at which time they may be re-inspected for compliance of membership criteria.
2. Must have a minimum of two dues units or produce a minimum of 200,000 plants during the year immediately prior to making application for membership.
3. Must not buy or resale (broker) more than 15 percent of the total plants marketed. Business who have a production nursery with a valid certificate of nursery inspection issued by the Division of Plant Industry in Hillsborough County and conduct sales activities at the production facility, will qualify for membership, if all other conditions of this section are met.
4. Retail sales, including landscaping, must not be more than 10 percent of the total sales.
5. The nursery must present a neat, quality appearance with a business-like atmosphere and pass inspection of the Membership Committee.
6. Membership ceases when a member nursery is sold. The new owner may apply for membership 90 days after the sale closes.
7. Fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. Applicants approved between July 1 and November 1 pay full amount of dues. Those approved after November 1 and before the fiscal year starts pay one-half annual dues.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate membership is open to any Allied Industry Company servicing the membership of the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers and nursery growers who do not meet the membership requirements for full membership. This membership group has the following requirements:

- 1) Any nursery grower who does not qualify for full membership must have a permanent presence in Hillsborough County to qualify for an associate membership. This may be a sales office, salesman based in the county, production site or an equivalent presence as determined by the Executive Committee.
- 2) An Allied Supplier must service, on a regular basis, the nurseries of Hillsborough County to qualify for an associate membership.
- 3) The dues for an associate membership will be \$150 per year. Applicants approved between July 1 and November 1 pay full amount of dues. Those approved after November 1 and before the fiscal year starts pay one-half annual dues.
- 4) Membership ceases when a nursery is sold or an Allied Industry Company no longer physically services Hillsborough County nurseries.

Benefits of an Associate Membership include receiving the TBWG monthly communications, right to participate in monthly meetings, right to serve on committees of the association, and the ability to earn discounts by participation in association events as defined by Association Policy. Associates have the right to the floor during a membership meeting but do not have the right to vote on matters before the general membership. If Associate members serve on committees, they do have the right to the floor, may serve as a committee officer and may cast votes on committee matters.

Associate Members will be listed in the Plant Availability Locator and on the TBWG website in a special area for Associate Members. Associate Members do not have the ability to list plants or products in the publication or be listed on the TBWG map.

Membership Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers to recognize the contribution of sod as an integral part of the environmental horticultural industry and the contributions of sod producers to the agricultural community of Hillsborough County.

It is the policy of the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers to allow membership by firms whose corporate offices are not in Hillsborough County but who have a substantial presence provided they fit all of the following criteria:

- 1) They have production facilities within the borders of Hillsborough County.
- 2) They conduct sales activities at the minimum of one site within Hillsborough County.
- 3) They maintain a minimum of 10 dues units within Hillsborough County.

Provided these conditions are met, the firm applying for membership will qualify in the residency requirements for membership and, if voted into membership, will have all the rights and privileges of any other member firm.

For the purposes of the Plant Availability Locator, these firms must list a Hillsborough County address, phone numbers and local contacts.