

USDA Improves Insurance Option for Nursery Growers

News Release | Washington DC

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 2025 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to improve crop insurance tailored for nursery producers. The Risk Management Agency’s (RMA) Nursery Value Select (NVS) program enables nursery producers to select the dollar amount of coverage that best fits their risk management needs.

Beginning with the 2026 crop year, NVS will offer a new Peak Endorsement Pilot, which allows producers to increase coverage during a designated peak period when the inventory value may be higher than the selected value. This Peak Endorsement Pilot is designed to provide producers with NVS the same coverage that the Nursery Peak Inventory Endorsement offered under the Nursery Field Grown and Container (FG&C) program.

“By expanding the Nursery Value Select program last year and offering the new Peak Endorsement Pilot, we are continuing our mission of providing our producers with the strongest crop insurance resources and options possible,” said RMA Acting Administrator Heather Manzano.

NVS provides similar but improved coverage to the longstanding Nursery FG&C program. RMA administered the Nursery FG&C crop insurance program for nearly 30 years. However, the Nursery FG&C program relies on a partnership between RMA and a private contractor to update and maintain the Eligible Plant List and Plant Price Schedule (EPLPPS) and associated software packages. The private contractor permanently ceased operations shortly after providing all necessary contractual obligations for the 2025 crop year. Without access to the EPLPPS and associated software, **the Nursery FG&C crop insurance program will no longer be available to nursery producers beginning with the 2026 crop year.**

NVS will offer comparable but improved risk management options for those who currently have coverage with the Nursery FG&C program. Like Nursery FG&C, NVS also covers field grown and containerized nursery plants and offers coverage levels between catastrophic and 75%. Unlike Nursery FG&C, NVS has simplified reporting requirements, and an Occurrence Loss Option is available.

The sales closing date for the 2026 crop year is May 1, 2025, or Sept. 1, 2025, depending on location.

NVS was first available in the 2021 crop year, and producers insured more than \$1 billion in liabilities in crop year 2025.

To learn more about NVS and any required transitions, visit the NVS website, watch a video, or read through our frequently asked questions.

More Information

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. Producers can learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov

Managing Risk

RMA continues to explore ways to adjust and create new policies based on producer needs and feedback.

PM-25-008 Nursery Value Select Pilot Crop Insurance Program Modifications for the 2026 and Succeeding Crop Years

Date: January 16, 2025

To: All Approved Insurance Providers

All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

All Other Interested Parties

From: Richard H. Flournoy, Deputy Administrator /s/ Richard H. Flournoy

Subject: Nursery Value Select Pilot Crop Insurance Program Modifications for the 2026 and Succeeding Crop Years

BACKGROUND:

On November 21, 2024, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors approved modifications to the Nursery Value Select Pilot Crop Insurance Program beginning with the 2026 crop year. The modifications include the following:

- Allow carryover policyholders to submit renewal documents at any time after the sales closing date, resulting in prorated premium for the remainder of the crop year; and
- Add a new Peak Endorsement Pilot, which allows producers to increase coverage during a designated peak period when the inventory value may be higher than the selected value.