

ANNUAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION LICENSES

# A Reference Guide for the Cultivation Plan

---

**CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing**, a division of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, created this document to provide guidance with the cultivation plan required for each annual cannabis cultivation licensing application. This document is for informational purposes and is not the official state application, nor does it include all the application requirements. For the official state application for an annual cannabis cultivation license, please visit the CalCannabis website: [calcannabis.cdfa.ca.gov](http://calcannabis.cdfa.ca.gov).

## CULTIVATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Cultivation plan requirements differ based on license type, and the plan requirements for the licenses are outlined below. Each cultivation plan requirement listed has a corresponding section in this document that introduces the requirement, provides examples and, where applicable, offers optional templates, which may be used by applicants.

### SPECIALTY COTTAGE, SPECIALTY, SMALL, AND MEDIUM LICENSE TYPES

- Property diagram
- Premises diagram
- Pest management plan
- Waste management plan
- Lighting diagram (mixed-light and indoor licenses only)

### NURSERY LICENSE

- Property diagram
- Premises diagram
- Pest management plan
- Waste management plan

### PROCESSOR LICENSE

- Property diagram
- Premises diagram
- Waste management plan

## KEY WORDS

The following brief definitions of key words used on the annual cannabis cultivation licensing application are provided as a quick reference guide for applicants. For more in-depth definitions, please review the California Department of Food and Agriculture's cannabis cultivation regulations and Business and Professions Code Division 10.

**Canopy:** the designated area(s) at a licensed premises (except for nurseries) that will contain mature (flowering) plants at any point in time, as follows:

- The canopy shall be calculated in square feet and measured using clearly identifiable boundaries of all areas that will contain mature plants at any point in time, including all the space(s) within the boundaries.
- The canopy may be noncontiguous, but each unique area included in the total canopy calculation shall be separated by an identifiable boundary that includes, but is not limited to, interior walls, shelves, greenhouse walls, hoop-house walls, garden benches, hedgerows, fencing, garden beds, or garden plots.
- If mature plants are being cultivated using a shelving system, the surface area of each level shall be included in the total canopy calculation.
- A specialty cottage outdoor canopy is determined by plant count, whereas a specialty outdoor canopy is determined by either square feet or plant count.

**Composting Area:** the area designated for composting on the licensed premises.

**Cultivation Plan:** a component of the application with different requirements based on license type.

**Flowering:** a cannabis plant that has formed a mass of pistils measuring greater than one-half-inch wide at its widest point.

**Harvest Storage Area:** the area designated in the cultivation plan for storing all harvested cannabis on the licensed premises.

**Indoor Cultivation:** cultivation of cannabis within a permanent structure that exclusively uses artificial light, or within any type of structure that uses artificial light, at a rate above 25 watts per square foot.

**Lighting Diagram:** a plan that identifies the wattage per square foot (for mixed-light and indoor license types only).

**Mature Plant:** a cannabis plant that is flowering.

**Mixed-Light Cultivation:** cultivation of mature cannabis in a greenhouse, hoop-house, glasshouse, conservatory, hothouse, or a similar structure that uses light deprivation and/or artificial lighting. Mixed-light cultivation is divided into two tiers:

- **Mixed-Light Tier 1:** the use of artificial light at a rate of 6 watts per square foot or less.
- **Mixed-Light Tier 2:** the use of artificial light at a rate above 6 and below or equal to, 25 watts per square foot.

**Outdoor Cultivation:** cultivation of mature cannabis without the use of artificial lighting in the canopy area at any point in time; artificial lighting is permissible only to maintain immature plants.

**Packaging Area:** the area designated for packaging cannabis on the licensed premises.

**Pest Management Plan:** a plan that identifies the biological, cultural, and chemical removal of pests.

**Pesticide and Agricultural Chemical Storage Area:** the area designated to store all chemicals to be used on the licensed premises.

**Processing Area:** the area designated to process cannabis on the licensed premises; processing includes drying, curing, grading, trimming, storing, packaging, and labeling of nonmanufactured cannabis products.

**Premises:** the designated structure (or structures) and land specified in the application that is owned, leased, or otherwise held under the control of the applicant or licensee where the commercial cannabis activity will be or is conducted. The premises shall be a contiguous area and only occupied by **one licensee**.

**Research and Development Area:** the area identified in the cultivation plan for the nursery license type that is designated for research and development of the cultivation of mature plants; all products derived from these plants are **prohibited** from entering the commercial distribution chain.

**Seed Production Area:** the area designated for cannabis seed production for the nursery license type only. This area may contain mature plants; seeds are the only product allowed to enter the commercial distribution chain from this designated area.

**Waste Management Plan:** a plan that identifies how cannabis waste generated on the licensed premises is managed.

**Watts per Square Foot:** the sum of the maximum wattage of all lights identified in the designated canopy area(s) in the cultivation plan, divided by the sum of the dimensions in square feet of the designated canopy area.

## PROPERTY DIAGRAM

A **property diagram** is a diagram of the **whole property associated with the proposed premises**. This is the “**zoomed out**” diagram of the proposed premises. If the proposed premises spans multiple parcels, all parcel numbers must be identified on the diagram.

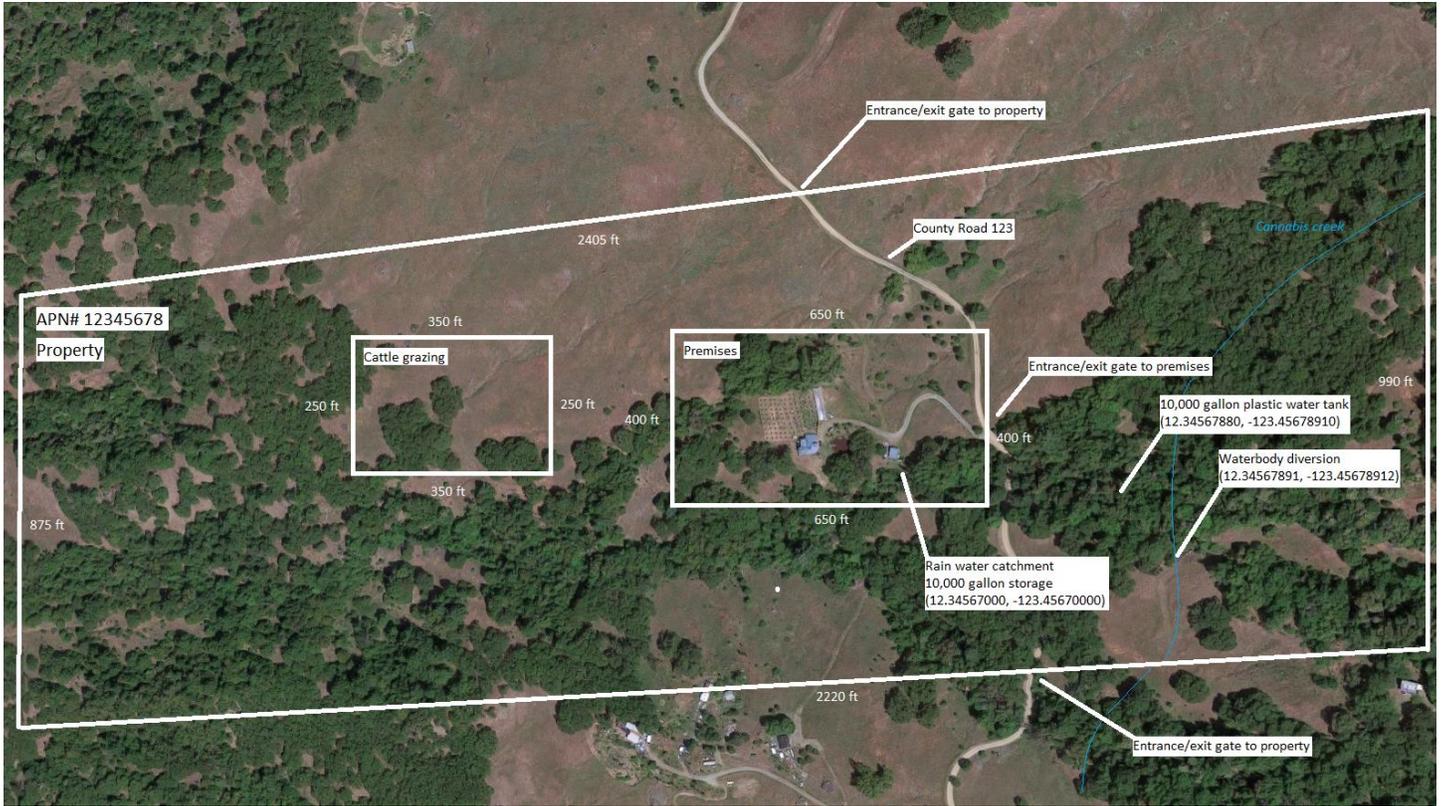
The property diagram requirements are the same for all license types and a complete diagram must feature the following:

- Parcel boundaries
- Premises boundaries
- Perimeter dimensions of the parcel(s) and premises
- Entrances to the parcel(s) and premises
- Exits to the parcel(s) and premises
- All roads
- All water crossings (including seasonal streams)
- If diverting from a waterbody, groundwater well, or rainwater-capture system, include locations of and coordinates (in latitude and longitude or in the California Coordinate System) for:
  - Water storage facilities (label the type and storage capacity of each facility);
  - Water sources; and
  - Water delivery systems (include pump and distribution systems)
- Assessor’s Parcel Number(s) (APN)
- Non-cannabis activities occurring on-site

In addition to the items listed above, **a property diagram must be to scale, all measurements must be in feet, and there may not be any highlighting.**

**Please see the sample property diagram on the following page.**

EXAMPLE



This example of a property diagram used aerial imagery and a basic image-editing software program to accurately label each property diagram requirement.

## PREMISES DIAGRAM

A **premises diagram** is a diagram of the **proposed licensed premises**. This is the “**zoomed in**” diagram of the proposed premises. Premises diagram requirements differ based on license type and they must **identify the boundaries and dimensions** (in feet) of the required areas specified below:

### SPECIALTY COTTAGE, SPECIALTY, SMALL, AND MEDIUM LICENSE TYPE REQUIREMENTS

- Canopy areas
  - Include aggregate square footage if canopy areas are noncontiguous
- Areas containing only immature plants (as applicable)
- Pesticide and agricultural chemical storage area
- Processing area (as applicable)
- Packaging area (as applicable)
- Composting area (as applicable)
- Secure cannabis waste storage area (as applicable)
- Harvest storage area

### NURSERY LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- Areas containing only immature plants
- Pesticide and agricultural storage area
- Research and development area (as applicable)
- Seed production area (as applicable)
- Composting area (as applicable)
- Secure cannabis waste storage area (as applicable)

### PROCESSOR LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

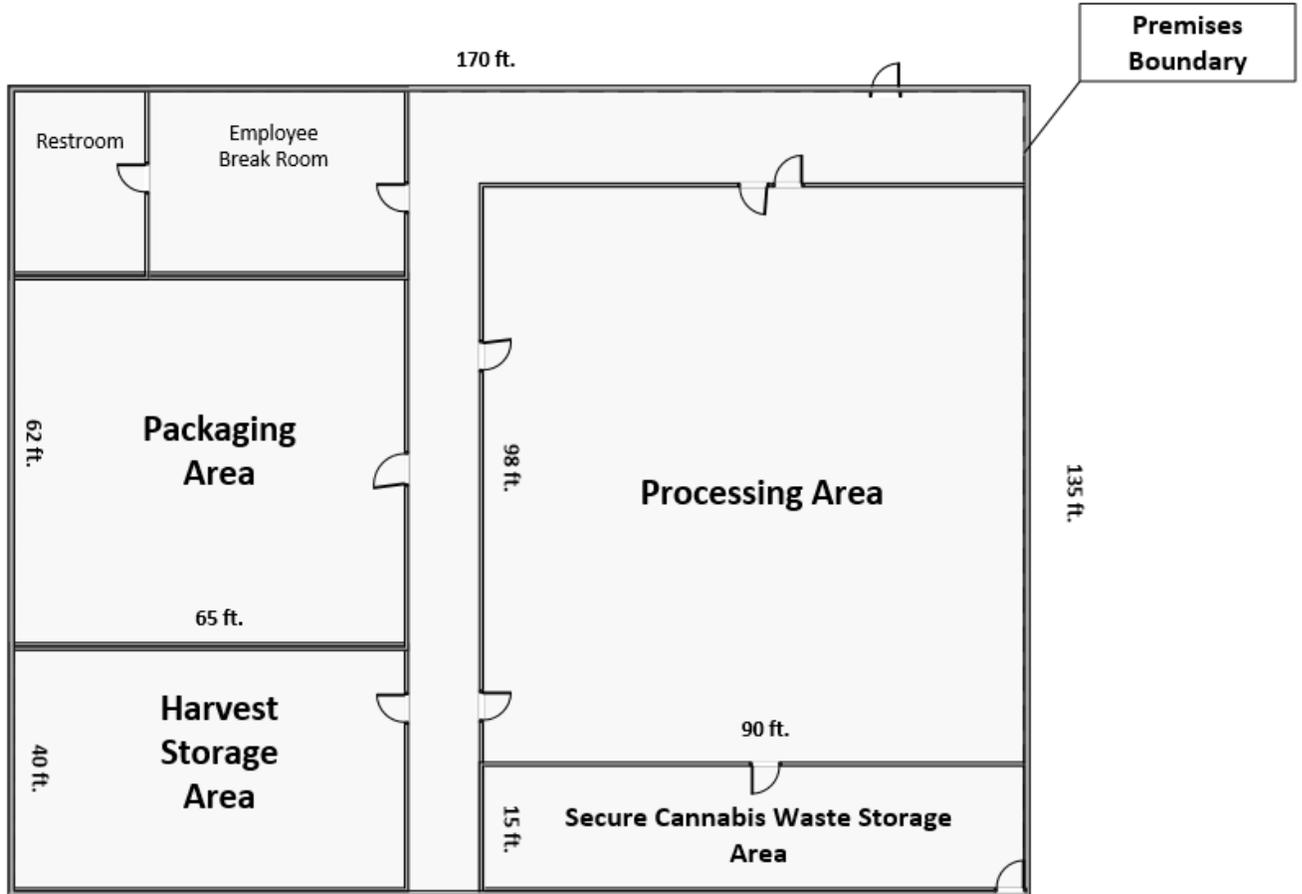
- Processing area
- Packaging area
- Composting area (as applicable)
- Secure cannabis waste-storage area (as applicable)
- Harvest storage area

In addition to the items listed above, a **premises diagram must be to scale, all measurements must be in feet, and there may not be any highlighting**. Please see the sample premises diagrams on the following pages.

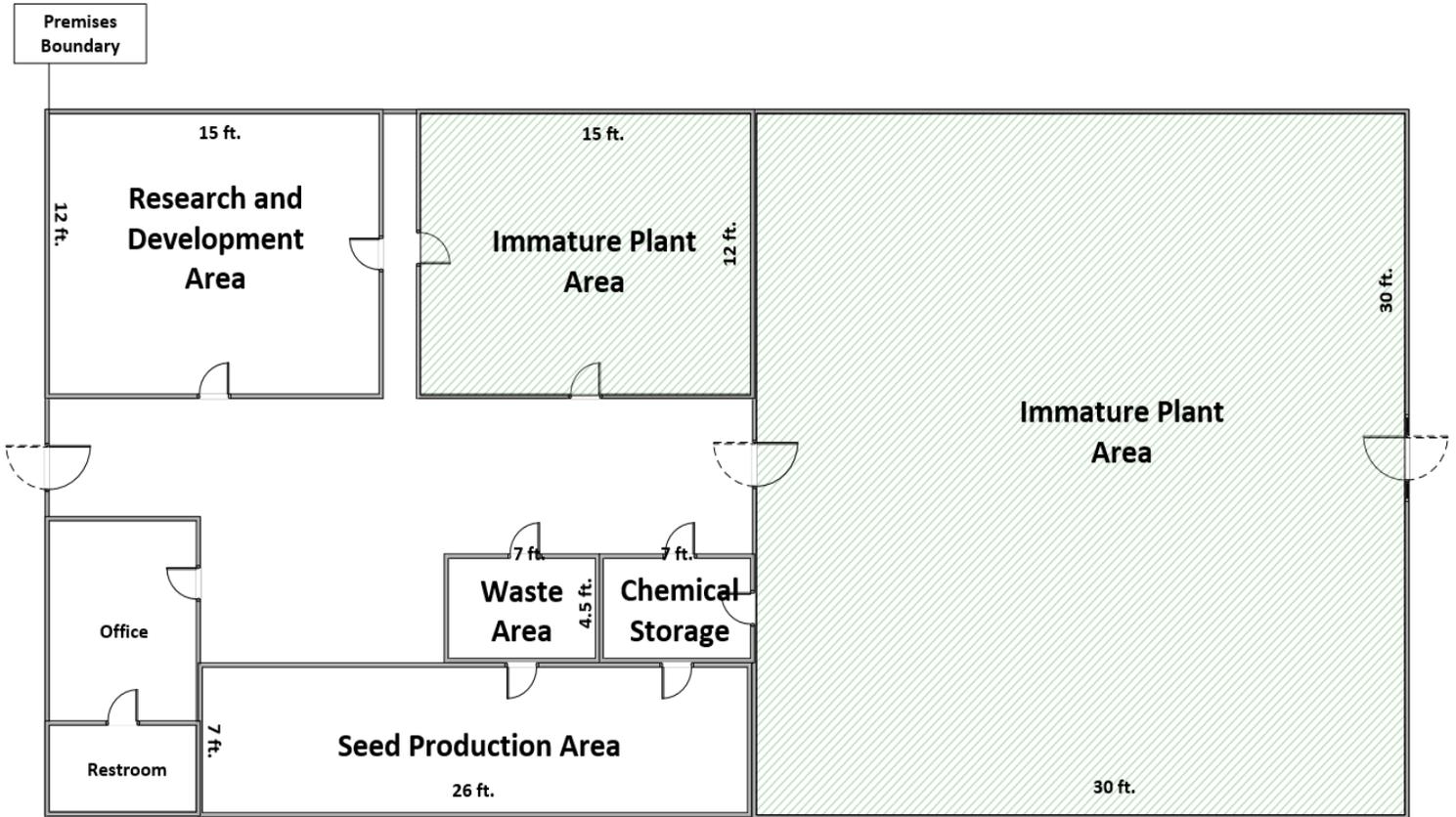
**EXAMPLE: CULTIVATION LICENSE**



EXAMPLE: PROCESSOR LICENSE



EXAMPLE: NURSERY LICENSE



## PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pest management plans traditionally are implemented with a focus on long-term management and/or suppression of unwanted pests using cultural, biological, and chemical control measures. For annual license applications, a pest management plan must include, but is not limited to, the requirements listed below.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Product name and active ingredients of all pesticides to be applied to cannabis during any stage of plant growth (for example, rooting hormones, pesticides, rodenticides, fungicides, etc.)
- Integrated pest management protocols, including the following control methods:
  - Cultural
  - Biological
  - Chemical

CalCannabis has created an *optional* template applicants may use to complete their pest management plan, which is available on the following page.



## WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Waste management plans must identify the method(s) for managing cannabis waste generated on the premises. For this section, cannabis waste is organic waste, meaning food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous-wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste. To meet the requirements of a waste management plan, simply refer to the list below and identify the method(s) for managing cannabis waste.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT METHODS

- On-premises composting
- Collection and processing by a local agency, a waste hauler franchised or contracted by a local agency, or a private waste hauler permitted by a local agency
- Self-haul to one or more of the following:
  - a manned fully permitted solid-waste landfill or transformation facility
  - a manned fully permitted composting facility or manned composting operation
  - a manned fully permitted in-vessel digestion facility or manned in-vessel digestion operation
  - a manned fully permitted transfer/processing facility or manned transfer/processing operation
  - a manned fully permitted chip-and-grind operation or facility

CalCannabis has created an *optional* template applicants may use to complete their waste management plan, which is available on the following page.

## CALCANNABIS CULTIVATION LICENSING WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Methods for managing cannabis waste generated on the premises shall be:

- On-premises composting
- Collection and processing by a local agency, a waste hauler franchised or contracted by a local agency, or a private waste hauler permitted by a local agency
- Self-haul to one or more of the following:
  - a manned fully permitted solid-waste landfill or transformation facility
  - a manned fully permitted composting facility or manned composting operation
  - a manned fully permitted in-vessel digestion facility or manned in-vessel digestion operation
  - a manned fully permitted transfer/processing facility or manned transfer/processing operation
  - a manned fully permitted chip-and-grind operation or facility

## LIGHTING DIAGRAM

Indoor and mixed-light license type applications must include a lighting diagram, and the requirements are outlined below.

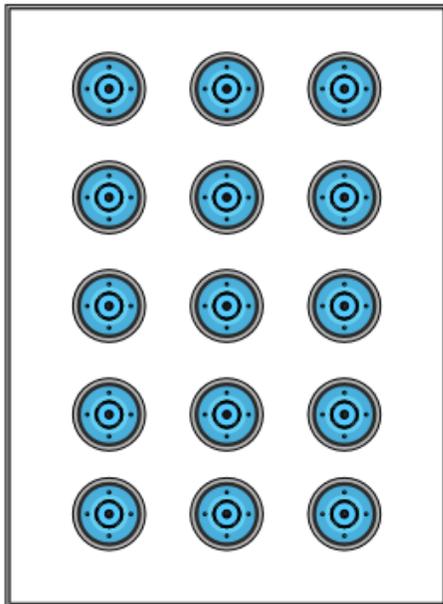
### REQUIREMENTS

- Location of all lights in the canopy area(s)
- Maximum wattage of each light
- Aggregate wattage per square foot of each canopy area

### EXAMPLE

#### Lighting Diagram

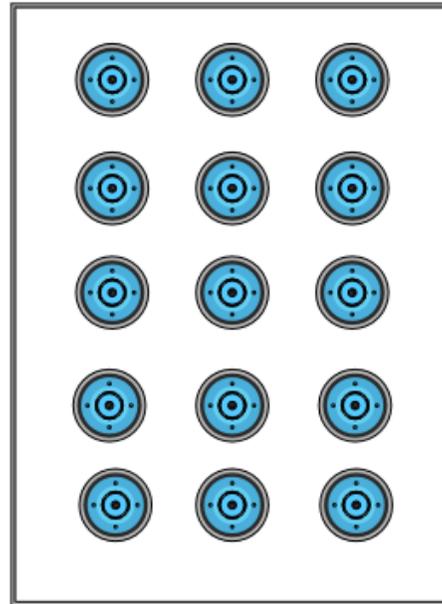
**Canopy Area 1** (identified in the premises diagram as greenhouse 1)



**Aggregate Wattage per Canopy Area**

15 lights X 1200 watts per light = 18,000 watts  
 Each canopy area (greenhouse) is 1,500 square feet  
 18,000 watts / 1,500 square feet = **12 watts/square foot**

**Canopy Area 2** (identified in the premises diagram as greenhouse 2)



**Maximum Wattage of Each Light**

 = 1200 maximum watt light