



A Systems Approach to Nursery Certification

Growing Better....

with SANC

A Systems Approach to Nursery Certification

Continental Dialogue Meeting

November 2013



What is SANC ?

... an ongoing effort to incorporate a systems approach process into nursery certification, to reduce pest risk and pest movement while facilitating and expediting the movement of nursery stock.

Nursery Certification Challenges



- Increased volume of trade
- Diminished resources
- Varying state laws and regulations
- More quarantine and regulated pests

What Could We Gain from a Systems Approach?

- Focus resources to manage risk most effectively
- Increase compatibility among state programs
- Reduce pest risk
- More direct interaction between nursery production staff and regulators (Partners in quality).
- A smoother transition between interstate and international certification programs

The SANC Framework

What is a Systems Approach?





A Systems Approach Strategy:

- Incorporates specific operational nursery practices to minimize the likelihood of incursion, establishment and spread of plant pests and pathogens in a nursery
- Requires two or more control measures that are independent of each other (ex: scouting & pest exclusion)
- Improves our understanding of a plant product beyond just that single end-product inspection snapshot.

This Framework for SANC is based on a HACCP-type approach, reduced to a Critical Control Point System (CCPS)



How would it work? --

- **Risk analysis** for the nursery/greenhouse



- **Critical control points** identified by/for the nursery/greenhouse



- Development and implementation of appropriate **best management practices** by the establishment



- **Verification** that best management practices are being followed, and that plant material remains apparently free of pests.

Simplified version...

- **WHAT** is the hazard? – Risk Analysis
- **WHERE** is the hazard? – Critical Control Point
- **HOW** to minimize the hazard? – Best Management Practices
- **SUCCESS** in managing the hazard? - Verification

What could the process lead to?

- **Risk analysis** for the nursery
- **Critical control points** identified by/for the nursery
- Development and implementation of appropriate **best management practices**
- **Verification** that best management practices are being followed, and that plant material remains apparently free of pests.
- **SANC Agreement – SANC Certification**



Accomplishments

What has the SANC initiative done so far?



Created Draft revisions of the Plant Pest and Nursery Model Bills

Last versions are now 12 years old....

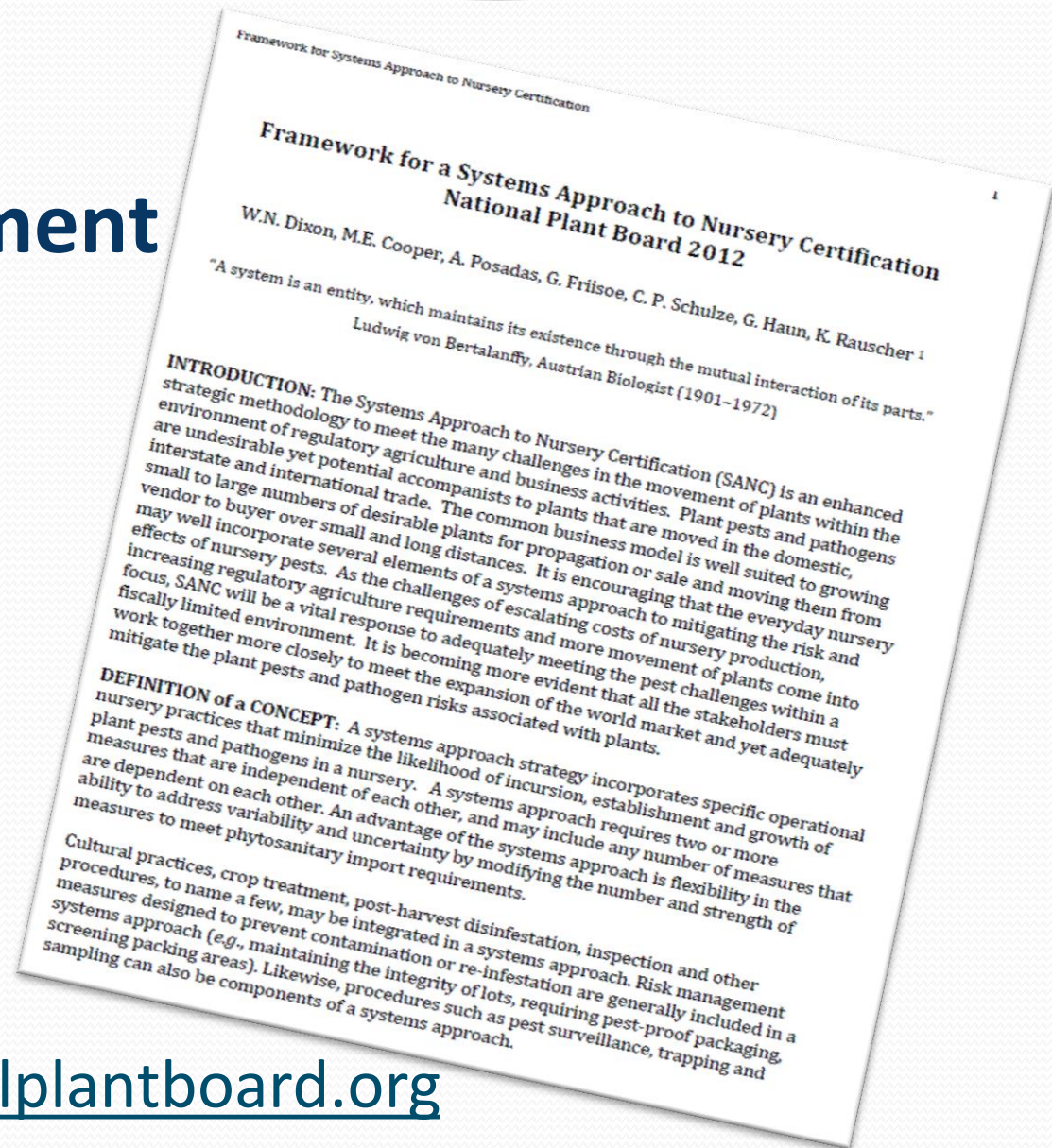
New versions will help harmonize programs across states, & suggest ways to incorporate systems approaches into nursery certification.



Produced a Framework Document

Describes what a Systems Approach is and how we think the concept can be applied to nurseries and to nursery certification

<http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org>



Immediately addressed the threat of boxwood blight:

Developed a compliance agreement template to facilitate orderly shipment of boxwood...

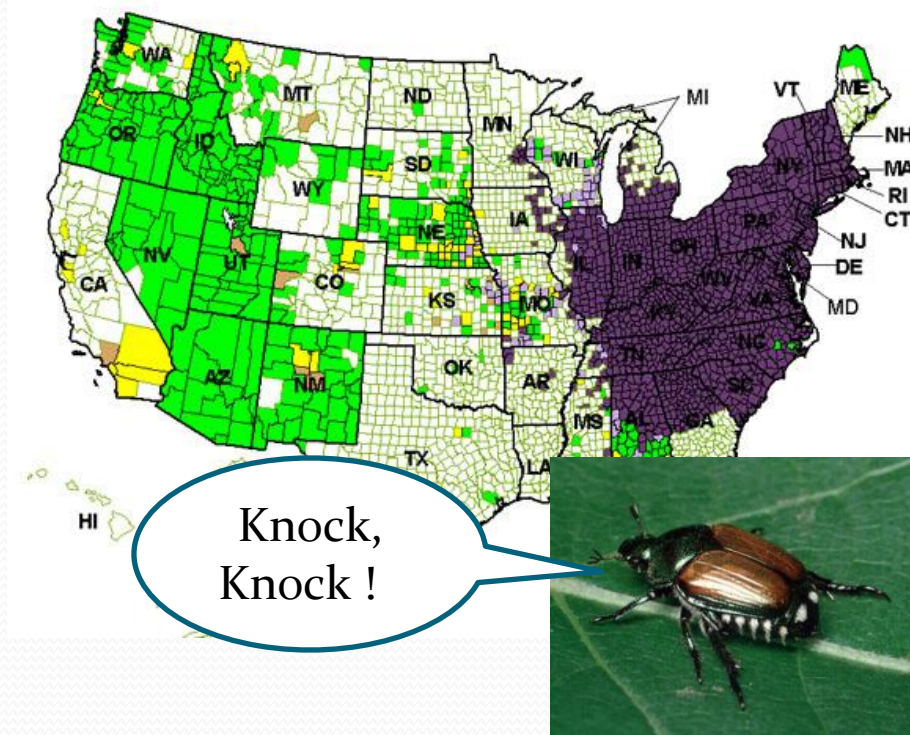


<http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org>

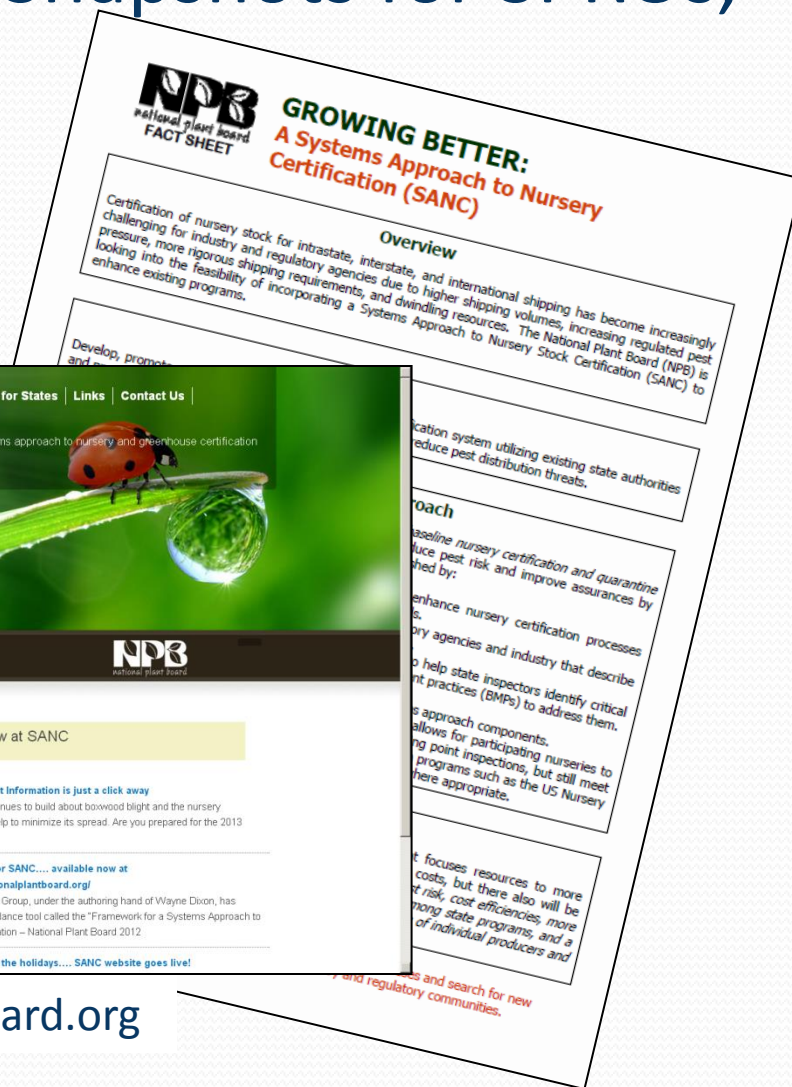
Compliance sub-committee will continue to develop templates for other pests regulated by states



Brown Garden Snail;
Image: OR State Univ



Began development of outreach mechanisms such as the SANC website, Snapshots for SPROs, and SANC Fact Sheet



<http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org>

Began development of uniform training tools and mechanisms:

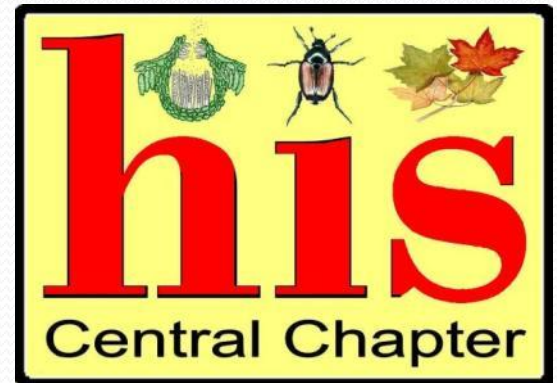
- Collaboration with horticulture inspectors to facilitate multi-state inspections to test the principles of SANC



Development of uniform training tools and mechanisms, cont'd:



- Working with USDA's PDC (Professional Development Center) to promote audit training.
- New SANC training modules for States and for Nurseries are planned
- Distribute pest identification and management manuals to state horticulture inspectors



Development of Best Management Practices Document for Nursery Industry is Well Underway

- Tool developed by a group at USDA-APHIS-PPQ CPHST (Center for Plant Health Science and Technology)
- Provided to an Industry team, who has returned document to SANC Core Group
- Will be available through SANC as a foundation for our work.

Pilot Committee formed, to turn ideas into action --

- Where will SANC work?
- How will it work?
- What do we need to make it work?



Is SANC going to be mandatory?



No. This is a voluntary program that will be administered by participating states for nurseries that want to be in the program and adhere to its guidelines.

SANC it's a change of perspective, but

- It's not rocket science
- Much of this nurseries are probably already doing
- We're moving slowly and deliberately
- Together we'll be successful





Thank you!