Systems Approach to Nursery Certification-Update

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Topics

- ❑ Industry Facts and Figures
- ❑ Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) overview
- ❑ Some Thoughts on Future

Some Facts and Figures

- Specialty crops half of all crop value
- Nursery & floriculture – 1/3 of specialty crops
- Nursery & floriculture - $16.7B at farmgate
- Total sales all sectors - $136.4B
- Direct employment all sectors – 1.6 million
- We remain
  - An industry of small & family farms, businesses
  - Mainly domestically focused


GROWING BETTER WITH
SANC
A Systems Approach to Nursery Certification

Nursery Certification --

Domestic, state-level certification of nursery and greenhouse "plants for planting," established by law to:

- Protect plant resources from harmful pests and diseases
- Facilitate orderly movement of nursery stock in commerce

SANC is….

Certification based on *how plants are produced* rather than how those plants look at the time of a single inspection.

Systems Approach

Combines **independent measures**, which together appropriately manage risk.

If you were certifying that a plant is free from harmful pests, would you rather:

- Look at it once? (Inspection)

~~~~ Or ~~~~

- Know that the plant originates from cleanest available stock, that good sanitation measures are practiced and a scouting program is in place at the growing site, and that the grower recognizes key pests and employs appropriate controls for pests? (Systems Approach)
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All Based on a *Standard*

- Scope, definitions, references
- Technical requirements
- Training, Recordkeeping, Traceability
- Facility manual
  - What the producer/facility says it will do
- Regulatory approval and oversight
  - Are you doing what you said you will do?
  - Audits, addressing noncompliance

Key SANC Steps

- **Pest Risk Assessment** of the nursery --
- Identify ***Hazards*** *and* ***Critical control points***
- Identify and implement appropriate ***best management practices***
- **Implement, Monitor**
- **Keep records**, including IPM practices, staff training and production methods
- Ensure **traceability**

Cutting Through the Jargon

Critical Control Point (CCPs)

Specific steps in the plant production process where something can be done to manage risk – The "What."

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Actions taken to address the hazard at a critical control point – The "How."

Critical Control Points / Best Management Practices Matrix is available at http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org/

Critical Control Point

Hazard

Best Management Practice (BMP)

GROWING BETTER WITH SANC

A Systems Approach to Nursery Certification

....Promoting a harmonized, risk-based systems approach to nursery and greenhouse certification

SANC NURSERY/GREENHOUSE INSPECTION - CCP/BMP CHECKLIST COMPANION

Circle or highlight areas where improvements can be made.

	Component, site, or stage of production	Target pests or pathogens	Contamination Hazard	BMP
PLANTS - INPUTS	Imported cuttings, bareroot, tissue culture	Regulated pests and pathogens.	Introduction from offshore propagators	Follow import regulations and applicable compliance agreements. Purchase from a systems approach certified source if possible. Inspect or test for pests and pathogens.
	Incoming cuttings, bareroot, tissue culture from domestic sources	Regulated pests and pathogens	Introduction on purchased stock or cuttings	Follow state regulations or compliance agreements.
	Incoming cuttings, bareroot, tissue culture from domestic sources	Systemic bacterial and viral pathogens	Introduction from purchased stock or cuttings from domestic source	Purchase from state-certified source where pre-shipment inspections ha occurred. If not from a state-certifi source or unknown, Grow out and inspect all deliveries prior to accep into inventory.
	Incoming cuttings, bareroot, tissue culture from domestic sources	All pests and pathogens	Introduction on purchased stock or cuttings	Inspect all deliveries and scout fo and root pests, vector upon receipt. Send qu to a diagnostic lab wh Determine appropriat pathogen found whet treatment, other cultu thorough composting Evaluate risk to deter
	Incoming cuttings, bareroot, tissue culture from domestic sources	All pests and pathogens	Introduction on purchased stock or cuttings	Inspect and scout buy during the first two w propagation. Conside determine scouting inter mingling of shipments prior to

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It all boils down to RISK MANAGEMENT

- **Prevent problems coming in**
- **Monitor and scout crops for issues**
- **Accurately diagnose pests/diseases**
- **Address problems and Document**
- **Audit compliance**

SANC on the Ground

- Two pilot phases
- 19 diverse facilities
- Coast to coast, border to border
- Three way partnership (States/Industry/USDA-APHIS)
- Governing board


Altman Plants Vista, California Facility
Share
LIVING TREASURES
ALTMAN PLANTS


Twin Oaks
Ranch Nursery
Buena Creek Rd
Buena Creek Rd
Altman Plants
Twin Oaks
House Weddings
Deer Springs
Feed & Supply
TWIN OAKS
Buena Creek
Gardens
West Coast Nurseries
Buena Creek Rd
Buena Creek Rd
Walnut
Grove Pa
Twin Oaks Elementary


Altman Plants Nursery - FPV Quadcopter
Share

Lake Mathews (Riverside), CA

- 670 contiguous acres
- 2 million sq. ft. greenhouse space
- 18 acres under shadecloth
- Recycle, reuse over 100 million gallons water each year
- 400 employees at peak (plus 8 robots)

Altman Reflections on SANC…

- 2 counties, distinct approaches
- A lot of work. Takes strong commitment
- Making us better growers. More vigilant, fewer problems
- Marketplace rewards? Not yet. Working with those we supply so they know
- Catalyst…

Other Horticulture Systems Approaches

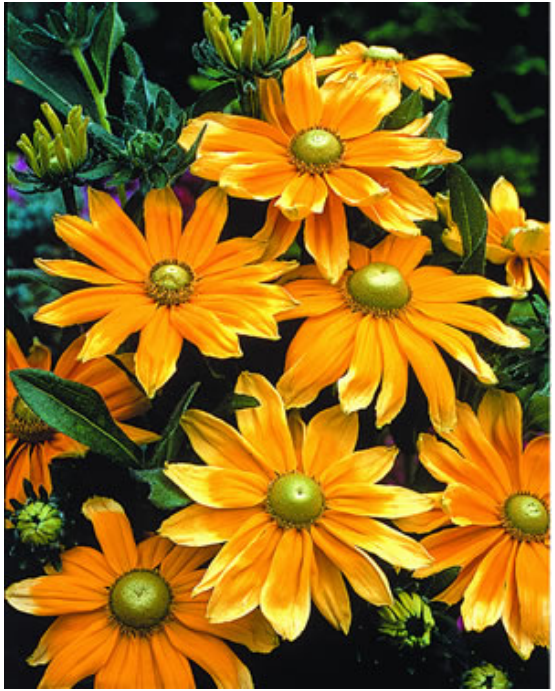
- US-Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program

- Offshore “cuttings” pilot
  - Nearly 2 billion plant cuttings imported annually
  - Highly perishable
  - Standard covering facility design, sanitation, water mgmt., etc. must be met/exceeded

Contrasting GCP/Offshore Cuttings and SANC

- SANC built upon:
  - Facility-specific risk assessment
  - Identification of hazards, control points
  - Selection and application of risk mitigation measures (best practices)

- GCP, Offshore Cuttings built upon minimum requirements that must be met or exceeded



Facility Certification vs. Risk Based Sampling

- APHIS moving toward Risk Based Sampling
  - Fewer inspection resources toward lower-risk consignments, pathways, shippers
- Both have their place
- Facility (place of production) certification offers benefit of "cultural transformation" in same way as SANC
- And, your fate is determined by how good a job YOU do!

Final Thoughts on SANC and Industry

- Connecting the dots…
- “Is the Juice worth the Squeeze?”
- Pilot growing operations speak positively of “culture change”
- Will marketplace reward adopters?