



Nursery & Garden Industry  
Australia

# Case Study

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For immediate release

Wednesday 2 May 2018

## Working towards 'operational excellence' through BioSecure HACCP

### OVERVIEW

Best practice program BioSecure HACCP plays a vital role in protecting Australia's greenlife sector from exotic pests, disease and weeds, but it can also deliver real benefits through production efficiencies, reduced stock losses and greater staff engagement.

Industry is encouraged to gain a better understanding of the benefits of BioSecure HACCP at a workshop being held by Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) at Victorian-based nursery, Parks Wide, at Forest Hill on 30 May 2018.

BioSecure HACCP allows production nurseries, media manufacturers and greenlife markets to assess their plant pest risks and to streamline trade through effective management strategies at critical control points.

The program integrates the best in pest management through prevention, monitoring, surveillance and treatment, to inform decision-making. It also ensures record keeping is up to date with an easy to use, accessible online portal.

With the program's structure in place, and its ability to be audited, it provides assurance to regulatory authorities and customers that the business is a trusted and capable supplier of green life or growing media.

### THE WORKSHOP

Image: Tony Filippi.



The May workshop will outline to growers the value of best practice and the systems approach of the internationally accepted HACCP methodology.

It will be run by NGIA Biosecurity Certification Officer, Tony Filippi, who has extensive experience across horticulture in areas such as quality management and export programs.

Tony said that owners and key staff from production nurseries, greenlife markets and growing media manufacturers are strongly encouraged to attend, to find out how BioSecure HACCP can work for their businesses.



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“There’s a feeling within industry that becoming certified is too difficult or time consuming,” Tony said.

“However, BioSecure HACCP is not about reinventing the wheel. It’s about building on the processes that businesses already have in place, and formalising these with clear guidelines for staff to follow.

“It integrates pest, disease and weed management into a system that is robust and replicatable, which gives you confidence that issues can be identified and managed before impacting on the business financially.

“Whether a business is NIASA Accredited or not, it is important for business sustainability to implement sound pest management structures and systems. This workshop will spell out the value proposition, as well as providing information on the specific procedures of BioSecure HACCP and the practical steps to implement them.

“Victorian production nursery Proteaflora, for instance, saw the roll out of BioSecure HACCP as an effective way to boost its staff engagement, giving their employees a much better sense of why they were completing a certain task in a certain way.

“When it comes to BioSecure HACCP, there is more than meets the eye. We often speak about the pest management but there are several unanticipated advantages in adopting the system such as better staff training and motivation.”



Images: Proteaflora Nursery, Victoria.

### **BENEFITS OF BIOSECURE HACCP FOR BUSINESS**

BioSecure HACCP, certified or not, makes it easier to meet biosecurity obligations and market access requirements, as well as achieve productivity gains through quality improvement and process management controls.

Tony said that implementing BioSecure HACCP provides customers with assurances of a business’s capability to deliver a product that meets the expectations of the supply chain, which means less room for stock loss or error.



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“BioSecure HACCP helps growers to address pest hazards, so they can focus energies in areas that need it most, and that provides a real opportunity for these businesses to value-add to their existing product or service offering,” he said.

“Ultimately, the program integrates pest management options to prevent an issue rather than resort to last-minute remediation. Consequently, businesses start to reduce crop failures and minimise their pesticide applications, which usually means reducing their costs per unit.

“A prime example of these productivity gains is Queensland-based Pohlman's Nursery, which was able to reduce pesticide use and stock losses through BioSecure HACCP, saving the business up to \$350,000 per annum.

“Improving a production nursery's processes will increase its competitiveness and continue to build on its reputation as a clean, safe and quality provider of nursery stock, which clients will value now and into the future.



Images: Pohlman's Nursery

### **BUILDING INDUSTRY RESILIENCE**

The nursery industry is now worth more than \$2.29 billion and employs over 19,000 staff, which Tony believes will only continue to grow, given the surging demand for green life in Australian homes, workplaces and communities plus starter stock for vegetable farmers and fruit orchards.

“There is real optimism within the nursery industry right now,” he said.

“Building our resilience during these times is absolutely critical, so that industry and business can remain strong and sustainable, especially during any downturns in the market or when times are tough.

“We want workshop attendees to walk away with a greater sense of what BioSecure HACCP is about and that it's an investment in your business, your people and your customers.”

### **MORE INFORMATION**

#### **Who should attend?**

Growers and key staff from all production nurseries, media manufacturers and other green life businesses are encouraged to attend the workshop.



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## Why attend?

- Seeking assistance for pest, disease and weed management? Learn how to use the basic fundamentals of the program to implement the biosecurity guidelines.
- NIASA accredited and ready to take the next step? Learn how to demonstrate robust risk minimisation and continuity of supply, and become an attractive proposition within the supply chain.

## Date and venue

Venue: Parks Wide Nursery, 82 Jolimont Rd, Forest Hill VIC 3131

Date: Wednesday, 30 May 2018

Time: 10am – 3pm

Tea, Coffee and Lunch provided.

Register for the workshop [here](#) or to find out more information about BioSecure HACCP, visit: [www.nurseryproductionfms.com.au](http://www.nurseryproductionfms.com.au)

\*\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*\*

For further enquiries, please contact Sophie Keatinge, Cox Inall Communications, on 0430 938 515 or [sophie.keatinge@coxinall.com.au](mailto:sophie.keatinge@coxinall.com.au)

**Hort  
Innovation**  
Strategic levy investment

**NURSERY  
FUND**

This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the nursery research and development levy and funds from the Australian Government. For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit [horticulture.com.au](http://horticulture.com.au)