



Nursery & Garden Industry
Australia

Case Study

For immediate release

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Nurseries to capitalise as demand for living infrastructure grows



A Sydney production nursery is expecting to produce 100,000 plants next year, up from the current 50,000 this year, as awareness grows of the benefits of integrating green infrastructure into buildings.

Junglefy is a vertically integrated business that specialises in innovative green walls, roofs and facades. It employs more than 40 staff with a head office in Banksmeadow and a production nursery in Ingleside.

The business works with the likes of Lendlease and on high profile projects at Barangaroo and One Central Park in Sydney, as well as private developments and local council initiatives across the Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide metropolitan areas.

Horticulture Manager Andrew Wands has been with Junglefy for five years and was drawn to the business due to its cutting-edge approach to green infrastructure such as the Junglefy Breathing Wall™.

“This is an active, modular system that accelerates the removal of air pollutants. It also acts as a sound barrier while cooling the surrounding air temperature, resulting in energy and air conditioning savings,” Mr Wands said.

“We’ve partnered with the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) to test the efficacy of the Breathing Wall, which has provided us with that real point of difference in the market.



“The team at UTS found that the wall removed 80 per cent of the room’s CO₂, which is the equivalent of 160 large plot plants, and removed 95 per cent of urban pollution in just 60 minutes, in comparison to air conditioners that remove 33 per cent.

“It also resulted in a 41 per cent noise reduction compared to a conventional building wall.”

According to the World Health Organisation, air pollution is now the world’s largest single environmental risk, which Mr Wands believes is a compelling case for more plants to be placed into our homes and workplaces.

He oversees two departments, including a maintenance team with some staff dedicated to One Central Park and others that work across different sites. They are joined by a team at the production nursery in Ingleside.



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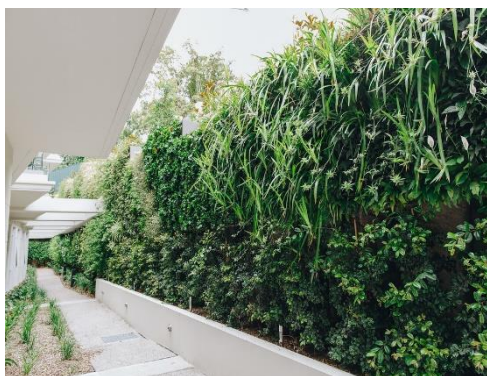
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“We produce modules that are 500 x 500 x 130mm deep cubes filled with growing media and specific plants. I look for slow-growing, compact and hardy plant species, most of which thrive under low light, as they tend to be lower maintenance.

“Through our research we have identified a number of species that are more effective than others at removing air pollutants. We are constantly researching new plants species both at the nursery and in the research labs.

“Our nursery is split into two: stock that’s developed from plugs, tissue culture and propagated on site and species purchased from other nurseries. Demand in recent years has certainly exceeded expectations, and we’re always having to top up stock.

“I find that speaking to other nurseries about the latest developments in plant species is a great way to remain ahead of the curve. We’re always on the lookout for new plant types, so it’s important to keep the lines of communication open with industry.”



Junglery have recently completed a project at Drayton House, an aged care facility in Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs, and is in the process of building the Manly Vale Car Park, which is the world’s first rotating Breathing Wall car park.

“The Manly Vale car park Breathing Wall panels rotate to provide easy and safe access for ongoing maintenance of the plants, and provide great benefits for the commuter such as cleaner

air, less noise and better aesthetics.”

Mr Wands says there has been a significant increase in the amount of green life being integrated into new developments in Sydney.

“Companies are realising the great benefits of plants to our health, and even our energy bills, but more work needs to be done, particularly in terms of getting the builders and developers on board.

“Too often, green infrastructure is left to the last minute or seen as a building garnish. It works best when it’s incorporated at the start of the project or early in the building timeline, which ends in a better outcome for everyone involved.

“It’s great to see work being done to encourage infrastructure rating tools to integrate green infrastructure into their systems, and to raise awareness of its social and health benefits.”

A recent project funded by Hort Innovation using the nursery research levy and contributions from the Australian Government aims to bridge the gap between nurseries and builders, as well as landscape architects and town planners.



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Integrating plant life into building and infrastructure rating tools (NY16007) is being delivered by Edge Environment and will consolidate evidence of the benefits of greenlife in the built environment, and provides these findings to the Green Building Council of Australia and Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia.

It is hoped the findings will help to underpin the development of 'credits' in their respective rating tools relating to integration of plants into buildings and infrastructure, known as Green Star and Infrastructure Sustainability rating tools.

****ENDS****

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**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

Photo Captions (Top to bottom – click on images for high res version)

- **Photo 1:** Lendlease head office in Sydney, NSW featuring Junglefy Breathing Wall and Junglefy Green Wall (Photo credit: The Moment it Clicks Pty Ltd)
- **Photo 2:** Andrew Wands, Horticulture Manager at Junglefy.
- **Photo 3:** Drayton House, Sydney, NSW featuring Junglefy Green Wall (Photo credit: Junglefy)