



Greenlife Industry Australia

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## Pohlmans Nursery continues to reap rewards from plant protection programs

**Pohlmans Nursery has been awarded Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year at the 2021 Australian Biosecurity Awards.**

The award is acknowledgement of Pohlmans adherence to best practice plant protection and biosecurity programs such as NIASA, Ecohort and BioSecure HACCP, which have helped the business continue to drive productivity and profitability and ensure the consistent delivery of quality plants to customers across its extensive product range.

Located in the Lockyer Valley region in Queensland, Pohlmans Nursery is one of Queensland's largest production nurseries, spanning over 60 hectares with 20 utilised for nursery production.

Pohlmans has a long history of involvement in industry plant protection and nursery best practice initiatives. First accredited under NIASA in 1997, Pohlmans achieved formal BioSecure HACCP accreditation in 2011, and have continued to lead the way in the adoption and implementation of industry driven on farm plant protection and biosecurity programs.

When starting their journey to formal biosecurity certification, Pohlmans never expected that improved crop monitoring and pest, disease and weed management would drive savings of around \$350,000 in the first year on day-to-day operations. Since, losses have been consistently less than one per cent each year, and annual savings now exceed \$150,000 per year.

Pohlmans Growing and Production Manager, Chris Johnson, said that by adopting the BioSecure HACCP risk management approach, they have been able to minimise pesticide usage and reduce stock losses whilst maintaining a plant protection system that supports the safe trade of plants.

"Efforts to improve plant health starts from the moment a plant is introduced into our product line," Chris said.

"By implementing best practice protocols we've been able to streamline the business and drive productivity gains through enhanced and consistent quality and great customer satisfaction.

"This has driven hundreds of thousands of dollars in productivity gains and helps us mitigate plant protection and biosecurity risk and maintain market access with our supply of millions of plants across eastern Australia each year."

John McDonald, National Biosecurity Manager at Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) said Pohlmans is an exemplary example of how taking control of plant health and biosecurity responsibilities can lead to significant financial gains for production nurseries.



(L - Andy O'Brien, and R - Chris Johnson of Pohlmans Nursery)

**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)



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"Pohlman's Nursery was an early adopter of the industry plant protection and biosecurity program, BioSecure HACCP," John said.

"Pohlman's has continued to lead from the front in the adoption and implementation of an industry driven on-farm plant protection and biosecurity program in the nursery production industry at national level.

"They were a deserving winner of the prestigious Farm Biosecurity producer of the Year award.

"The business has been recognised for its contribution to the development of BioSecure HACCP including the implementation of draft biosecurity procedures, testing the validity and value of the program, and providing GIA with advice and results.

"The team has been an industry leader in on-farm plant protection and biosecurity adoption and have shared the experience with industry through participation in the program development, contributing to the GIA national communication strategy plus opening the business to national biosecurity committees and functions to scrutinise industry implementation of on-farm plant protection and biosecurity programs.

"The productivity gains associated with a structured plant protection program, for an average Australian production nursery, can amount to approx. \$60,000 per year. Pohlman's continue to improve on that year on year whilst identifying new opportunities for the business through compliance and market access."

Andy O'Brien, Innovation & Special Projects Manager at Pohlman's said that bolstering biosecurity credentials hasn't only helped improve productivity gains, but has helped reintroduce biodiversity into the nursery, which now uses a variety of beneficial insects as part of the Integrated Pest Management program.

Being a BioSecure HACCP certified business will help us to achieve free trade across state borders by allowing us to implement specific Entry Condition Compliance Procedures through the Audit Management System.

"Compliance and adherence to best practice plant protection and biosecurity programs has continued to drive productivity and profitability gains to the business over the past three to four years, and continues to be a critical step towards maximising growth and market potential," Andy said.

*The Australian Biosecurity Awards (ABA) recognise individuals, groups, and organisations that show a commitment to working collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to support and promote Australia's biosecurity and the systems that uphold it.*

*Any business that is looking to explore NIASA and BioSecure HACCP certification should visit <https://nurseryproductionfms.com.au/> to find out more about the programs.*

*For more information, please contact Greenlife Industry Australia at: [info@greenlifeindustry.com.au](mailto:info@greenlifeindustry.com.au) or on 02 8861 5100.*



*(John McDonald, National Biosecurity Manager at Greenlife Industry Australia).*

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