

The background image shows a nursery field with rows of young trees on a hillside. The trees are planted in neat rows, and the field is covered with a layer of mulch. In the foreground, there are several large evergreen trees in black pots, some with red and blue tags. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

## **Introduction to the Systems Approach to Nursery Certification Program**



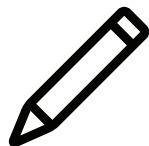
*Promoting a harmonized, risk-based systems approach to nursery and greenhouse certification*

## SANC PROGRAM

The Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) Program is a voluntary, audit-based program designed to reduce pest risks associated with the movement of nursery stock. The purpose of this document is to provide industry and state regulatory agencies with an overview of the SANC Program as outlined in the SANC Program Standards. Recognizing each production facility is unique, SANC can be tailored to different types of nurseries/greenhouses.



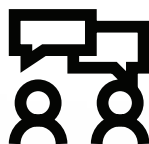
# STEPS TO BECOMING SANC CERTIFIED



## **Step #1**

### **Apply**

Interested? Talk to your state certifying agency to learn how to apply.



## **Step #2**

### **Preliminary Meeting**

Meet with state certifying agency to understand the process.



## **Step #3**

### **Risk Assessment**

Identify potential pest pathways in your nursery and strategies to address them.



## **Step #4**

### **Facility Manual**

Growers create a plan to address the identified pest risks and keep records of what is done.



## **Step #5**

### **Audit**

To see if you are following your plan and to check if the plan is working.



## **Step #6**

### **SANC Approved!**

Congratulations, you are an approved SANC participant!

## APPLY



Growers that are interested in participating in the program should first talk to their state certifying agency to find out if participation in their state is available and to learn more about how to apply to the SANC Program. A participating nursery or greenhouse would be expected to meet the SANC Program Standards and will need to be in good standing with other applicable laws and regulations. The SANC Program is intended to fit various sizes and types of operations.

## PRELIMINARY MEETING



The purpose of the meeting is to provide growers with an overview of SANC and its requirements.

Topics to be discussed include:

- *Expectations and steps in the SANC certification process*
- *Roles of state certifying agency and grower personnel*
- *Resource requirements*
- *Grower's questions and concerns*
- *Timelines*



# RISK ASSESSMENT



**Conducting a risk assessment to identify hazards is a vital component of a systems approach. This process will identify the nursery's critical control points (CCP) where best management practices (BMP) can be implemented to mitigate hazards.**

**Hazards** are any area of nursery/greenhouse operations which have the potential to cause harm to the plant products by contamination or introduction of plant pests.

**Critical control point (CCP)** is any point, step or procedure at which controls can be applied and the hazard prevented, eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level.

**Best management practices (BMP)** are those measures which are implemented at a CCP to prevent, eliminate or reduce the risk associated with the specific hazard.

**For example:** When plants are brought into a nursery, they can introduce pests, so they could be considered a hazard. A critical control point would be where the plants are received. A best management practice to mitigate this risk would be to inspect the plants before putting them into the production yard.



**It is recommended that the risk assessment be conducted jointly with the grower and the state certifying agency. To help prepare for your risk assessment, review the SANC CCP Checklist and BMP Companion. This document was developed jointly by industry, university researchers and regulatory representatives to offer pest management strategies.**

# FACILITY MANUAL



The Facility Manual is created by the grower and once completed it will be reviewed by the state certifying agency for approval. The manual has four components to describe facility processes to manage the risk of plant pest introduction and movement:

## **Pest Management Plan**

The grower will develop a pest management plan to address the critical control points which were identified in the risk assessment. At least two independent best management practices will be documented to mitigate the risk from each critical control point. This will include procedures for scouting, record keeping, and reporting regulated pest detections.



## **Staff and Facility**

This section of the manual will describe the facility and activities of staff as it relates to SANC. Topics in this section include:

- **Responsibilities of staff members**
- **Staff training plan**
- **Staff reporting structure**
- **Facility description**



## Audits

The Facility Manual will describe how and when audits will be conducted.

## Documentation

The Facility Manual will describe what documents must be kept. These will include:

- ***Scouting, sampling/testing and pest control records***
- ***Plant receiving and shipping records***
- ***Training records***
- ***Audit records***

# AUDITS



**Audits verify that the procedures identified in the Facility Manual are being followed.**

Internal audits will be conducted by the facility and external audits will be conducted jointly by the grower and your state certifying agency. These audits help to verify that the procedures are being done as documented in the Facility Manual and that the Pest Management Plan is working.

# SANC APPROVAL



**Once your manual has been approved, you will sign the SANC agreement and become a program participant.**

As a partner in the SANC program you will work together with your state certifying agency to maintain your SANC status and improve your pest management systems.

## References

### **SANC Program Standards**

<http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/SANC-Standard-4-14-14.pdf>

### **SANC CCP Checklist and BMP Companion**

[http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/SANC\\_CCP\\_Inspection\\_Checklist.pdf](http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/SANC_CCP_Inspection_Checklist.pdf)

### **State Certifying Agency Contact List**

<http://nationalplantboard.org/membership/>



**For more information please visit the SANC Website at:**  
<http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org/>

