



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

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## HIS Eastern Chapter Hosts Multi-State SANC Exercise

September 2014

The Eastern Chapter of the Horticultural Inspection Society held a Systems Approach to Nursery Certification exercise on September 30-October 1, 2014, at the Valley Lab of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES - Windsor, CT) and Monrovia Nursery (Granby, CT). Thirty inspectors from nine states participated. On the evening of Sept. 30, participants met at the CAES Valley Lab to discuss the goals of the exercise, and to meet our hosts at Monrovia, Vice-president Greg Schaan and production Manager Sali Borelli.



Participants divided into three teams: the Pathogen Pirates, the Ramorum Raiders, and the Boxwood Busters. At Monrovia on the morning of October 1, teams were faced with mock situations in the nursery, such as pathogen finds or trace-backs, and they applied the CCP checklist and determined potential BMPs for each situation. At noon, teams met with Greg and Sali, to discuss how the nursery would approach each situation. Back at the Valley lab after lunch, CAES researchers Sharon Douglas, Bob Marra, and Jim LaMondia discussed current findings on boxwood blight, development of BMPs, and management of the disease in nurseries. Participants also had the opportunity to examine infected boxwoods, to see the symptoms of disease first-hand. Participants agreed they ended the exercise with a better understanding of the workings of SANC in a production nursery.