



INTRODUCTION TO THE SYSTEMS APPROACH TO NURSERY CERTIFICATION

<http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org>

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. Recognizing that each production facility is unique, SANC can be tailored to different types of nurseries/greenhouses.

HAZARD ANALYSIS CRITICAL CONTROL POINTS

Hazards are any area of a nursery/greenhouse operation that has 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. In the nursery industry, common examples of CCP focal areas include: Plants, Containers, Media, Water, Production practices.

Best Management Practices (BMP) are those measures that are implemented at a CCP to prevent, eliminate or reduce the risk associated with the specific hazard. Common examples of BMPs include:

Containers

Hazard: containers may harbor and spread soilborne pathogens.

CCP 1: reuse of dirty pots.

CCP 2: storage container site.

BMP 1: recycled containers should be disinfested prior to reuse.

BMP 2: store the containers off the ground and ensure they are not exposed to contamination by the surrounding environment.

Plants

Hazard: propagative cuttings may be infested with pathogens.

CCP: the quality and health of propagative materials.

BMP: when taking cuttings from existing nursery stock, collect only from healthy plants and, if necessary, dip cuttings in an approved disinfectant solution before sticking. For plants that are prone to diseases, chemically treat crop in the field prior to taking cuttings.

Soil

Hazard: soil may harbor and spread plant pathogens.

CCP: where the clean soil is stored.

BMP: store growing media in an area known to be free from pathogens or on a surface that can be sanitized and is not exposed to contamination by the soil substrate, surrounding environment or worker's activities.



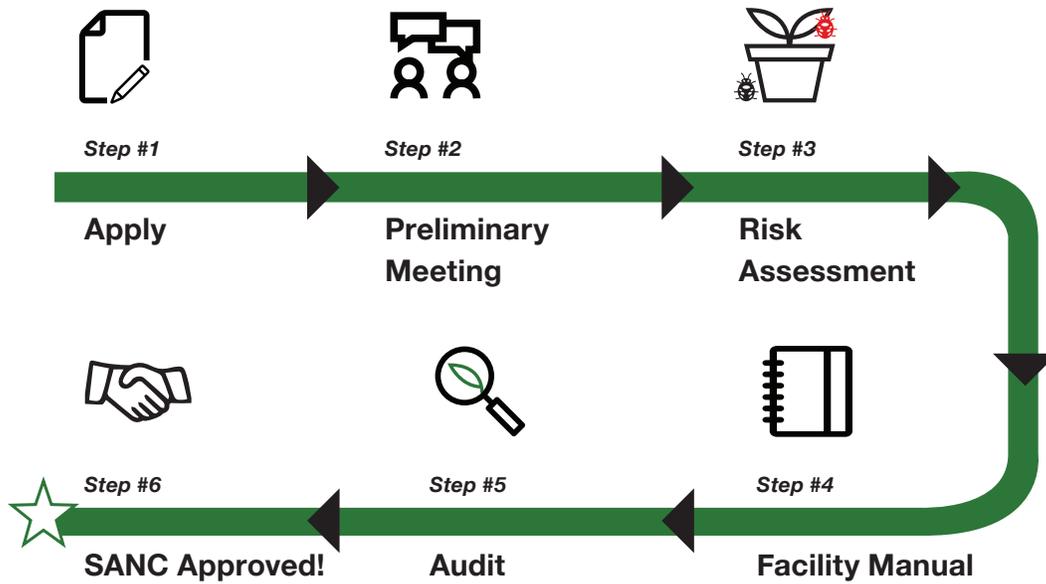
Water

Hazard: extended leaf wetness due to late afternoon or nighttime irrigation is conducive to infection by pathogens.

CCP: managing irrigation water.

BMP: irrigate in a manner to enable leaves to dry quickly and avoid prolonged leaf wetness. Where possible, reduce plant density to enable better air movement in the plant canopy to promote faster drying of leaves.

STEPS TO BECOMING SANC CERTIFIED



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 participant would be expected to meet the SANC Program Standards and be in good standing with other applicable laws and regulations.

PRELIMINARY MEETING

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

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.

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 multiple 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.

Staff and Facility

This section of the manual will describe the facility and responsibilities of staff as related to SANC.

Internal Audits

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

Documentation

The Facility Manual will describe what documents must be kept such as scouting, shipping, and training records.

AUDITS

External audits will be conducted jointly by the grower and state certifying agency. These audits help to verify that the procedures are being done as documented 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.

BENEFITS TO THE GROWER

- Reduce risk of moving plant pests in your nursery stock.
- Risk assessment process identifies production hazards.
- Use of BMP's to manage risk.
- Improved communication across all levels of production.
- Improved communication with your state/local plant protection agency.
- Less reliance on end-point inspections.
- Marketing advantage

BENEFITS TO THE RETAILER &/OR CONSUMER

- Confidence that the plants have reduced pest risk.
- Less likely to be subject to a stop sale or destruction order during an inspection.
- Part of an industry-driven continuum to provide clean nursery stock to customers.