



# Nursery Best Management Practices *an overview*

SacValley CNPS Nursery & Gardens  
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova  
On the American River Parkway at Soil Born  
Farms

[SacValleyCNPS.org/Nursery](https://SacValleyCNPS.org/Nursery)

# Recommended: Best Management Practices



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the CDFA website. The CDFA logo is on the left, followed by a menu with icons for Programs, Plant, Contact Us, Meetings, Regulations, Services, and Search. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: CDFA Home > Plant Health > Pest Exclusion > NSC > Nursery Services > Best Management Practices. The main heading is "Best Management Practices Program". The introductory text describes the program as a voluntary initiative for ornamental and native plant nurseries. On the right side, there is a "Pest Hotline: 1-800-491-1899" banner, a "How to Report a Pest" button, and a "Contact Us" section with an envelope icon. The contact information for the Best Management Practices Program is provided, including the address, phone number, and email.

**cdfa** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Programs Plant Contact Us Meetings Regulations Services Search

CDFA Home > Plant Health > Pest Exclusion > NSC > Nursery Services > Best Management Practices

## Best Management Practices Program

CDFA and the National Ornamental Research Site at Dominican University of CA (NORS-DUC) have developed a voluntary program for ornamental and native plant nurseries which encourages and guides the implementation of BMPs in their plant production systems. Inclusion in the program provides nurseries with a higher level of confidence that nursery operations are reducing the introduction and spread of diseases and pests.

**Pest Hotline: 1-800-491-1899**

**How to Report a Pest**

**Contact Us**

**Best Management Practices Program**  
1220 N Street, Room 344  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Ph: (916) 995 1243  
Email: [kristina.weber@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:kristina.weber@cdfa.ca.gov)

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/nursery/bmp.html>

# What are best management practices?

**BMPs are how we can reduce the risk of introducing Soil-borne Plant Pathogens into Horticultural Nurseries and Managed Wildland Landscapes**

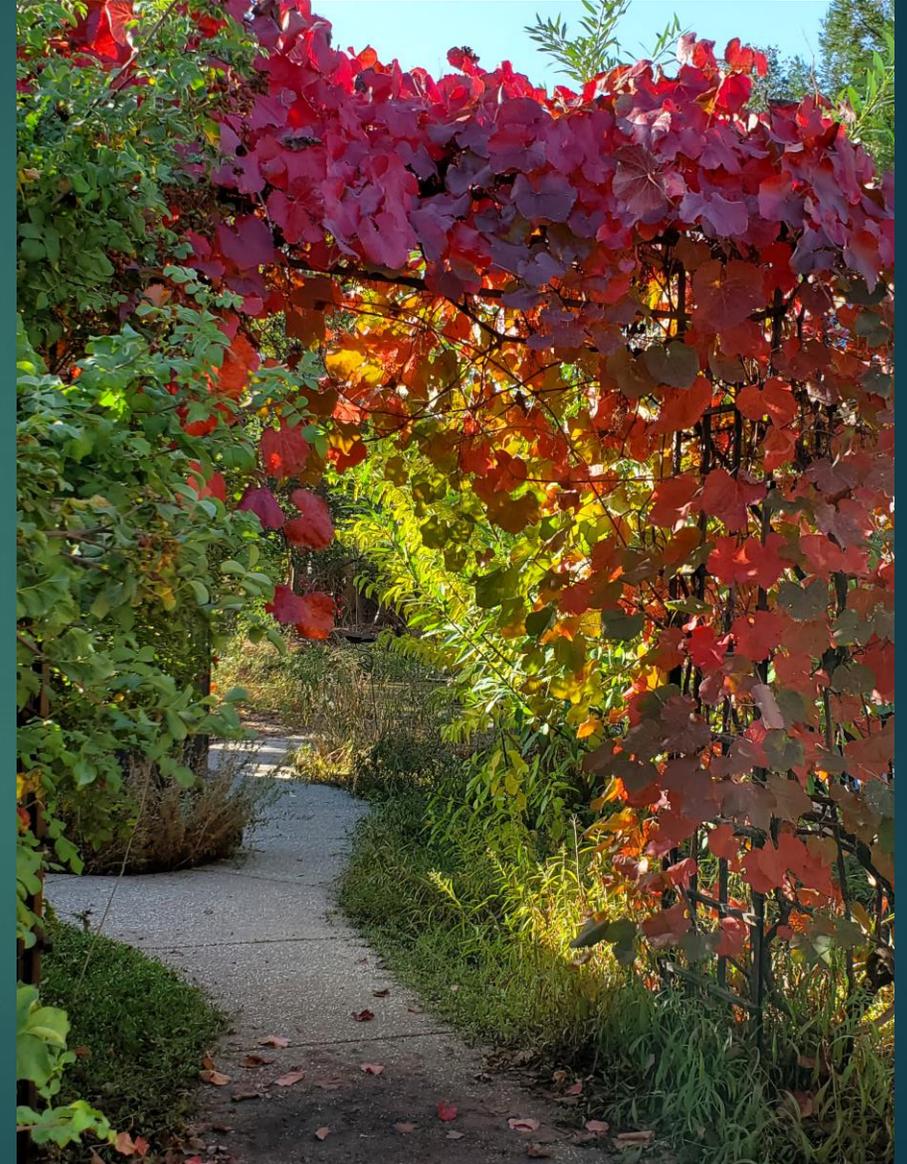
- ▶ Plants
- ▶ Soil
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Containers
- ▶ Nursery Layout
- ▶ Sanitation



SacValley Nursery has wonderful volunteers who have made our work enjoyable, successful and a resource for the community.

# Plants

- ▶ Collect from healthy stock only whether collecting seed or cuttings, always have permit, never collect more than 10% of any plant population. Collecting should be during non-rainy weather and, where possible, should be collected at approximately two feet or more above the soil surface
- ▶ Confirm buy-ins are received from nurseries that are licensed and operating under a clean stock production plan according to all applicable phytosanitary laws and regulations



# Soil

- ▶ Ensure that growing media is purchased from a reliable source and the components are low risk for containing pathogens.
- ▶ Do not re-use of potting media unless the used media is properly disinfested prior to usage.
- ▶ Ensure growing media is stored on a surface that is not exposed to contamination by the soil substrate, surrounding environment or workers' activities.



No wood was used in the construction of this soil bin. The floor is brick with a tarp over it.

# Water

- ▶ Irrigate in a manner that enables leaves to dry quickly which avoids periods of prolonged leaf wetness. Where possible, reduce plant density to enable better air movement in the plant canopy to promote faster drying of leaves
- ▶ No standing water



The nursery's floor had groundcloth laid, then it was graveled. We still fought with weeds for a few years.

# Containers

- ▶ Use new or clean and properly disinfested pots and horticultural supplies, including irrigation emitters and drip line.
- ▶ Reusing containers that are not disinfested is a PRIMARY way for pathogens to spread.



# Containers cont.

- ▶ Ensure pots are stored off the ground and are not exposed to contamination by the surrounding environment



# Containers cont

- ▶ Do not store dirty containers in or near clean areas of the nursery.



# Sanitizing Containers

- ▶ **In Cool or Cold Weather:** Put pots in sanitizing bath using a BLEACH or PHYSAN Solution
  1. Brush as much soil as possible off pot
  2. Washing or a good rinse will keep you sanitizing solution clean longer.
  3. Chemical resistant gloves should be worn when using bleach or physan.
  4. Soak them in a solution containing:
    1. **one part household Bleach to 9 parts water** for 10 minutes.
  5. Or soak them in a solution containing:
    1. **one part Physan Disinfectant to 99 parts water** for 10 minutes.
- ▶ A bleach solution can be used for a day or two before the solution is dirty and loses its effectiveness.
- ▶ A physan solution can be used for a month or more before the solution is dirty and it loses its effectiveness.

# Sanitizing Containers

We use Physan 20 Broad Range Disinfectant



# Sanitizing Containers



## ▶ In HOT Weather – we SOLARIZE / Pot Washing 101

1. Brush as much soil as possible off pot (the pots do not need to be pristine since it will all be sanitized by the sun)
2. When the outside temperature reaches **90\***, we **Solarize!**
  1. Loosely stack containers on black plastic. (see next slide)
  2. Then spray all the pots with clean water.
  3. Cover the pots with clear or white plastic. Form a pocket with clothspins.
3. The temperature inside the solarizer needs to reach 122\* for 30 minutes
4. Air dry pots
5. Stack clean pots in designated clean places... *yeah clean pots!*

# Sanitizing Containers



Black plastic bottom, clear or white plastic top, clothespins button it up.  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> version is easier to set up because of height.

The mission of SacValley CNPS Nursery is to promote awareness of the benefits of native plant habitat, encourage community involvement, and provide a source of local native plants for gardening and restoration projects.



Early days in 2009.



Volunteer assembled tables over the holidays 2015 – 2015.



We love our tables - especially when tending plants





# SacValley CNPS

## NURSERY & GARDENS

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*California Native Plant Society*



CALIFORNIA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY  
Sacramento Valley Chapter