

Adaptive Management

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OVERVIEW

- Adaptive management refers to the practice of working to solve a problem by evaluating and learning from the effects of prior actions (Figure 1).
- Using an adaptive management approach may take additional time and effort at first, but it is likely to
 save time in the long-term.
- Keeping organized, consistent records is a key part of adaptive management.
- The approach will depend on the nature of the problem and actions planned to address it.
- Adopting an adaptive management framework approach drawing on existing and new information to identify and prioritise actions can help build resilience in the production nursery industry to storm and flood events.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Adaptive management is a conceptual framework to help guide decision-making, assessment, and monitoring.
- Identify the goals and strategy before taking actions.
- Collect samples consistently so that you can determine if actions were effective.
- Adaptive management is a flexible cycle that builds learning from experiences, so that if a strategy or an action is not working, they can be refined or replaced by new ones.
- For more information, see: Ralph, T.J., Graves, B.P., Gomes, M., 2025. Framework to identify and mitigate water storage contamination concerns at NSW and ACT production nurseries. Macquarie University. https://doi.org/10.25949/AS0X-VX91

STARTING POINT

Identify the problem

What happens? How often? When? Why?

Design your study

What are your goals? What actions can you take? How will you know if they work?

Monitor and report

Choose a time interval to take further samples. Share your results!

Adapt your study

If the problem has not been solved despite your actions, you may need to change something.

Begin sampling

Collect, store, and an<mark>alyse</mark> samples the same wa<mark>y every</mark> time. Set a proced<mark>ure and</mark> stick to it.

Take action

Document what you do and how you do it.

Assess progress

Is the problem still occurring? Have your actions worked?

Analyse data

Take all of your data into account. What has changed? What hasn't?

Continue sampling

Collect, store, and analyse samples the same way every time.

Figure 1. An example adaptive management cycle that is a structured, iterative process for decision-making and focuses on adjusting management strategies based on outcomes and new information.





