







Nursery Preparation Checklist

Heatwave weather



- Items on the checklist are general activities for production nurseries anticipating unusually hot days and nights for a length of three or more days.
- As each nursery site is different, nursery owners need to identify which of the listed activities are applicable to their site and assess site-specific needs to include in the preparation activities.

Area	Activity	Who?	Done ✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify shade houses, structures at risk of overheating – consider how higher external heat affects internal house temperatures • Check air flow, cooling / heating systems during the day 	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess plant stock most vulnerable / prone to heat stress – relocate to a cooler house, change watering regime; assess dispatch schedule • Re-assess timing of scheduled chemical treatments 	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor automated sprinklers – re-assess schedule for watering – increase or modify timing as required 	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure all chemicals and dangerous goods in their locked storage units – check unit temperature for potential chemical overheating • Erect shade over growing media area 	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place vehicles under cover for heat protection, be cool for staff to operate • Ensure air conditioning operates in vehicles • Check and test back-up generator in the event of a possible “brown-out” to electricity grid 	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganise outdoor work so that staff carry out alternate tasks, rotate work or work in shade and take extra water breaks. • Where possible, use forklifts and equipment to minimise manual tasks. Increase number of water breaks during the work day. • Provide outdoor staff with adequate personal protective equipment (eg. hat, sunglasses, long sleeve shirts, non-toxic sunscreen). • Set up additional fans or shade areas in staff rest areas. • Ensure staff know who is First Aid Officer and reporting process for heatstroke symptoms. • Identify person responsible for ‘calling it a day’, ie. too hot, go home. • Assess timing of deliveries, dispatch and production activity around expected excessive temperatures. Assess if stock movements will be delayed or left in truck at a point along the delivery route. • Consider sensitive equipment, computers that may be damaged due to heatwave conditions. • Assess family and pet safety, top up water supplies and erect shade structures. 	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Characteristics of heatwave weather:



- 3 or more days where maximum and minimum temperatures are unusually high for a location.
- www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave

General nursery preparation:

- Know your state legislation for working safely in heatwave - <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/topic/working-heat>
- Keep watch on BoM heatwave weather warnings, listen to radio for conditions.
- Check and re-stock first aid kits.
- Purchase a back-up generator in the event of electrical grid brown-outs.
- Conduct regular back-up of computer systems and duplicate essential documents into a safe storage location (eg. plastic boxes for hardcopies or hard drive discs).
- Assess family and pet safety, top up water, erect shade structures.

Pre-season preparation:

- Provide information, training and instruction to workers on how to follow heatwave-safe work procedures, recognise symptoms of heat-stress and have process to report problems.
- Identify person responsible for 'calling it a day', ie. too hot, go home.
- Purchase suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including first aid items for treating heatstroke.
- Purchase or check / test back-up generator to prepare for electrical grid brown-outs.
- Test and tag air conditioning units. Consider purchase of additional air conditioners / fans or shade sails in staff break areas.

Notes

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