

# Production Nursery of the Year Judging Criteria

## Technical Production Aspects

1. Compliance with industry standards and certifications (e.g., NIASA, EcoHort, BioSecure HACCP, AS2303).
2. Crop management practices, including fertilisation, pruning, and other cultivation techniques.
3. Suitability of crop selection for market demands and customer preferences.
4. Effective management of environmental factors such as light, humidity, and temperature.
5. Crop hygiene practices to prevent the spread of pests and diseases.
6. Water and irrigation management practices, including efficiency and conservation measures.
7. Soil/media management techniques for optimal plant growth and health.
8. Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Crop Management (ICM), Integrated Fertility Management (IFM), and Advanced Weed Management (AWM) practices.
9. Monitoring of key performance indicators and regular assessment of crop performance.
10. Maintenance schedules and execution for equipment and infrastructure.
11. Documentation of processes and procedures, with evidence of adherence and continuous improvement.
12. Established quality standards and their implementation and documentation.

## Ethical Standards and Considerations

1. Fair Trade: Look for evidence that the nursery engages in fair trade practices with its suppliers, ensuring that they are treated equitably and paid fair prices for their products or services.
2. Transparency: Assess whether the nursery maintains transparent and open communication with suppliers regarding pricing, terms, and conditions, and strives to build long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.
3. Sustainable Sourcing: Consider whether the nursery prioritises sourcing practices that promote sustainability, such as seeking suppliers who adhere to environmentally friendly production methods or offer responsibly sourced materials.
4. Fair Wages and Benefits: Evaluate whether the nursery provides employees with fair wages and benefits that align with industry standards and local regulations.
5. Safe Working Conditions: Ensure that the nursery maintains a safe and healthy work environment for its employees, taking appropriate measures to prevent accidents, provide necessary safety equipment, and comply with occupational health and safety regulations.
6. Customer Privacy and Data Protection: Assess whether the nursery respects customer privacy, adhering to data protection regulations and implementing appropriate measures to safeguard customer information.
7. Sustainable Practices: Look for evidence that the nursery follows sustainable practices, such as minimising water usage, implementing recycling programs, reducing waste, and using environmentally friendly pest management techniques.
8. Biodiversity Conservation: Evaluate whether the nursery promotes biodiversity conservation by offering native plant varieties, supporting habitat restoration initiatives, or educating customers about the importance of preserving local ecosystems.

9. Legal Compliance: Ensure that the nursery complies with all relevant laws, regulations, and industry standards, including those related to employment, product quality, safety, and environmental protection.
10. Ethical Codes of Conduct: Assess whether the nursery has established and communicates clear ethical codes of conduct for employees, suppliers, and customers to foster a culture of integrity and responsible behaviour.

### **Environmental Management**

1. Efficient use of water resources and responsible water management practices.
2. Sustainable chemical use, minimising environmental impact.
3. Proper management of waste streams, including plastics and other materials.
4. Energy use optimisation and implementation of energy-saving practices.
5. Assessment and mitigation of the impact of products on biosecurity, weeds, pests, and diseases.
6. Minimisation of waste and throw-outs through improved production practices.
7. Use of sustainable inputs and materials.
8. Establishment and management of a risk register, including potential social, environmental, and operational risks.
9. Preparedness with response plans to address any identified risks.

### **Marketing**

1. Identification of target market sectors and understanding customer needs.
2. Development and implementation of a comprehensive marketing plan with clear objectives.
3. Effective use of social media platforms for marketing and engagement.
4. Well-maintained and informative website.
5. Utilisation of other marketing channels such as print media and advertising

### **Business**

1. Development and implementation of a short and long-term business plan.
2. Efficient supply chain management to ensure timely delivery and customer satisfaction.
3. Initiatives for improving efficiency, such as LEAN\* production practices and technology adoption.
4. Strong financial management and adherence to relevant financial standards.
5. Establishment and monitoring of key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure productivity and profitability.
6. Focus on human resources, including compliance with employment laws, training and development plans, succession planning, staff reviews, and provision of adequate facilities.
7. Prioritisation of occupational health and safety (OHS) measures for physical and mental well-being of employees.
8. Emphasis on product development and innovation.
9. Development of strategic relationships with key trading partners.
10. Commitment to continuous improvement initiatives.
11. Engagement with the local community and relevant associations.

*\* Lean manufacturing is a production process based on an ideology of maximising productivity while simultaneously minimising waste within a manufacturing operation. The lean principle sees waste as anything that doesn't add value that the customers are willing to pay for.*