

Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia (NIASA)

Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia (NIASA) has provided a professional management blueprint for production (wholesale) nurseries and growing media supplier businesses. The scheme has supplied a standard of professionalism and best management practices since 1994.

NIASA operates under national guidelines that are reviewed annually to ensure they cover relevant and current production and environmental issues.

The NIASA scheme is designed to enable production (wholesale) nurseries and pot media businesses to gain some recognition for using best-practice in their businesses. With government's concern for Bio-Security issues throughout the country, a scheme such as NIASA can provide a safety net against the spread of unwanted weed seeds and pests and disease throughout the states and territories.

Benefits of the NIASA Scheme:

Consumer benefits:

- ? Deal with a professional business
- ? Better chance of product survival in the field
- ? Know that the plants were grown using industry best practice
- ? Greater confidence in plant quality

Production Nursery Benefits:

- ? Increased productivity
- ? Increased staff performance
- ? Increased profitability
- ? Increased market potential
- ? Environmental benefits
- ? Recognition of professionalism

Benefits to retailers:

- ? Greater confidence in plant quality
- ? Less chance of disease transmission
- ? Fewer returns from customers
- ? Greater product consistency

At present the Northern Territory has 5 accredited production (wholesale) nurseries plus the Post Entry Quarantine facility located on Berrimah Research Farm and Charles Darwin University Tropical Horticulture Section.

Production (wholesale) nurseries supply the retail sector and are not open to the public. The names of these businesses can be found in Nursery Trade Register