Nursery Preparation Checklist

Frost



- Items on the checklist are general activities for production nurseries confronting a predicted frost conditions.
- 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 preparation activities.

Area	Activity	Who?	Done √
	 Locate spare shade or Marix cloth and prepare to use on shade houses, open growing areas Consider closing shed doors and shade house entry points 		
	 Move valuable stock to safe zone, under cover if this is the priority location Secure stock against potential damage, use temporary protective coverings such as Marix cloth Assess timing of scheduled chemical and fungicidal treatments 		
	 Monitor automated sprinklers - assess scheduling for watering with anticipated frost conditions Protect exposed pumps and watering infrastructure Assess and secure any outside items Assess need to isolate electrical boxes including turning off at mains box if electrical safety is a risk 		
	 Secure all chemicals and dangerous goods in locked storage units Move / cover growing media to avoid contamination Relocate pallets and wrapping, pots, bags to secure protected zone 		
T.	 Move vehicles under structured cover for protection Turn off and safely store power tools, equipment and hand tools Check and test back-up generator, ensure spare fuel is on site 		
	 Identify if deliveries / dispatch are scheduled early in the day Assess if customer deliveries will be delayed Assess if some staff need to be onsite to erect protective coverings Assess immediate family needs 		

Characteristics of frost:



- For frost to form the temperature at ground level needs to be 0° C or less. BOM forecasts use an air temperature of below 4°C as an indicator for frost, because the temperature at ground level will generally be much cooler than the air above it.
- Frost is most likely to form under a clear sky, with little or no wind, especially after the passage of a cold front.
- Watch for frost in BOM short-form forecast and MetEye www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye

General nursery preparation:	 Keep watch on www.bom.gov.au, your local Rain Radar and MetEye. Listen to local radio forecasts and trustworthy social media sources. Have a written emergency plan. Allocate priority tasks. Exercise your emergency natural disaster plan. Purchase or hire a back-up generator. Identify priority at-risk areas, workflow and activity. Check and re-stock first aid kits. 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).
Pre-season preparation:	 Identify shade houses, structures and outdoor areas at risk of frost conditions. Assess gutters and clear debris from drainage channels to enable stormwater flow. Exercise your emergency natural disaster plan. Know your insurance cover for frost damage, contact your agent for clarification. Check and test back-up generator.
Notes	

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