Nursery Preparation Checklist

Hail, storm and severe weather



- Items on the checklist are general activities for production nurseries confronting a predicted storm and severe weather.
- 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 cloth and prepare to use on shade houses Secure loose items in / near shelters Consider closing shed doors and shade house entry points; or allow windflow 		•
	 Move valuable stock to safe zone, under cover if this is the priority location Secure stock against potential wind damage Assess timing of scheduled chemical and fungicidal treatments 		
	 Monitor automated sprinklers - assess scheduling for watering with anticipated storm front arrival Protect exposed pumps and watering infrastructure Assess and secure any loose items Assess need to isolate electrical boxes including turning off at mains box if storm surge is expected and electrical safety is a risk 		•
	 Secure all chemicals and dangerous goods in locked storage units Move / cover growing media to avoid wash-out or contamination Relocate pallets and wrapping, pots, bags to secure zone 		
	 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 during the storm Assess if customer deliveries will be delayed Assess if some staff need to leave early to avoid storm Ensure all phones and electrical equipment are fully charged and non-essential electrical points and equipment are turned off Assess immediate family needs and pet safety Back up and secure all PCs and electronic equipment. Secure critical business documents and nursery paperwork into waterproof, plastic containers and locate to a safe zone 		

Characteristics of hail, storm and severe weather:



- Thunderstorms may produce large hail (>2cm diameter); damaging wind gusts (≥90km/hr); heavy rainfall; flash flooding.
- Can be very short notice < 4 hours.
- · 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 at risk of storm damage, repair as necessary. Assess gutters and clear debris from drainage channels to enable stormwater flow. Exercise your emergency natural disaster plan. Know your insurance cover for storm damage, contact your agent for clarification. Check and test back-up generator. Raise all fertilizers and chemicals to areas above expected rain / flood zones.
Notes	

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