



WALLUM NURSERIES a model for Best Practice

Wallum Nurseries Pty Ltd is a specialised tube stock grower of Australian native flora for revegetation.

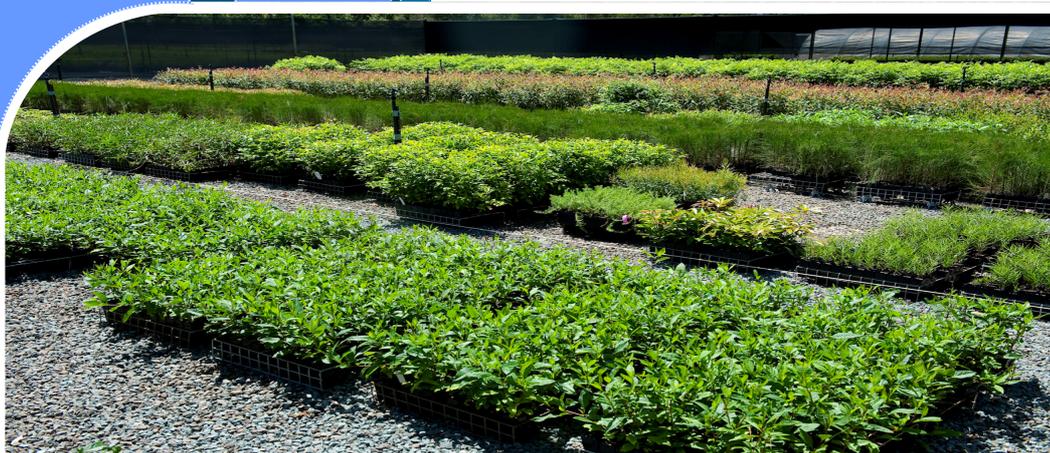
“We continue to monitor and adjust our production techniques to continually improve our product quality to meet the expectations of our customers”

Luke Dent 04.08.2010

Wallum Nursery is a wholesale Australian native plant nursery, specialising in tube stock for revegetation.

Landscape contractors, wholesale nurseries, greening groups, councils and government agencies provide the customer base for the quality tube stock that is dispatched along the eastern seaboard of Australia from Cairns to Sydney. Wallum Nurseries have operated from the current 3.44 hectare nursery site at Gumdale, 15klms south east of Brisbane since September 1999. The 3,528 square metres of stand out area provides Wallum Nursery with the capacity to maintain 700,000 plants in production at any time.

Wallum Nurseries Pty Ltd gained NIASA, bmp accreditation in 2000 and the nursery has continued on a path of continual improvement. In 2005 the nursery was recognised for its achievements by being awarded 'Best Medium Sized Nursery' in Queensland. More recently the nursery focused on its environmental management and in 2006 gained EcoHort certification under the nursery production FMS, Farm Management System. Wallum Nursery is proud of its specialist knowledge and ability to consistently provide nutritionally well-balanced, pest and disease free plant material. The nursery can supply a wide variety of native plant species, that are suited to a broad range of habitats.





Wallum Nurseries Pty Ltd: Wallum Nurseries is recognised as an industry leader in their field. The nursery currently operates under the Nursery Production Farm Management System and has NIASA accreditation and EcoHort certification and in the business process of continual improvement has recently undergone a series of upgrades to maintain business efficiencies. The nursery is designed to catch and reuse all irrigation wastewater providing the nursery with irrigation water independence. An efficient system of formed drains and channels direct wastewater and rain events through silt and trash traps to a 3 megalitre collection and settling pond. The water held onsite in the 8 megalitre storage facility for future irrigation is monitored regularly and the water quality is managed using aeration techniques to ensure the continued suitability of the water for nursery irrigation throughout the year. The automated disinfection system controls the water pH levels and injects the disinfectant directly into the pipe system prior to the water entering 2 x 25,000litre storage tanks in preparation for use. A series of media filters located in the pumping shed ensure the irrigation water is suitable for use within the nursery irrigation system. Energy efficient variable frequency drive (VFD) 5KW Grundfos pumps with a 100% backup capacity, drive the irrigation to all production areas of the nursery. The VFD pumps also provide the flexibility to efficiently irrigate the multiple size irrigation zones within the nursery. All irrigation water is monitored by a recently installed water meter to record total water use and identify water use efficiency gains. The upgraded irrigation controller provides the application control and the flexibility required to efficiently manage the scheduling of the irrigation to each production zone within the nursery. Irrigation zones have recently been upgraded to nursery industry best practice, with new laterals, risers and sprinklers. The new sprinkler selection and layout has been independently tested to demonstrate the system operation meets industry bmp parameters.

The growing media used within the production system has been designed to support the requirements of the crops produced, as well as manage the water availability to the plant. The management and staff of Wallum Nursery are regular attendees at SEQ-IF workshops and events, constantly striving for the latest technology and innovation. The establishment of a new propagation facility is the latest project under construction at Wallum Nursery providing an increased production area and improved efficiencies.



“The Sprinkler upgrade has reduced plant losses and increased our profits.

The upgrade has also provided the nursery with a more versatile system”

Luke Dent 04.08.2010

