



NURSERIES

Consistent water supply is important in a nursery, and so is water efficiency. Here are some tips to reduce water use without reducing plant quality and quantity.



Why save water?

By becoming water efficient you can:

- save precious drinking water supplies
- reduce your water bills
- reduce your impact on the environment
- improve your business image
- increase your resilience to drought and mains water supply failures.

Irrigation

Some nurseries irrigate to meet the needs of their thirstiest plants, which means up to 80% of plants get too much water.

It is important to understand your water use and consult an accredited irrigation designer to ensure your irrigation system is efficient, practical, and suitable.

- Engage a certified irrigation designer (visit irrigationaustralia.com.au for more information).
- Fix water efficient nozzles to any overhead sprinklers and apply the water evenly.
- If suitable, install sub-irrigation or drip irrigation systems to produce water savings of up to 75% compared to overhead sprinklers.

- Choose an irrigation system that allows automatic shutdown, moisture sensors, and can apply water at different rates to different parts of the nursery.
- Minimise hand watering before 10am and after 4pm.
- Use wetting agents.
- Change watering schedules to suit seasonal variations.
- Consider installing rainwater tanks or using stormwater for irrigation.

Water recycling

Water recycling for irrigation is an excellent way to save drinking water supplies while reducing the amount of runoff from your nursery. It can also reduce fertiliser needs by up to 30 per cent.

Recycled water from production areas must be treated (filtered and disinfected) before being applied again.

Determine what your requirements are before deciding what treatment method is necessary and monitor quantity and quality of collected water throughout the year.

Runoff management

By effectively managing water runoff, nurseries can safely recover used water for treatment and recycling.

Try to use natural features to control runoff, and use erosion control devices where necessary to collect good quality water for reuse.

Establish an erosion, sediment and litter control plan for the development and running of your nursery.

Love Water

We encourage our customers to love water and you can educate your staff about water efficiency and develop a management plan that encourages everyone to get involved.

Encourage your customers to select plants that are drought resilient and explain how they can prepare their garden and lawn to minimise water loss (e.g. using mulch or top dressing).

Seek advice

If you're planning to incorporate water efficient practices into your business, it's a good idea to seek professional advice

Greenlife Industry Australia (greenlifeindustry.com.au) can provide useful resources and information on training courses.



Saving water in business

Visit hunterwater.com.au/savewater for more water saving tips for your business



hunterwater.com.au