

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Ask Laura Newsletter Column
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Please include author's name on column heading

Q: Are there any manuals that support the production of container nursery producton ?

A: Well, you are in luck. A colorful new manual from UC ANR publications was just published in June: the Container Nursery Production and Business Management Manual. It includes research-based information on all aspects of production of landscape plants in commercial nurseries. Written primarily for wholesale nursery growers and propagators; a wide range of those involved in the nursery industry will find this a valuable reference.

Q: Could you provide more specifics?

A: There are twenty chapters in five broad sections cover topics from nursery site selection to crop production, water management to business and labor management, along with pest, weed, and disease management.

This easy-to-use manual contains the photos, tables and clearly written text. Chapters include:

Nursery Site Selection and Development
Plant Growing Structures
Mechanization and Automation
Soils and Container Media
Nutrition and Fertilization
Irrigation Management Practices
Controlling Runoff and Recycling Water, Nutrients, and Waste
Plant Propagation
Controlling Plant Growth
Diagnosing Plant Problems
Integrated Pest Management
Plant Diseases
Insects, Mites, and Other Invertebrate Pests
Integrated Weed Management
Vertebrate Pest Management
Invasive Pests
Business Management
Marketing Considerations
Increasing Labor Productivity

Q: How do I obtain the manual?

A: The easiest way is to go online and purchase from the UC ANR publications website. For a limited time, the publication is only \$32. <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=3540>. Soon it should be available to purchase at the UC Cooperative Extension office in Watsonville.