

# Rutgers University Nursery Management Program

## Research and Extension

### Program Goals

The Rutgers University Nursery Management Program is working through a coordinated state-wide collaboration to:

- Address the nursery industry's short- and long-term needs through basic and applied research
- Develop research, extension and education programs to improve nutrient, water, and crop/pest management for nursery production
- Facilitate information exchange among researchers, extension personnel, and nursery industry clientele locally, regionally and nationally
- Establish and maintain effective communication between Rutgers University and the nursery industry
- Link state and regional projects and their networks of research, extension and education professionals
- Develop and strengthen partnerships with the nursery industry through a strong educational and outreach program
- Deliver successful programs on nutrient, water and crop/pest management for New Jersey's nursery industry
- Continue to enhance the profitability and sustainability of New Jersey's nursery industry through the implementation of sound and effective management practices



For more information contact:  
 Dr. Gladis Zinati, Nursery Management Specialist  
 Rutgers University  
[zinati@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:zinati@aesop.rutgers.edu); 732-932-9375 x 118

### Research

Development of a multi-disciplinary research program that includes the following three programmatic areas:

#### Nutrient Management

- Identify container media (composition and ratios) with superior physical and chemical properties
- Evaluate fertilizers for their effects on plant growth with the goal of reducing nitrate and phosphate leaching
- Identify media amendments to improve nutrient use efficiency

#### Water Management

- Assess the effects of natural riparian buffers on the mitigation of nitrate and phosphate in nursery runoffs
- Assess the effects of microorganisms on enhancing mitigation of nutrients in soils of riparian buffers
- Assess the frequency of irrigation on quality of leachates and nursery plant growth in pot-in-pot production system
- Assess the quality of recycled water, captured in tail water recovery systems, focusing on nutrients and pathogens



#### Crop/Pest Management

- Assess the effects of container media and irrigation on oriental beetle populations
- Evaluate the effects of microorganisms on nutrient efficiency and reduction of disease incidences

### Extension and Education Outreach

Development and strengthen partnerships between Rutgers University and members of the nursery industry through a strong educational and outreach extension program, including:

- One-on-one visitations with members of the nursery industry
- In-Service Training for agricultural agents and Workshops for nursery growers/managers
- Annual state-wide and twilight meetings to update nursery growers, and representatives from the NJ Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau, the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association (NJNLA), and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)



- Printed and on-line publications include: fact sheets, bulletins, CDs and articles in scientific journals, trade magazines, and newsletters
- Presentations at local, regional and national conferences
- Integration of study sites into field classrooms for extension education and university courses