

Climate Friendly Nurseries Project

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Reduce Waste Save Money

While improving your growing environment and yield



Invest in WASTE REDUCTION

Waste gets paid for twice; first as something paid for that you pay again to dispose of. With labor representing the greatest expense for nurseries, decreasing the number of times waste is handled and/or trips to the dump, can impact the bottom line. While creating some waste through normal business operations may be unavoidable, nurseries can:

1. Reduce purchased inputs
2. Reuse materials that have value
3. Recycle and compost what you can
4. Safely dispose of what's left

Potential Savings

Plastic Container Steam Treatment Cleaning System		
	40-acre Nursery	400-acre Nursery
Cost of Business as Usual (purchasing containers and disposal fees)	\$1,500	\$4,000
Implementation Cost	\$6,000	\$8,000
Payback*	~4 years	~2 years

* Opportunities for waste reduction improvements are site specific and vary.

Example of a grower who's done it

Heritage Seedlings steam cleans and reuses its plastic containers and potting soil. With a major decrease in weeding labor, the return on investment for the container steamer was less than one year. For the steam generator and trailer to treat potting soil for reuse, the return on investment was only five months.

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Where do I start?

1. Ask yourself if you really need each product or resource you purchase.
2. Consider installing a steam treatment system to clean plastic containers and potting soil for reuse.
3. Recycle ALL waste plastic through Agri-Plas (unusable pots, trays, poly film, shrink wrap, bailing twine, triple-rinsed pesticide containers, pallets, shade cloth, ground cover, seed sacks, drip tape, etc.) Free pick up with 6 or more full sacks (4'x4'x4' each). <http://agriplasinc.com>
4. Compost organic matter onsite, if possible.
5. Contact your county, local municipality or university to understand current waste auditing technical services available through Recycle at Work programs.
6. Conduct a waste sort and understand your baseline. Work to divert waste from the landfill and reuse materials with value.
7. Recycle as much as possible curbside and seek additional outlets for other recyclable materials. Contact Metro's recycling hotline at 503.234.3000 or outside the tri-county Portland area, contact your county.
8. Talk to someone who's done it. See case studies at www.climatefriendlynurseries.org
9. Set up waste collection systems that work for your operation.

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The Climate Friendly Nurseries Project, a collaborative partnership between the Oregon Association of Nurseries and the Oregon Environmental Council, has developed a guide, Best Management Practices for Climate Friendly Nurseries, to help nurseries reduce operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The BMP Guide contains detailed recommendations, Oregon case studies, and low and no-cost efficiency improvements for nurseries.

Learn more at www.climatefriendlynurseries.org

