Biosecurity and security are part of an all-hazards approach to Horticultural Safety

**BE PREPARED**

- Create a Biosecurity plan for your nursery or greenhouse operation, to be included with your Emergency Plan.
  - For additional information, utilize trade publications and websites referencing safety and biosecurity measures, i.e. www.gemplers.com/alert
  - For assistance with these plans, contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture – Division of Plant Industry at 609-292-5441.

**BE ALERT**

- Talk with your county Emergency Management Coordinator. Let him/her know about your operation’s needs and concerns, if the event of a disaster or an emergency. Learn about your county’s disaster and emergency evacuation procedures and incorporate the following into your plan:
  - Understand the hazards/risks associated with your area.
    - Provide a pesticide storage inventory, with location on the property, to the local fire department.
  - Understand how and where to evacuate your customers and workers.
  - Understand how and where to shelter-in-place.
  - Develop procedures to implement if there is a breach in security concerning your operations.

- Develop a list of important phone numbers, with contact names, such as the following: (keep at an on-site and off-site location)
  - Police / Fire / EMS: 9-1-1
  - Local Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Agent
  - County Emergency Management Coordinator
  - NJ Dept. of Agriculture – Division of Plant Industry (609-292-5441)
  - NJ Dept. of Agriculture – 24-hour number (609-292-8896)
Keep the Garden State Safe

BE ALERT (continued)

- Local/State Department of Health
- USDA-APHIS-PPQ, State Plant Health Director (609-259-8649)
- Emergency Notification List/Phone Tree, including after hours numbers (e.g. owner, supervisors, workers, vendors, suppliers, etc.).

- Maintain awareness of the location of visitors/customers and vendors.
  - Post signs to inform people of rules to follow while on your premises.
  - Monitor visits of people to your operations.
  - Restrict access to chemical, fertilizer, pesticide storage areas.

- Notify authorities of people taking unauthorized pictures or asking questions about operations, security, chemicals, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.

- Watch for and report signs of tampering with equipment, chemicals, fertilizer, pesticides, water, products, buildings and utilities.
  - Have written procedures on steps to take if you suspect or find evidence of contamination or tampering.
  - Prepare a recall plan to rapidly assess the scope of the problem, and to contain or recall products that have been sold or exposed.

- Watch for unusual signs that may indicate possible bioterrorism.
  - Unusually high number of unhealthy or dead plants.
  - Abnormal or unusual signs not typically seen for a particular disease.
  - Disease occurrence outside of its normal expected season.
  - Multiple outbreaks across different plant species.
  - Multiple cases of workers with a mysterious illness, rash, or other signs.
  - Both the owner/worker and plants are not healthy.

- Talk with your Extension Agent to become familiar with the signs of the various plant diseases/pests, recognize the signs of pesticide exposure, etc.

- Maintain situational awareness of world events and on-going threats.

- Train employees to be alert, vigilant with their surroundings, and who to notify if they see suspicious activity.

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

Purchased with funds provided by US Department of Homeland Security
BE SECURE

- Ensure the physical security of buildings and grounds.
  - Limit access to your operations.
    - Depending on your operations, consider utilizing perimeter fencing with controlled gate access, electronic security devices, and industrial-type door hardware.
    - Keep storage areas and restricted areas locked when not in use.
  - Limit access to the water/electrical supply and secure them to prevent tampering.
- Plan for alternate means for electrical power.
  - Assess the entire operations for generator needs, including water wells and fuel.
    - Inspect, calibrate, and test generators under load.
- Install a security policy and security measures for deliveries.
  - Restrict deliveries to known vendors, with scheduled appointments and be present for deliveries.
  - Maintain accurate records of products.
- Maintain up-to-date inventories, especially on pesticide, fertilizers, and hazardous materials. Investigate discrepancies immediately.
  - Keep invoices on file.
  - Watch for signs of theft and evidence of tampering.
    - Inspect storage areas routinely.
- Pre-screen new employees to establish prospective employee’s qualifications and demeanor.
- Keep vehicles and equipment locked and keys secured, when not in use.
  - Monitor vehicles for inappropriate contents or unauthorized/unusual activity.
  - If applicable, lock fuel storage tanks.
- Maintain adequate lighting and security measures.
  - Report any repairs that need to be made and follow up to see that they are done.
- Restrict access to computers and sensitive documents.
  - Protect computer data with virus protection.
- Shred sensitive documents before discarding.
- Train employees to be secure and notify you if they detect a breach in security.
Keep the Garden State Safe

BE CLEAN

- Limit access to sensitive areas and enforce visitors/vendors to follow posted rules.

- Follow sanitary practices to eliminate the spread of disease. This applies to people, as well as equipment.
  - Avoid the transfer of dirt, mud or disease by vehicles and equipment.
  - Utilize clean containers and equipment to prevent the spread of disease.

- Provide hand-washing facilities.
  - Encourage hand washing with disinfectant soap, especially after handling chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides.

- Check new horticulture stock for unusual signs disease or pests.
  - Call the local Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Agent and/or NJDA – Plant Industry immediately if unusual signs are noticed.

- Train employees on common disease signs and patterns, so they will recognize unusual ones.

- Train employees to be clean and to notify you if they see discrepancies.

BE CURRENT

- Practice emergency drills with your employees and their proper response.

- Review and update your plan.
  - After each drill, if necessary.
  - Every year.
**NOTIFY/CALL**

- If you suspect suspicious activity, notify the facility owner and call local law enforcement and 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ.

- If you notice unusual signs of disease or pests in agriculture, notify the Local Rutgers Cooperative and Research Extension Agent, the NJ Dept. of Agriculture’s Division of Plant Industry.

- Train employees to notify you if there are concerns/problems.
  - If tampering/contamination are suspected, isolate the suspected stock.
  - Monitor stock and facilities until authorities arrive.

- Train your employees on your plan and to Be Alert, Be Secure, Be Clean and Notify/Call.