



Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia

NIASA: **STRAWBERRY** NURSERY STOCK SPECIFICATION

Best Management Practice Guidelines
for Strawberry Nursery Stock Production
as an Appendix to the

NIASA BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE GUIDELINES



Setting the
Standards

Strawberry Nursery
Stock Specification



Setting the
Standards



Setting the
Standards



Setting the
Standards

9th Edition 2023





CONTENTS

1 Introduction.....	3
2 General production nursery requirements.....	3
2.1 Water	3
2.2 Growing media / propagation media	4
2.3 Beds and benching.....	4
2.4 Disinfestation and hygiene	5
2.4.1 Hand hygiene.....	6
2.4.2 Footwear	6
2.4.3 Tools, knives and other instruments.....	7
2.4.4 Equipment.....	7
2.4.5 Plant Containers (pots, bags, and trays).....	7
2.4.6 Working surfaces	8
3 Source materials to be used for propagation.....	8
3.1 Commercial plant propagation sub-licenses	8
3.2 Source of high-health plants.....	8
4 Approved facilities for nucleus and foundation plants	9
5 Nucleus and foundation plant growing requirements.....	10
6 Nucleus and foundation plant nutrition, pathogen and pest monitoring and testing	11
7 Foundation stock.....	11
8 Plug production.....	12
9 True-to-type testing.....	12
10 Maintenance of high-health plant status.....	13
11 Auditing for compliance and continual improvement	13
APPENDIX 1. List of approved high-health plant sources for APG varieties	15
APPENDIX 2. Terminology of high-health plants during the plug plant multiplication.....	16
SCHEDULE 1: EXAMPLE RECORD SHEETS	17
STRAWBERRY NURSERY STOCK SPECIFICATION CHECKLIST	21



STRAWBERRY NURSERY STOCK SPECIFICATION

1 Introduction

Nursery production of high-quality strawberry plants is recognised within Australia and abroad as playing an important role in supporting the strawberry production industry.

Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia (NIASA) is a national best practice scheme for plant production governed, administered, managed, and promoted by Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA). NIASA is the cornerstone of the Australian Plant Production Standard (APPS) and provides a set of guidelines that ensures a plant production business (production nursery) operates according to industry best management practice and commits to a continuous improvement cycle (Plan, Do, Check & Review). This Appendix provides guidelines for the maintenance of the high-quality status of foundation strawberry plants and has been created as an addition to the NIASA accreditation for strawberry plug plant production, as an essential part of the NIASA accreditation process. NIASA accreditation for strawberry plant production cannot be achieved unless this specification is met by approved NIASA auditing.

Purchasers of strawberry nursery stock require assurance that stock purchased meets an industry standard, is true to type, and that appropriate steps have been taken to reduce the chance of introduction of serious pathogens into the production environment. In some instances, this Specification will allow certified production nurseries to access new strawberry varieties under plant breeding programs.

In order for a production nursery to be eligible to be certified as meeting the Strawberry Nursery Stock Specification, the production nursery **must** be:

- NIASA accredited; **AND**
- be found at audit to have implemented mandatory procedures (indicated through use of the term **must**) within this Appendix to a **Satisfactory standard** (see [Section 11 Auditing for compliance and continual improvement](#) and the [Strawberry Nursery Stock Specification Checklist](#)).

2 General production nursery requirements

The production nursery **must** take steps to mitigate the risk of human assisted, and high risk, entry pathways and spread of plant pathogens into and within the production area. High risk entry pathways include water, wind, insects, growing media, and contamination of production areas through movement of people and equipment.

2.1 Water

Irrigation water **must** be managed in accordance with the requirements provided in NIASA Section 1.1.1 Water.

Key requirements – Water

- Water that is obtained from town suppliers, bores free of surface run-off or clean roof catchments does not require disinfestation.