

Your Levy At Work



Greenlife Industry Australia

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SEPTEMBER 2024

Mini tech skills enhancing operational efficiency at Oasis Horticulture

Oasis Horticulture is a leading producer of over 600 plant varieties including flowers, vegetables and houseplants. It operates facilities across Victoria and New South Wales. Renowned for its innovative and sustainable products, Oasis Horticulture meets the needs of both independent garden centres and major retailers like Bunnings.

Since its founding in 2008, Oasis Horticulture has built a strong reputation for quality and continuous improvement, consistently embracing technology to stay at the forefront of the horticultural industry.

A significant leap forward came with the introduction of mini tech skills training, supported by the Hort Innovation levy-funded *National Biosecurity and Sustainable Plant Production Program* (NY20001). This initiative has significantly enhanced operational efficiency, optimising resource management, irrigation and plant health across the operation.

Transformative impact of mini tech skills training

Matt Ford, Operations Manager at Oasis Horticulture, who started his career as an apprentice at the nursery, highlights the profound impact the mini tech skills training has had on the nursery's operations. Working closely with Colin Hunt, an extension officer from Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA), Oasis Horticulture has equipped its staff with critical skills in advanced irrigation techniques, digital inventory management, and pest and disease monitoring.

"The mini tech skills training has been a game changer for us," Matt said.

"It has enabled us to make informed decisions based on data, manage resources more effectively and improve overall plant health.

"Bringing Colin on board was a turning point for us. His expertise has equipped our team with skills that extend beyond daily tasks and fosters a deeper understanding of horticulture."

The benefits of the training are evident. Advanced irrigation systems have optimised water use, conserving resources while enhancing plant health. Digital inventory management has streamlined plant stock tracking and management, orders and deliveries. It has reduced errors and increased efficiency. Modern technology in pest and disease management has also improved early detection and treatment, minimising plant damage.

Commitment to staff development

Oasis Horticulture's commitment is about more than plants – it reflects a deep investment in its people.

"Quality isn't just about the plants we grow—it's about the people who grow them. We ensure that every team member is not only well-trained but also confident in their work. This dual focus on product excellence and personal development is central to our ethos," Matt said.

Vision for the future

Oasis Horticulture's vision is to lead the industry in best practices by prioritising both quality and innovation.

"Our goal is to continually evolve, ensuring that Oasis Horticulture remains synonymous with excellence through technological advancements and staff development," Matt said.

"We have seen firsthand how this training has transformed our operations, and we believe it's something every nursery should consider. In terms of benefits, efficiency is only the beginning – it's about setting a foundation for future advancements."

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This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the nursery research and development levy and funds from the Australian Government. For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit horticulture.com.au

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By investing in mini tech skills training, Oasis Horticulture has not only boosted operational effectiveness and productivity but also secured the long-term health and vitality of its plants.

This dedication to continuous learning and adaptation positions Oasis Horticulture as a leader in the horticulture industry, prepared to tackle challenges with confidence and expertise.

If you are considering this training for your nursery, chat with your local Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) extension officer.

Contact your local GIA Extension Officer via phone, email, or the website at info@greenlifeindustry.com.au

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