

Your Levy At Work



Greenlife Industry Australia

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Overland Nurseries: raising the bar with NIASA Accreditation

At a glance:

- 50+ years of excellence in garden plant supply
- Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia (NIASA) accredited since 1997 for best management practices
- Key strengths: quality control, weed management, operational efficiency
- Business impact: higher plant quality, streamlined processes and strong industry reputation

At Overland Nurseries, quality is more than a goal – it's the foundation of everything it does. Every plant grown reflects a deep commitment to excellence, ensuring customers receive only the best, from root to leaf.

With more than 50 years' experience, Overland has built a reputation as one of Sydney's premier suppliers of garden plants, serving retail garden centres, landscapers and hardware retailers across New South Wales. The nursery's dedication to best management practices has set it apart, ensuring not only high-quality plant production but also operational efficiency and sustainability.

A key factor in this success is Overland's long-standing accreditation under NIASA, a certification that validates its commitment to industry-leading standards.

Building a legacy

Overland Nurseries continues to be a trusted name in the industry, supplying premium plants while upholding the highest standards in production. But behind the lush greenery and thriving stock is a team whose dedication makes a difference.

Among them is Brent, whose journey in horticulture began at just 16 years of age. Starting as an apprentice at

Greenacres Nursery, he earned his trade certification before joining Overland in 1989. More than three decades later, his passion for quality and best practices remains at the core of his work.

"I've always believed that the foundation of a great nursery is consistency," Brent said.

"It's not just about growing plants – it's about making sure every plant meets the highest standards, from root structure to overall health."

At Overland, this philosophy isn't just spoken, it's put into action every day, through the team's sharp attention to detail and structured approach to quality control.

NIASA accreditation: the key to continuous improvement

NIASA provides a structured framework for best management practices, covering critical areas such as plant health, water management, and biosecurity.

As Brent explains, Overland Nurseries recognised the value of third-party accreditation early, first achieving NIASA certification in 1997.

"We saw NIASA as an opportunity to formalise and refine our processes. It's not just about meeting standards – it's about taking pride in what we produce and ensuring every plant meets our high expectations."

Over the years, Overland has worked closely with Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) extension officers, tapping into their expertise to continuously enhance operations.

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“Our relationship with the extension officer network has been invaluable. Extension officers understand the industry and provide tailored advice that helps us stay ahead of challenges,” Brent said.

Commitment to quality

One of Overland’s standout strengths is its meticulous weed management system, which Brent says is a critical factor in maintaining plant quality.

“Many nurseries can grow plants, but maintaining top quality is another story,” Brent said.

“Our weed management system ensures that plants leave our nursery in pristine condition.”

This commitment was recognised when 19 images from Overland’s operations were featured in a national industry publication, highlighting its approach as an example of best practice.

“The impact of NIASA accreditation goes beyond compliance – it directly improves efficiency. When you put down new stock, the area is clean and dispatch is seamless. Weeds are minimal, meaning we spend less time on manual removal and more time on production,” Brent said.

Why accreditation matters

For businesses considering NIASA accreditation, Brent says it is a game-changer.

“It’s about professionalism and reputation. When visitors walk into your nursery and say, ‘wow, this looks amazing,’ that’s the best validation of your hard work.”

Brent recalls visiting a large landscape nursery with stunning advanced stock but significant weed issues in smaller pots.

“That’s where NIASA makes a difference. Our plants are ready to go, saving time and effort for both us and our customers.”

Looking to the future

As Overland Nurseries continues to grow, Brent remains optimistic about the road ahead.

“The industry will always face challenges such as biosecurity risks, water management and changing market demands – however with strong systems in place, we’re well-prepared to adapt.”

“It’s not just about getting accredited, it’s about using that framework to continually improve and grow.”

With a steadfast commitment to excellence and a foundation built on best practices, Overland Nurseries is well-positioned for long-term success in Australia’s greenlife industry.

For more information on accreditation and certification, visit greenlifeindustry.com.au/credentials

In addition, if you’re interested in exploring NIASA certification, visit nurseryproductionfms.com.au or contact Greenlife Industry Australia at info@greenlifeindustry.com.au or on 1300 95 95 13.

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