

Mercer Botanicals earns VeriFlora certification

Mercer Botanicals, wholesale ornamental plant nursery in Zellwood, Fla., has achieved VeriFlora certification. In 740,000 square feet of indoor greenhouses, Mercer produces an assortment of foliage plants that are sold to garden centers, florists, interiorscapers and plant wholesalers.

The company releases more than 3 million beneficial insects annually to control pests and uses a banker plant system to maintain biological control agents. Zero water leaves the nursery. A paved road is flanked by curbs, which funnel rain water to a large retention pond.

The 50-acre nursery contains 5 acres of ponds which capture 100 percent of rain water during summer storms. The operation is equipped with 17 acres of

low-volume drip irrigation and overhead systems, with distribution uniformity ratings that exceed Florida's best management practices.

Mercer minimizes runoff potential with a four-point strategy: lowest recommended rates of controlled release



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fertilizer; a highly hygroscopic 100 percent sphagnum peat moss substrate; low volume irrigation heads; and buffer zones surrounding the entire operation.

For more: Mercer Botanicals Inc., (352) 735-9696; www.mercerbotanicals.com. VeriFlora, ; www.veriflora.com.

