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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## PESTICIDE FREE CERTIFICATION TO INCLUDE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

### SCS HELPS CONSUMERS MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES

**December 1, 2010 - Emeryville, CA** – Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), a leader in third party certification of environmental and safety claims, has just announced the expansion of its Lab Tested and Certified [Pesticide Free](#) program to include ornamental plants. Historically, the certification has helped vegetable and fruit growers offer their customers products that meet the highest levels of safety.



Verified with Lab Testing at 0.01 ppm

The expansion of this certification allows horticultural producers to assure their customers that their flowering and ornamental plants are of the highest quality and safe for their homes and gardens. The Pesticide Free Certification provides the same measure of safety consumers receive when they purchase certified fruits and vegetables.

Growers can use certification to demonstrate to retailers that they meet increasingly stringent safety requirements. “We conduct pesticide testing that exceeds government requirements so our clients have the highest confidence in assuring retailers that their products are safe,” Wil Sumner, Director of Agricultural Testing & Certification at SCS. The Pesticide Free Certification is up to 1,000 times more stringent than pesticide limits currently required by law.

For the last two decades, Scientific Certification Systems has issued Pesticide Free certification to help vegetable and fruit producers demonstrate that their products are safe for consumption. While consumers have long demanded safety certification for food products, they are now seeking transparency in other products that have traditionally brought pesticides into their homes. Buying Pesticide Free plants helps minimize the risk of exposing pets and family to harmful pesticides.

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**Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)** has been providing global leadership in third-party sustainability and [environmental certification](#), auditing, testing and standards development for more than 25 years. SCS programs span a wide range of industries, recognizing achievements in food and agriculture, floriculture, forestry, green building products, retailing and more.