

# Mixing it up brings a change for the better

Seaview Nurseries, North Island, NZ

**As one of New Zealand's largest plant suppliers specialising in flowering perennials, Seaview Nurseries has found that taking the time to review and optimise its fertiliser program is bringing benefits in productivity and performance.**

Dan Featherstone, the Managing Director at Seaview, has seen a lot of change during his time at the nursery. "People find change difficult at the best of times. We've faced a number of challenges over the years, including a tornado and a fire, and through these we've learned to continuously evaluate the way we run our business."

So when Nicola Rochester, Scotts Regional Sales Manager for New Zealand, consulted with Seaview about improving performance using Osmocote Exact Fertiliser, Dan and Roger White, the Nursery Manager, were keen to hear her case for change. "Nicola has a great deal of product and plant knowledge and her case studies of Osmocote trials were extremely compelling," says Dan. "The trials demonstrated the difference Osmocote makes and we came to understand how relevant it would be to our product range and fertilising requirements."

Together with Nicola, Seaview designed a fertilising program to suit the nursery's product range and local climate. Dan explains, "We used Scotts Osmocote Exact Hi-Start and Lo-Start to tailor blends of potting mix for different times of the year – spring, winter – plus a number of blends for specific plants."

The results that Osmocote Exact has provided within only four months have exceeded Seaview's expectations. "We're already seeing a marked difference in productivity. Quicker turnarounds and better plant quality. We have noticed a huge improvement, particularly in our impatiens and alstroemeria crops."

"Being able to make the change and to see the results has been great."



Dan Featherstone and Roger White with a crop of *Anigozanthos* (Bush Gems)

## Designing an appropriate fertiliser program

An effective nutritional program relies on selecting the fertilisers that best fit the crop you are growing, the quality of your available irrigation water and the physical and chemical properties of your growing media.

Once your soil and water analysis results are completed, Scotts can review the data and provide informed fertilizer recommendations to improve your nutritional systems.

Many advantages can be gained by matching the fertilizer to the crop's requirements and your growing conditions. The correct use of Osmocote Exact can assist in producing a crop of even growth and healthier characteristics – with fewer losses.

The following factors should be balanced when designing a fertiliser program:

- Media components
- N-P-K ratio
- Potential acidity of media
- Crops
- Need for secondary and micronutrients
- Growing systems
- Other miscellaneous factors
- Nitrate / ammonium nitrogen balance

Speak to your Scotts Regional Sales Manager about assistance in designing a suitable program.

