

UKi Tree Nursery – a working partner with Scotts

Uki Tree Nursery, NSW

The long established and renowned semi-advanced tree nursery, Uki Tree Nursery, in far northern NSW, has recently become a full working partner with Scotts Australia.

UKi Tree Nursery came to Scotts with the sole aims of dramatically increasing sustained growth and maximising profitability through research and advanced growing techniques. Specialising in semi advanced, containerized trees, ranging from new release Camellias and Syzygiums through to Evergreen Magnolias and Michelias, the task set was technically demanding and the final requirements were precisely documented by Managing Director, Mr. Mark Porter. After initial and on going on-site evaluations by John Daly and Greg Neighbour from Scotts, a complete plan was formulated. This plan incorporated the economical requirements by UKi Tree Nursery and the climatic conditions present in the Tweed Valley region. By taking advantage of long hours of sunlight, warm summers and mild winters, Scotts have been able to precisely deliver a range of specially formulated products, which have been combined with the media supplied and blended by John Lawrence of Go Grow Pty Ltd of Ballina. The task set down by Mr. Porter was made easier by his superior foresight into horticultural cleanliness, his articulate quality assurance records and his constant updating and monitoring of herbicide and fungicide usages.

After a solid six months of usage Mr. Porter had the following to say on UKi's working partnership with Scotts Australia. "Initially, and for the long term, I have been very happy, and in many aspects overwhelmed, with the performance, advice and technical knowledge of The Scotts Company. Like many companies and company directors, I had the belief that The Scotts Company was simply a fertilizer supplier and their consultants were simply sales representatives! It could not have been further from the truth, The Scotts Company is one of the world's leaders in research and development and their representatives are highly skilled with amazing technical advice and qualifications.

Scotts products have enabled our company to take a significant advantage over our competitors with dramatically shortened growth times and, more importantly, sustained growth rates throughout the year. Our relationship with corporate customers, developers, landscapers, retailers and



designers has also been significantly improved with our ability to forecast precisely the availability of selected lines and deliver contract grown lines on time, every time. This all adds up to increased margins and increased profitability levels, without disruption to ongoing cash flows."

Mr. Porter and his nursery manger Chris Fairleigh had this to say on the technical aspects of The Scotts Company and its products in use at UKi Tree Nursery, "Current performance has been achieved with the addition of specific formulations of Scotts products into UKi Tree Nursery's existing media blends. The addition of Scotts Hydraflo 2 has dramatically reduced the requirements and duration of watering, while at the same time preventing water logging during long rain periods. Once watering was 20mins x 5, for a 24-hour period this has been reduced to a regular 8mins x 5 for the same 24-hour period, with no irrigation for one day out of every seven days.

The use of Osmoform Premix has helped to precisely regulate nitrogen drawdown in our sub-tropical nursery, especially when used in conjunction with our sawdust media components. The cation exchange sites are balanced allowing the Osmocote Exact to be properly absorbed by the select plant species. One particular component recommended by John Daly and Greg Neighbour was Magrimax . The product has given our media perfect long and short term magnesium supply, while balancing calcium levels via a course graded gypsum. This has proved invaluable with the rapid growth and demands of our Michelia, Evergreen Magnolia and Camellia species. The introduction of a course grade of gypsum has also significantly balanced and sustained our desired pH levels, with testing on pH levels carried out on a 14-day cycle.

Our praise of the Scotts product Osmocote Exact, in all its used forms, could not be higher. This well thought-out controlled release fertiliser, has been dibbled into all of our supplied media, and the results, when combined with an overall Scotts recommended media, has been dramatic. At present we are producing 330mm potted Sasanqua Camellias, planted as 140mm plants into 330mm pots – they are forecasted ready for sale in an amazing 16 months.

These plants are 1.5m in height, have had multiple pruning and are very full plants, with impressive glossy foliage. The use of lo and hi-start Osmocote Exact blends is now enabling us to directly plant tube stock into 200mm, 250mm, 300mm and 330mm pots with no apparent loss of vigour and with superior hardiness and final product."



Growing success