

SITE DESIGN AND LAYOUT

The nursery site must have the facilities required to operate the business , which will depend on the crops produced. Will you be a propagator? Will you grow container or field stock, or both? Some of the facilities and production systems that may be required for a container operation include:

- production facilities: greenhouses, gravel or groundcloth-covered container beds, and shade structures
- water supply equipment, irrigation and drainage systems, and a backup electricity generator
- other facilities: shipping and handling areas, cold storage, chemical storage, equipment repair and storage facilities, parking, and facilities for staff

The design and layout will affect the profitability of the nursery. The site should be designed to allow for efficient movement of plants and vehicles between the different zones of production, and to allow for future expansion. It should also be designed to meet local bylaws and to prevent the release of pollutants into the environment. The Environmental Farm Planning *Reference Guide* provides information on various environmental laws and makes suggestions for environmentally sound farm practices. The *Reference Guide* is available from the BC Agriculture Council and on the [BCMAL website](#). Other useful sources of information are the publication on site layout titled *Container Nursery Design* from American Nurseryman Publishing Co. and books on general nursery production (See Appendix 3).