

Accreditation to Improve Restoration (AIR)



Why AIR? Over the past several years, numerous *Phytophthora* plant pathogens have been detected in California native plant nurseries and habitat restoration sites. Planting *Phytophthora*-infected nursery stock into native habitats may be the most direct means of introducing these pathogens into wildlands, inadvertently and irrevocably damaging these sensitive habitats. Nursery growers, restoration specialists, and plant pathologists have come together to address the issue through the AIR program.

AIR is a voluntary, audit-based accreditation program designed to increase the confidence in the cleanliness of restoration and native plant nursery stock. Nurseries and greenhouses participating in the AIR program conduct a self-assessment to confirm that they are producing plants with the practices outlined in the CalPhytos/CNPS Best Management Practices for restoration nursery stock. The review covers propagation, irrigation, seed collection and storage, layout, etc. An auditor visits the facility, checks the nursery's self-assessment and samples for *Phytophthora* species. Depending on the results of the lab tests and auditor findings, modifications are recommended, so nurseries can become AIR compliant. If the nursery doesn't have major recommendations after audit, it is deemed "AIR compliant" for two years. There is no fee for a nursery to participate.



To join, or for more details see <https://restoration.sf.ucdavis.edu/> or www.calphytos.org, or email Janice Alexander, UC Cooperative Extension; jalexander@ucanr.edu.



For more information:

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