Reducing Plastics

What's New with our Classic Pots and Labels

We are introducing a new version of our familiar green pots, made with 97+% post-consumer recycled plastic content. This change will eliminate our use of an estimated 800,000 lbs. of conventional plastic every year.

Our pots are also recyclable wherever polypropylene (PPE) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) is accepted. #2 HDPE is the most often-recycled plastic in the United States, and is the same plastic used to make milk and detergent bottles.

We print our info labels at our nurseries, using material produced in the U.S. by a company focused on sustainable manufacturing methods that uses post-industrial waste.

Invasive Species

Protecting Habitats

An invasive plant in one state might be perfectly fine in another part of the country. That's what makes the threat of invasive plants so challenging, and why we monitor it closely.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

STRICT SHIPPING AND SELLING RESTRICTIONS
We do not sell or ship plants to states where they are considered invasive.

ELIMINATION OF INVASIVE PLANTS
We have entirely removed some varieties from production because they were found to be invasive in an increasing number of regions.

TESTING NEW PLANTS FOR RISK
Before we introduce a new plant variety, it is scrutinized for potential invasiveness.

Sustainability Goals

What's Next

We're dedicated to leading the industry in sustainable growing practices and nursery management. We're forging the path with innovative solutions that make a big impact. Our changes start with an annual audit of our environmental impacts and emissions, which allows us to set meaningful goals.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

SUSTAINABILITY AUDIT
Collecting detailed data helps us understand our inefficiencies, deficits, opportunities, and strengths so we can move forward on our goals.

RESEARCH TEAM
Our Sustainability Taskforce researches innovations and priorities to meet our nursery-wide goals to reduce greenhouse emissions.

STANDARDIZING PROCESSES
We're working to implement consistent practices across all facilities, regions, and teams.

SETTING SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
We are thinking ahead to where we want our sustainability efforts to be in 2030 and beyond, and making thoughtful changes to bring us into the future.

MONROVIA®

Grow Beautifully

MONROVIA®

Sustainability Practices

The Healthiest Plants Naturally

Monrovia has pioneered the art of growing robust, healthy plants for nearly 100 years. Similarly, we seek to lead the industry in large-scale sustainable growing practices, from water conservation to natural pest management. Innovative, environmentally endurable practices enable us to all grow responsibly together.

We know there's more we can do to make a positive impact. This is where we stand today, and a pledge that we're striving to do better tomorrow.

Water Management

Our Most Precious Resource

We continually scrutinize the way we use water as part of our responsibility to mitigate the effects of run-off irrigation and respond to increased drought conditions.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

IRRIGATION AUTOMATION
Hundreds of computerized valves allow us to monitor wind and temperature conditions for effective irrigation.

MICRO IRRIGATION
Micro-irrigation reduces water use and control water-borne foliage diseases without chemical applications.

CONSTRUCTED FOR WATER RECYCLING
Sloped fields allow irrigation runoff to return to retention ponds for re-use. Recycling more than 95% of our irrigation water saves more than 2.5 billion gallons of water per year.

CONSTRUCTED WETLAND
The constructed wetland at our Georgia nursery is a first in the nursery industry and naturally filters excess nutrients to limit impact on the surrounding environment.

WATER AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Using recycled water whenever possible reduces the amount of groundwater and chemicals used to nurture our plants.

Energy Efficiency

Doing Our Part

We audit our Scope 1,2, and 3 emissions and use our findings to significantly reduce emissions.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

ENERGY-EFFICIENT GREENHOUSES
High roofs with venting increase circulation naturally. High-efficiency boilers use less fuel to heat our greenhouses.

EFFICIENT LOADING PRACTICES
Plants are waiting on racks when trucks arrive for quicker loading and less idling time while protecting plant quality.

SHIPPING EFFICIENCY
By growing regionally, we reduce the distances our plants travel. Longer-distance deliveries with responsible carriers are one way to avoid using fuel on empty trucks.

Soil Health

Everything is Connected

Soil is the key to growing healthy plants—successful rooting, vigorous growth, and greater resilience.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

SOIL NUTRITION MONITORING
Careful monitoring of soil fertility has allowed us to drastically cut the amount of nitrogen fertilizer applied.

SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZER
In the early 1990s, we began incorporating slow-release fertilizer into the soil, reducing the amount of nitrogen fertilizer—a source of greenhouse emissions—by 75 percent.

CUSTOM SOIL MIXES
We create nearly 70 different soil mixes to grow plants in their ideal conditions, with less fungicide and fertilizer use.

MYCORRHIZAE
We add this beneficial fungus to all our soil mixes to enhance nutrient uptake. When our plants are added to the garden, mycorrhizae will spread to improve the surrounding soil.

Pesticide and Herbicide Use

Growing Responsibly

We work in sync with natural processes to protect and nurture plants with fewer chemical inputs.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

WEEDING BY HAND
Our Plant Health Team weeds most of our 22 million plants by hand, allowing us to reduce herbicide applications. Hand weeding is a labor-intensive process, but safer for the environment.

ORGANIC MULCHES
We top-dress our plants with natural bark mulch to reduce the use of herbicides.

NO TO NEONICOTINOIDS
We fully ceased neonicotinoid pesticide use in 2019.

BENEFICIALS
Our Integrated Pest Management program relies on beneficial organisms to reduce pests, with consistent applications of beneficial insects, nematodes, predatory mites, fungi or bacteria, and beneficial wasps to control aphids, white flies, and red scale. In 2024, we began shipping packets of beneficial mites with our mandevillas to continue to provide natural control of thrips in the home landscape.

GENTLE PESTICIDE USAGE
When necessary, only the least harmful pesticides are used. Biorational products — pesticides of natural origin that have limited or no adverse effects on the environment or beneficial organisms — are used whenever possible.

NATURALLY ROBUST PLANTS
We scout for new plant introductions with a high degree of natural pest and disease resistance to reduce the need for chemical treatments, both at our nurseries and in the home landscape.