Online certificate courses and training
Dr. Paul Fisher, Dr. Rosanna Freyre, and Maria Paz, pfisher@ufl.edu

Project objective

• Develop training materials and courses for professional development in the greenhouse and nursery industry for entry, mid, and advanced level staff.

Our approach

• With the website BackPocketGrower.org, we have developed short training videos and fact sheets.
• Online certificate courses
  • Designed for greenhouse employees in US or overseas
  • 4 weeks, 3 to 4 hours/week
  • English/Spanish
  • In 2015, “Greenhouse 101”, “Intro Nutrient Management”, “Advanced Nutrient Management”. 344 students graduated, 19% Spanish
• June to Dec each year. Set course dates. Classes accessible 24/7 (lectures pre-recorded). Instructors available for feedback.

Planned training efforts

• This is an ongoing commitment to develop more training materials
• 2016 will add online certificate (a) weed management and (b) disease management courses.
• Other courses to come include growing substrate; water quality & treatment; cost accounting...
• Coordination with Michigan State University (light, temperature), North Carolina State University (plant growth regulators), and Kansas State University (pest management)
• Entry-level training will focus on hose watering

How you can use this information

• Early access to new Back Pocket Grower resources for FRA partners (ask me for the password)
• Discounted registration for certificate courses for FRA partners
• Provide feedback on your priorities – we want to be part of your training solution

Acknowledgements

We thank our industry partners in the Floriculture Research Alliance (FloricultureAlliance.org) for their support. This project is also supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Resource Efficiency in the Floriculture Production and Value Chain”, #3607-21000-015-38S.