

***For Immediate Release***  
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## **SCS Expands VeriFlora® Program to Include Approved Materials Manufacturers**

### **BioWorks is First to Receive Approval under Expanded Program**

Emeryville, CA – Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) announces the expansion of the VeriFlora Program, a sustainability certification program for plants and flowers, to include the approval of products and input materials that support sustainable production practices. BioWorks, Inc., a leading manufacturer of biological pest and disease management products for the floriculture and horticulture industries, is the first company to achieve such approval.



The first approved product, RootShield Granules®, is a beneficial fungus which provides season-long control of root diseases. It has undergone extensive efficacy testing to demonstrate its effectiveness as compared to traditional chemical alternatives. Test reports concluded that, “RootShield Granules can replace or significantly reduce the use of various chemical fungicides used to control root diseases ....” At the same time, it is non-toxic to humans and animals, and is considered environmentally safe for use on ornamental and vegetable crops.

“Many growers and retailers concerned about sustainability are looking for independent guidance to decide which input materials, plant pots and containers, and other products can support their sustainability objectives,” said Linda Brown, Executive Vice President of SCS. “We’ve established the VeriFlora Approved Material Manufacturers program to address this need.”

SCS launched the VeriFlora Certified Sustainably Grown program in 2005 to certify nursery plants, potted plants and cut flowers produced in an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner, while meeting the highest standards for freshness and quality. Since its launch in 2005, VeriFlora certification has become the sustainability benchmark in the North American horticulture and floriculture markets.

John Francis, Director of Marketing and Technical Services at BioWorks noted, “As our

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company tagline, ‘How You Grow Matters,’ suggests, we are committed to providing environmentally responsible, safe and cost-effective solutions to the industry. VeriFlora approval is an excellent third-party confirmation of our efforts.” The company, based in Victor, NY, has gained widespread recognition for its innovative product line ([www.bioworksinc.com](http://www.bioworksinc.com)).



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**About Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)** -- SCS is an independent certifier of environmental, sustainability, food quality and food purity claims. For more than two decades, SCS has developed internationally recognized standards and certification programs aimed at spurring the highest level of environmental improvements, social accountability and product performance. Its programs span a wide cross-section of the economy, recognizing accomplishments in agricultural production, food processing and handling, forestry, fisheries, flowers and plants, energy, green building, consumer and business product manufacturing, and retail. Additional information about SCS and VeriFlora can be found at [www.scs-certified.com](http://www.scs-certified.com) and at [www.VeriFlora.org](http://www.VeriFlora.org).

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