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Preventing pests and diseases in the greenhouse

Clean and disinfect the greenhouse

The greenhouse always has to be cleaned and disinfected before planting a new crop.

The clean up activity provides a fresh starting point and reduces the risk that there are pests and diseases carrying over from the previous crop.

Make sure you have a clear work procedure for the clean up. Describe every step.

Clean out the greenhouse as soon as the crop is finished. Clean up and disinfect the greenhouse just before you plant a new crop.

Clean and disinfect the hydroponic system as well.



Always clean and disinfect before a new crop is planted.

The greenhouse clean out *(as soon as crop is finished)*

- 1 Remove old crop and dispose of material away from greenhouse
- 2 Remove and dispose of items that will not be reused including substrate, bags, twine.
- 3 Remove from greenhouse all equipment, tools, plant containers, bins, clips and truss supports, plant hangers, dripper stakes and emitters and other items that will be reused.
- 4 Sweep down walls, floors and all internal structures. Remove all plant material.

The greenhouse clean up *(before a new crop is planted)*

- 1 Wash the walls, floors and all internal structures, including drains with a high pressure hose and detergent.
- 2 Rinse walls, floor and all internal structures with clean water.
- 3 Clean and disinfect the hydroponic (irrigation) system.
- 4 Open up greenhouse and allow surfaces to dry.
- 5 Wash walls, floors and all internal structures with a 0.5-1.0% chlorine solution or other appropriate disinfectant (wear personal protective equipment including a respirator).
- 6 Rinse walls, floor and all internal structures with clean water.
- 7 Close up greenhouse with just a small amount of vent opening and leave to dry.
- 8 Wash and refill footbaths.
- 9 Clean all equipment, tools, plant containers, bins and other items to be returned to greenhouse.
- 10 Disinfect all equipment, tools, plant containers, bins and other items to be returned to greenhouse.
- 11 Set up greenhouse for next crop making sure that no items, tools or equipment get contaminated.

This **Preventing pests and diseases in the greenhouse** fact sheet is part of a series designed to show how simple low cost changes around the greenhouse can significantly reduce costs and losses from pests and diseases.

For more information please refer to the growers' guidelines "Keep it Clean" published by NSW Department of Primary Industries or go online: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

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