Preventing pests and diseases in the greenhouse

Check seedlings before planting

Seedlings can be a significant source of pests and diseases and are a very common way in which problems get introduced into a clean greenhouse.

Seedlings have come from outside of your clean production area – from outside of the ‘clean’ zone. So you need to have check and control strategies in place to reduce the risk that the seedlings are carrying pests and diseases.

Consider putting new seedlings in a quarantine area for a week or two before planting them out. This can give you an opportunity to detect potential problems.

Make sure seedlings are pest and disease free.

Check seedlings carefully when they arrive. Consider putting them aside in a quarantine area:

- Look for signs of diseases and pests.
  - If a seedling is diseased, the others in the tray might also be – even if they look healthy now!

Can you tell?

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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