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SOIL-PLUS™ Eliminates Pink Root Rot (Pennsylvania) USA

ABSTRACT

Rhododendron nursery stock grown in 4" and 8" pots were treated in the summer of 1999 with Biofeed SOIL-PLUS™ to control and eradicate Pink Root Rot. After one application, all of the Rhododendrons infected with Pink Root Rot were found to be disease free and remained disease free for the entire growing season. Biofeed FLORA-PLUS™ was later applied to stimulate the regrowth of roots that had been damaged prior to treatment. Kleber Nursery personnel were very pleased and now apply the products regularly as a preventative.

BACKGROUND

Kleber Nursery has historically had problems with Pink Root Rot in potted rhododendrons in their hoop greenhouses. Fungicides had demonstrated their efficacy at eradicating the disease, however re-growth of damaged roots caused by the disease significantly increased the time require for finishing the plant for market. Kleber was forced to seek cost effective alternatives to reduce costs and improve results.

APPLICATION

One gallon each of SOIL-PLUS™ and FLORA-PLUS™ were mixed in 100 gallon of water and applied as a soil-drench to all of the pots once every 30 days.

RESULTS

The following results were documented during the test period:

- No visible signs of Pink Root Rot were present within five days of the first application.
- All plants not displaying symptoms of Pink Root Rot remained disease free during the entire growing season.
- The roots of previously infected plants rapidly recovered with little loss in growing time.

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