



MANAGING PHYTOPHTHORA DIEBACK IN NURSERIES

Prevention in the Nursery

1. Select a root-rot-suppressive growing medium containing tree bark which provides good aeration and drainage.

Tree bark also releases chemicals as it decomposes which kill Phytophthora spores

2. Sterilise potting media
3. Manage the water system so that irrigation water does not spread pathogens or cause salinity problems-sterilize water.
4. Grow Phytophthora dieback resistant species and cultivars.
5. Remove plant debris, which may contain pathogens, from the area.

For More Information

Contact

Dieback Working Group Project Coordinator
Tel: 0438 044 488
Web: www.dwg.org.au

Susceptibility of Nurseries to Phytophthora Dieback

Prevention and management in the nursery requires a variety of techniques due to the increased number of plants and certain nursery practices.

- As soil, plants and water, which are hosts for the pathogen, are in close proximity with each other, it is very easily transferred.
- Container plants

continuously sprout new leaves which are

vulnerable to dieback.

- Runoff from heavy and frequent irrigation of

container-grown plants moves the root rot fungus spores from infected plants to the roots of neighbouring plants.



Prevention in the Propagation Area



1. Clear away all debris and old medium from area.
2. Wash the area with a sanitizing agent to remove and destroy any disease agents.
3. Maintain good general sanitation (eliminate debris, weeds and

puddles, keep hoses off the floor).

4. Raise benches and fill with fresh propagation medium containing 25 to 35 % air-filled pore space. This will enable root initiation to begin quickly and make the plant less susceptible to disease.

5. Place containers on well-drained & puddle-free beds (not plastic which allows for easy pathogen movement and accumulation of water around pot bases).

6. Harvest cuttings from soil-free plant parts so that spores in the soil are not

transferred to new plants.

7. Periodically dip harvesting tools in 70% alcohol to prevent contamination.
8. Apply appropriate fungicidal drenches and sprays. Follow label recommendations.

Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia (NIASA)

Is a national scheme for production nursery (growers) and growing media (potting mix) businesses which operate in accordance with a set of national 'best practice' guidelines.

<http://www.ngia.com.au/accreditation/niasa.asp>

It is highly recommended that gardeners, landscapers and those revegetating in bushland, purchase their plants from NIASA.



Setting the Standards

