



Good Cultivation Hygiene in Greenhouses

HYGIENE ROUTINES TO PREVENT PLANT DISEASE AND PEST INSECTS

Preventive means recommended to all growers:

- Employees and visitors should always sanitize their hands when they arrive at the greenhouse.
- Keep the front doors locked.
- Disinfectant mats should be present at all entrances, and they should be kept clean and be refilled on a regular basis.
- It is strongly prohibited to bring fresh vegetables and fruits to the greenhouse.
- Visitors should always wear protective clothing, shoe covers, and gloves. The same applies for service personnel where possible.
- Paper for taking notes should be offered to visitors to avoid that private notebooks are brought into the greenhouse.
- Mobile phones and other private belongings should not be brought into the greenhouse, neither by visitors nor employees.
- Non-commercial plants should not be cultivated in the greenhouse.
- Train all staff how to recognize plant diseases and pest insects.
- Use yellow sticky traps and conduct regular follow ups on flying pest insects.
- Only harvest in crates meant for that specific purpose. Do not use crates that circulate via the packing house for plant debris.
- Use only new disposable packaging for direct sales.
- If crates are brought back from shops, they should always be washed with boiling hot water (100°C)
- Shoe and hand sanitation between each greenhouse and department is recommended.
- A disinfectant mat for pump trucks that are used for collecting products, is recommended.

ACTION PLAN FOR THE GREENHOUSE

Common limiting strategy when a new pest is suspected:

- Contact the crop advisor or report the pest suspicion directly to the plant inspectors at the Centre for Economic Development, Traffic and the Environment (NTM-centralen, ELY-keskus)
- Inform everyone concerned (buyers, packaging houses, entrepreneurs, crop advisors, nurseries, retailers, etc.) that a pest has been discovered or is suspected in the greenhouse.
- Divide the work so that only one or a few persons from the staff enter the greenhouse or department where the pest is suspected.
- Restrict mobility in the area where the pest is suspected.
- Be strict on that the staff should use protective clothing and disposable gloves, and that they should use hand sanitizer immediately after leaving the greenhouse/department/limited area.
- Use separate tools, carts and containers in the affected area and sanitize them every so often.
- All plant debris should be brought to a composting area where the risk of spread to other greenhouses is minimal.
- Do not accept visitors.

FURTHER PRECAUTIONS

When arriving to the greenhouse:

- Wash your hands with soap and water prior to sanitation. Applies after breaks as well.
- The staff changes to clean workwear, which can be their own or supplied by the grower.
- Disinfect tools and change gloves when moving from one plant row to another.
- Do not move carts and tools between greenhouses/departments.
- Keep the area surrounding the greenhouse clean and tidy.
- Train the staff in plant hygiene matters on a regular basis.

Contact details of the plant inspectors at the Centre for Economic Development, Traffic and the Environment (ELY-Centre)

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