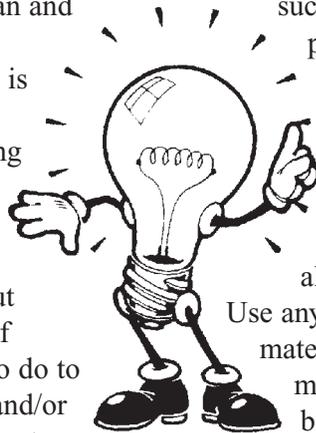


Things to Remember to Do in your Greenhouse This Summer

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Summer is a critical time to get your greenhouse clean and 'start from scratch'. There is essentially no other time during the year when this is possible! For this reason, I put together a list of helpful things to do to minimize pest and/or disease issues next fall and spring as well as a few things that are difficult to do once plants are in the greenhouse.

- 1) Remove and/or discard all plants. Last year's plants are a primary source of virus even if they are not showing symptoms!
- 2) Sweep the entire facility – fungal spores are often spread by airborne dust when greenhouses are swept.



- 3) Remove any other media/soil residue such as around piping corridors down main concrete pathways.

4) Sterilize all surfaces. Use any of the materials mentioned below:

- a. Bleach 5-10% solution
- b. Zeritol
- c. Hydrogen peroxide – very short life, i.e. must use right away.

- 5) Kill all plant material around the greenhouse which often harbor insect pests that will reenter a greenhouse and, sometimes, reintroduce viruses. ONLY use 'non-2,4-D based herbicides anywhere near a greenhouse!

- 6) Establish a quarantine area. It is becoming increasingly important to have an isolated area to initially bring in plant material or cuttings. You can eliminate any pests here before you introduce them into your entire facility and spend a lot more money trying to clean the problem up!
- 7) Kill all adult insects – pesticide 'bombs' are preferable. Drench soil under benches or wait 5-7 days and reapply a pesticide to kill adults.
- 8) Wash all light bulbs and reflectors – dust can often decrease light emission by 10-15%. Similarly, power-wash the inside of the greenhouse to reduce dust on your glazing.
- 9) For those growers with subirrigation systems, install

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sterilizing pads at the entrances to each greenhouse to minimize spread of foot-borne diseases from greenhouse to greenhouse.

10) Clean your headhouse – diseases are often spread on hands and feet from a headhouse facility.

11) Eliminate soil under benches if possible. The best way is to simply pour concrete. Fungus gnats, shore flies, and thrips are all big problems in greenhouse production. Soil under benches greatly increases the amount of money you will spend buying and applying pesticides as

this is where these pests can survive and proliferate.

12) Purchase needed pesticides and fertilizers now when you know that you can get them!