

## AN ALTERNATE METHOD FOR THE CONTROL OF RED ROOT DISEASE OF TEA

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Red Root Disease of Tea caused by the fungus *Poria hypolateritia*, is a disease of major economic importance to the tea industry in Sri Lanka. At present it is controlled by fumigation with methyl bromide.<sup>1</sup> In view of the phenomenal increase in the cost of the chemical and the cost of fumigation, an alternate method of control has been under investigation for the past few years. Results of these investigations have shown that this disease can be controlled more economically by combining normal cultural practices with the use of certain fungicides.

In this method the affected areas were uprooted and cleaned in the usual manner and then rehabilitated with grass for two years before being planted with tea. The plants were watered with systemic fungicides like Calixin, Baycor, Tilt and PP 969 at the time of planting and 3-4 times subsequently at three month intervals. It was observed that none of the treated plants died as a result of this disease at any of the experimental sites.

Reference

1. Sharmuganathan, N., (1965). Control of Poria root disease with bromide  
Tea Q., 36 (14) 144-150