

B-23 Foliage nematodes of economic importance and their control

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Foliage industry is a new and innovative export industry in Sri Lanka. Pests and diseases are major constraints for the production of good quality plants for the export market. Among pests, plant parasitic nematodes play an important role.

A survey was carried out to identify the important nematodes associated with foliage plants grown at Marawila Green Farm. The most important leaf nematode *Aphelenchoides* sp. was not detected on all plants while root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* was detected on roots of *Scindapsus aureus*, *Cozandra* sp. and *Maranta kerchoeviana*.

Evaluation of pathogenicity of *Meloidogyne incognita* on 10 types of foliage plants indicated that *Phylodendron scandens*, *Scindapsus aureus*, *Ixora* sp. and *Maranta kerchoeviana* were susceptible to nematodes.

An experiment was done to identify the most effective combinations of chemicals, organic matter, fungus *Paecilomyces lilacinus* and neem cake in controlling *M. incognita* on *Maranta kerchoeviana*. Results indicated that coir dust was not effective and combinations of cattle manure, poultry manure, neem cake (2 g/pot), compost, *P. lilacinus*, Namacur and Dazomet were effective to control nematodes.