

Production of disease free foliage plants for export

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The National plant Quarantine Service took initiative to guide plant nursery men on how to identify properly plant diseases and also on proper disease eradication methods. Samples collected were examined in the laboratory to ascertain bacterial and fungal diseases. Important bacterial diseases observed were bacterial leaf spot and tip burn caused by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *dieffenbachiae* in *Philodendron* spp, *Dieffenbachia* spp.; *Anthurium* spp.; bacterial leaf spot caused by *Pseudomonas cichorii* in Pothos, some *Philodendron* spp. (*Epipremnam aureum*), *Aglaonema* spp (*Chinese Evergreen*), & *Monstera* spp. (Split- leaf *Philodendron*), bacterial leaf blight by *Xanthomonas* spp. in *Syngonium* spp. *Aglaonema* spp., bacterial leaf spot caused by *Xanthomonas* spp. in *Dracaena sanderiana* and *Philodendron* spp; bacterial blight caused by *Erwinia chrysanthemi* in *Aglaonema* spp. *Dieffenbachia* spp; *Philodendron* spp and *Syngonium* spp.; bacterial soft rot caused by *Erwinia chrysanthemi* and *Erwinia carotovora* pv *carotovora* in *Aglaonema* spp. and *Dracaena sanderiana*

and bacterial leaf spot and stem canker caused by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv *hederae* in English Ivy, *Hedera helix*. Among the fungal problems identified were anthracnose leaf spot caused by *Colletotrichum* spp. in *Livistonia chinensis*, *Dracaena sanderiana*, *Aglaonema*, *Miscanthus*, *Codiaeum variegatum* and *Polyscias*; wilt, leaf spot and leaf rot by *Fusarium* spp. in *Dracaena godseffiana*, *Dracaena sanderiana*, *Dracaena marginata*, *Polyscias*, *Gardima jasminosa* and *Miscanthus*; leaf spot caused by *Alternaria* spp. in *Dracaena glauca*, *Schefflera*, *Polyscias*, *Livistonia chinensis* and *Calathea*; stem rot and root rot by *Sclerotium* spp. In *Schefflera*, *Codiaeum variegatum*, *Cosandra* and *Chlorophytum*; leaf spot caused by *Pestalotia* spp. in *Cordyline* and *Dracaena marginata*; dieback, Canker and Blight caused by *Phoma* spp. in *Dracaena sanderiana*, *Gardinia jasminosa* and *Cordyline* Leaf and stem rot caused by *Aspergillus* spp in *Dracaena purple compacta*. Stem rot, collar rot, leaf blight caused by *Rhizoctonia* spp *Chlorophytum*, *Philodendron*, *Scindapsus aures*, *Dracaena godseffiana*, *Codiaeum variegatum* and *Ixora*; stem rot and root rot caused by *Phytophthora* spp. in *Dracaena marginata*; wilt and root rot caused by *Pythium* spp in *Scindapsus aureus*.

Several serious quarantine pests have been detected in exported foliage consignments during inspection by several recipient countries. Therefore, it is important to educate exporters to produce disease-free, good quality produce at nursery level for the international export market and also to improve conditions in their nurseries.

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