

## Screening of systemic fungicides to control nutmeg leaf fall disease

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Nutmeg leaf fall disease is one of the major problems among nutmeg cultivators. This disease causes yield reduction as well as gradual death of the plant. Due to this serious condition, this study was carried out in the central research station of the department of export agriculture, Matale and some of selected farmer fields in central province of Sri Lanka. The causal organism of this disease has been identified as *colletotrichum* sp. Effectiveness of the systemic fungicides was tested in *in-vivo* and *in-vitro* conditions to control the causal organism of nutmeg leaf fall disease. In addition two fungicide application methods that are root application and stem application were evaluated to find out better application method. Although three fungicides could control the causal organism under *in-vitro* condition, only two chemicals were found effective for controlling pathogen in the *in-vivo* condition. According to the results, stem application of 7.5 ml of Tebuconozol gave 99% disease reduction. Root application of metalaxil and mancozeb also gave better results. However, this method needs increasing number of roots treated in order to prevent root death. Both treatments want to be repeated

at two weeks interval for three months. Continuous observation is needed even on recovered trees and the above treatments should be repeated if affected again.

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