

Identification of soil- borne fungi associated with export foliage plant nurseries

W R U Weerasinghe*, M H A D Subashini and R S Y de Silva

National Plant Quarantine Service, Canada Friendship Road, Katunayake

Foliage nurseries export their products to the international market as well as the local market. Most of these nurseries are located in Gampha and Kurunegala districts. Soil fungi found in foliage nurseries were surveyed during January 2006 to January 2007. Collected soil samples were analyzed using serial

dilution agar- plate method. Soil –borne plant pathogenic fungi such as *Fusarium* spp., *Pythium* sp., *Aspergillus* sp., *Sclerotium* sp., *Rhizoctonia* sp., *Mucor* sp., *Penicillium* sp., *Phytophthora* spp., *Trichoderma* sp. and *Rhizopus* sp. were identified. Non- pathogenic species such as *Cochliobolus* sp., *Cunninghamella* sp., and *Sporotrichum* sp. were also detected. Identification of the soil- borne diseases and their correct management will enhance the quality of foliage plants.

*npqs@slt.net.lk

Tel: 011-2252028