

THE JARVIS RECORD

JARVIS, ONTARIO
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Editor and Proprietor
GEO. L. MILLER

GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT IN REGARD TO DISEASE CONTROL

(Experimental Farms Note)

The three major groups of diseases affecting greenhouse plants are leaf and stem diseases, root diseases, and systemic or virus troubles.

Stagnant, moist atmospheric conditions are favourable to the spread of such troubles as mildew, rust, tomato leaf-mould, Botrytis stem-rot, etc.

Heating, ventilation and watering should be arranged to provide constant circulation of dry air especially in dull weather.

Humidities below 70 per cent at greenhouse temperatures of 70 degrees F. or less 75 per cent for temperatures of 65 degrees F.

Humidity gauges should be in every greenhouse. Vapourising sulphur on steam-pipes or in dishes on electric hot plates has effectively controlled mildew and leaf-mould in greenhouses adjacent to the Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Guelph, Ontario.

Rusts of snapdragon, carnations and other plants can be controlled by this method, or by spraying fortnightly with Sanchinon potassium sulphate.

"Flotation" or very fine sulphur is more effective and less conspicuous than "flitters" of sulphur for dusting plants and a year 1 1/2 of a pound of sulphur per 1000 cubic feet should be burned on hot coals in the empty, tightly closed greenhouses to destroy the resting stages of disease and insect pests.

Living plant tissue exposed to the fumes will die and the fumes are injurious also to human beings.

Plant refuse is a source of disease and should be destroyed or properly composted at all times.

All soils for seed or seedling-beds, flats, or benches should be sterilized or soaked with a one per cent formalin solution, covered for 24 hours to retain the gases.

Ten to fourteen days should elapse before formalin treated soils are used. Sterilization will destroy organisms causing "damping off," "wilt" or other root-rot, and also the root-knot nematode which attacks many greenhouse plants.

Uninfected ground-beds can be kept in good condition by deep trenching after each crop, and by growing and spading under a mixed green manure crop such as wheat, oats and peas.

Rotation of crops will help establish soil organisms that promote crop health. Trenching and thoroughly drying the soil for several weeks will reduce infection by the root-knot nematode when present.

Freedom from virus troubles such as "mosaic", "mosaic", and aster yellows is insured by personally selecting seed from protected healthy plants.

When present, strict rosette of infected plants and entire seedling to avoid transmitting the infective principle on the hands or tools to healthy plants, and control of insects will reduce infection. Low temperatures and the application of potash fertilizers will sometimes prevent virus infected tomato plants to produce a saleable crop.

IN PUBLIC

She seemed to be a lady rare, Of whom one reads in fairy tales, When suddenly she took a file And started in to shape her nails!

He had the manner of a lord, And lavishly bestowed his tips, But after every bite of food He viciously smacked his lips!

She sat upright with queenly grace, Her face was one to be admired, But thus she spoke in nasal tones: "Then radio guys come make me tired!"

Grenville Kleiser

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