

Greenhouse Sanitation Checklist



Prevention

- Healthy plants are less susceptible to diseases;
 - If possible, select varieties that are less sensitive to diseases;
- Screen the greenhouse openings and vents;
- Develop a good preventive maintenance program for equipment and greenhouse structure;
- Clean and disinfect all areas, equipment and tools at the start, during and at the end of the production;
- Train and inform all workers about disinfection, foot baths, hand sanitization and the identification of pests and diseases;
- Clean the plants of all debris, organic waste material or old/dead plant tissue;
- Manage potential weeds entry points (screening system, vents, weed barrier cloth, etc.);
- Store the growing media, soil ingredients and containers in closed area or packed in a way to prevent contaminations;
- Depending on source, ingredients must be sterilized or disinfected;
- New plant material should be inspected and disinfected when it's introduced to a growing area;
- Develop and implement a good protocol for visitors and new plant materials;
- Use colored sticky cards to identify and avoid different flying insects;
- Use clean pots, rooting medium, benches and tools.

Climate Control

- Develop and manage an optimum climate for specific crops;
- Avoid leaks from gutters and malfunctioning equipment;
- Don't allow puddling or excess fertilizer or wastewater run-off on benches or walkways;
- Avoid overwatering on overcast or dark and humid conditions;
- Increase air circulation when possible;
- Clean/Disinfect the irrigation system with a disinfectant at least once at the start of every new crop cycle (especially for drip tape or drip irrigation systems);
- Water may be treated with a sulfuric, nitric or phosphoric acid;
- Flush lines at the end of the crop production cycle;
- Maintain the right growing and climate pattern to avoid plant stress.

Inspection

- Implement a good scouting program;
- Keep a healthy crop throughout the cycle;
- Physical Inspection along/under benches and growing areas;
- Train a worker to regularly inspect the greenhouse.

