



Impact Statements System

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'Quality Starter Plants Make a Quality Crop'

Statement

- **Title** : Quality Starter Plants Make a Quality Crop
- **Brief Title** : [Quality Starter Plants Make a Quality Crop](#)
- **Author** : Funderburk, J.
- **Year** : 2006
- **State Issue** : Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability
- **County** : Peach
- **Group** : Southwest District
- **Scope** : County

Summary

Peach County Extension Agent diagnosed disease on greenhouse grower's starter plugs. Diagnosis allowed grower to be compensated for poor quality plugs and allowed him to avoid production delays and loss of sales.

Situation

Greenhouse production requires meticulous practices to produce a profitable crop. But these practices are worthless if production is begun with inferior stock. A local greenhouse grower had difficulty producing a uniform crop of pansies. Each flat he produced had to be culled to remove and replace inferior plants. He suspected that some of the plug starter plants he was receiving had a problem. The plug producer was contacted about the problem. He contended that the problem was with the greenhouse grower, not the plugs. The plug producer told the greenhouse grower to have Extension look at the plugs and he would abide by the diagnosis provided by Extension. The greenhouse grower contacted the Peach County Extension Agent for assistance.

Response

The Peach County Agent visited the greenhouse operation and collected plugs from a recent shipment. He shipped these plugs to Extension Plant Pathology for diagnosis. While waiting on the diagnosis from Plant Pathology the grower contacted the county agent again about a new shipment of plugs. The agent collected plugs from this shipment as well and evaluated them at his office using DDDI equipment. Microscope slides were prepared and examined using the DDDI equipment. The Peach County Agent identified Pythium sp in the plugs he collected. Pythium is a common disease problem in ornamental plant production but should not have been on new plugs. The Extension Plant Pathologist also found Pythium in the plugs shipped to the lab.

Impact

The plug producer was provided with the diagnosis from Extension. He replaced the plugs for the greenhouse grower with a new crop that was free of disease. He also compensated the grower for loss of production and sales due to the infected plugs. The grower continues to produce his crop with these better quality plugs.

Program Function(s)

- Extension

Funding Source(s)

- Smith Lever Act Funds
- County Funds

Program Area(s)

- Agriculture & Natural Resources

Topic(s)

- Horticulture

Keyword(s)

- Plant Pathology
- Ornamentals

Collaborator(s)

CAES Collaborator(s)

- Williamson , Calvin L.

Non-CAES Collaborator(s)

(None)

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