

Hot Spots of *Phytophthora* in Commercial Nurseries¹

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Abstract

Studies have shown that nurseries are an important source for the spread of *Phytophthora*. Most surveys and studies focusing on the epidemiology of these pathogens in nurseries are based on sampling of symptomatic plants or on samples like water of different sources used for irrigation. There is little knowledge, however, on the survival and occurrence of *Phytophthora* in the different steps of commercial plant production. This information is necessary for the development of good management strategies for *Phytophthora* in nurseries.

Therefore, within a 3-year project, detailed samples were taken at different stages of the propagation and cultivation of plants and on different sample materials like substrates, residues, wind-carried leaves, and water/sediment. The samples were taken in two nurseries between August 2011 and May 2014 every 2 months. The results will be presented. They should help nursery managers to get a better understanding on “survival places” of *Phytophthora* species in their nursery and to develop better sanitary procedures. Furthermore, the results could help improve sample design for surveys and monitoring.

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