Banning Root Rot in Pittosporums

The Pittosporum genus is prone to attack by root rot. Now there is a top-dress way to defeat this common fungus.

Root rot fungi, including Pythium, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia and Chalara, attack plants of all ages, rotting the roots and causing the plant to wilt and die back from the tips. In some cases, the plant can die suddenly. Commonly called die back, collar rot or root rot, these fungi find the Pittosporum a particularly attractive host. Once the fungus invades, its effects are noticeable within a few days.

One grower reports that he used to lose almost half of his Pittosporum crop to the fungus and in the end gave up on cultivating the plant. That is until he found a root fungicide that effectively eradicated the fungus.

That fungicide is Scotts Banrot.

Banrot is fungicidal not fungistatic. It kills rather than suppresses the target pathogen. Banrot is usually applied directly to the potting media at planting time and works by systemic and contact action for up to eight weeks. As an alternative measure, one Pittosporum grower found Banrot Granular just as effective when applied as a topdress.

Banrot Granular can be applied even after the onset of root rot activity, and if caught early enough can save the young plant.

The effectiveness of Banrot in eradicating root rot comes as no surprise to Robert Megier and Paul Canny, Scotts Regional Sales Managers for NSW and WA/SA respectively.

"I believe Banrot is the single most effective broad spectrum soil fungicide available," say Robert. "And it's particularly effective against root rot." Paul agrees with the growing reputation of Banrot for effective control of root rot.

"One major grower told me that since using Banrot on his Pittosporum, in a planting of 900 he has cut his losses to only a couple of plants, and that was due to other factors."

Growers once wary of cultivating the fussy Pittosporum genus are now returning to the popular garden favourite with greater confidence, knowing that Banrot has banned root rot spp from their nursery.

Robert Megier and Paul Canny inspect a thriving Pittosporum root ball - healthy roots are white and moist

Affected by root rot for only four to five days, the roots of this plant are ceasing to draw water, causing the leaves to wilt.

Healthy Pittosporum eugenioides leaves are shiny green and smell faintly lemony, hence its common name Lemonwood.

Scotts
Growing success