

Getting on top of root rot

Cherry Lane Nursery, Stanthorpe NSW

Alpine conditions prove a perfect environment for root rot, but a feeble match for the foresight of one Queenslander.

Barry Neilsen, of Cherry Lane Nursery, has been in the industry for about 18 years or so. His nursery is located in Stanthorpe, on the Queensland/NSW border, about 3000 feet above sea level.

Despite being only two hours from Brisbane and one-and-a-half hours from Toowoomba, Barry explains, "It is a very unique climate in that we actually have four seasons, with very cold winters. Some years it even snows."

"Due to our weather conditions, we use Banrot on everything, including all stock that comes into the nursery from suppliers all over. We do not have any problems with Pythium or Phytophthora, and so on."

Banrot is a Scotts fungicide that kills rather than suppresses the target pathogen. When applied directly to the potting media at planting time, it works by systemic and contact action for up to eight weeks. Some growers have even found Banrot to be just as effective as a top-dress. If the rot is caught early enough, Banrot can save a young plant.

Says Barry, "Any stock that I pot or bag, I incorporate Banrot into the mix in granular form - no fuss and very cost-effective. I use a wettable powder on all other potted stock. By treating all stock when it comes into the nursery from wholesalers, I can keep my nursery clean and free from disease."

Barry has been using Scotts products for about 8 years. Before that time, he admits, "I used everyone's products with very little results."

"The relationship that I have developed with Scotts over the years has meant quite a few things," he says, "but two things stick out – less work and more money."

