

A Safe Viruscide against SAP TRANSMITTABLE VIRUSES

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Orchid growers are now familiar with diseases caused by viruses and are archiving some degree of control through plant improvement practices, selection of virus free plants, meristem culture, or sanitary measures. Spread of viruses, transmittable by infected sap, however, it is a continuing problem because cutting flowers and dividing plants, require cutting instruments which are effective in transmitting the virus from diseased to healthy plants.

If used properly, TRISODIUM PHOSPHATE is an inexpensive, effective and safe viruscide against sap transmittable viruses.

To make up a solution using one litre, 174 grams of trisodium phosphate is added which is called a 1.0 molar solution. This concentration is about the maximum amount of the chemical that will dissolve in the water at room temperature.(21.C.) Water at 70.C will dissolve sufficient for a 4.0 molar solution.

A good practical way to obtain a 1.0 molar solution is to add an excess of the chemical to a desired volume of water at room temperature. After thorough stirring to assure maximum solution and allowing undissolved particles to settle, the clear liquid will be about 1.0 molar strength. Use the clear 1.0 molar solution for scrubbing benches, cleaning equipment etc. Dilute the clear solution about tenfold (one solution to 9 water) for washing hands, then wash hands in running tap water. It is advisable to use soap with the solution when washing hands.

For soaking secateurs and cutting instruments, leave an excess of the chemical in the container to assure maximum strength. They need to be left in the solution for a minimum of 20 MINUTES. This will eliminate all viruses and diseases. The containers should not be left uncovered for long periods, as the carbon dioxide of the air will counteract the alkalinity of the phosphate solution. Prepare fresh solutions if excess debris accumulates or the solution loses it soapy feeling. The alkalinity of a 1.0 molar solution is about PH 12.0, which changes very little upon dilution.