

Botrytis

Botrytis, one of nature's most common plant pathogens, it is also one of the best to show the real strengths and weaknesses of MICRO KILL.

Botrytis generally travels as airborne spore, so your initial spray should cover all plants to the point of run off, plus all surrounding surface areas. The vast majority of your pathogen load is eliminated within half an hour of spraying. Within 48 hours the combined effects clean clear and improve your plants to a healthy high turgor level.

Because no chemicals are used in the process there is little to no negative reaction from the plants, allowing us to revive plants previously thought untreatable.

There are no added flavourings, colourings or scents used. It is a spray that leaves your plants looking, tasting and smelling, as they were prior to attack.

The ongoing effects, creates a barrier that will destroy any pathogens missed in your initial spray, as they try to move about. In a controlled area such as a glasshouse, this will increase the time between infections. But always remain vigilant.

Botrytis can reinfect from almost anywhere, from food scraps left under the bench, a tree outside, or a farm miles away. Once re-established the breeding figures are truly staggering! This is where MICRO KILL meets its limits. We do not form a chemical barrier we individually destroy the pathogens so although you can regain control at anytime by spraying with MICRO KILL, Botrytis can reinfect anytime by sheer weight of numbers.

Multiple spraying's will not affect plants, so you can regain control within 1/2 hour. However, reduction of pathogen sites such as leaf litter or dead plant material. Also increasing your airflow will help slow reinfection.

Softening

Reducing pathogen sites is also the key to appreciating the limits of a contact spray. MICRO KILL must make contact to kill pathogens, leaf litter in particular, will not only limit spray access, it presents a perfect food source for pathogens.

Remove growths that are touching outside covers (Particularly in plastic igloos) or hidden by internal structures. Complex growths such as flower heads can be difficult to totally access and should be the first place to look when attempting to detect an infection.

As the growth becomes more complex, Botrytis will hide inside the plant growth traveling to the nearest stem, giving you that characteristic soft brown stem rot. These infected growths no longer translocate food or water and should be physically removed by hand.

Contact is the most important point in understanding Botrytis. The spray immediately to the growth becoming complex is the most critical spray, OR all emphasis should also be placed at this time on destroying spore counts on surrounding surface areas including walls and coverings.

Leaf Turgor

The crispness or vitality of the leaf (or lack of it) is best felt between the thumb and forefinger. Indoor plants often show a softness of leaf. If food, light and aeration are balanced, that softness indicates pathogens.

This softness of growth will occur in days, sometimes weeks before the pathogens can build up enough numbers for a full attack. So always remember your fingers are your first line of defense! You will feel problems before you see them!

When a single mould cell can divide billions of times in one day, your vigilance is required! Run your fingers through your plants, they will enjoy mild stimulation and grow better for it. Feeling the leaf turgor will give you a real feel for the plants well being.

The combined effects of MICRO KILL acts as a liquid band aid, raising the pressure levels inside the plant and strengthening the epidermal layer, significantly raising leaf turgor not only makes for a healthy plant, it makes post harvest details cleaner and quicker.

Note: - A softening of leaves can also occur at night if the carbon dioxide levels fall to low

What not to do with Microkill

Copper Sprays have a neutralising effect that that will reduce or eliminate your barrier control. We recommend that you leave enough time for several whole plant watering before applying MICRO KILL.

When diluted too much, MICRO KILL will reverse and feed pathogens!

Cross contamination when mixing with water is our biggest problem. Impurities in the water (especially pathogens) will activate the MICRO KILL thereby weakening your solution by an unmeasured degree. Only use water that is fit for human consumption and use as soon as possible after mixing.

Storing MICRO KILL you should avoid the garden shed! Do not mix near or leave open around fertilisers, manures or any source potentially high in pathogen count.

Botrytis or Downey Mildew sporing off a large tree or worse a Farm, creates staggering numbers of spore. Certainly enough to breach barrier control, so always remain vigilant! Spraying will regain control within half an hour and multiple spraying's will not harm plants but never underestimate the potential for reinfection

Q & A

Q Will it harm my cat if she rubs up against a wet plant?

A No, not at all!

Q What if my kids drink it?

A Don't Panic! You've only killed the bacteria in their stomach! The antidote is a bottle of 'Yakult' or an appropriate yogurt, with added bacteria.

Q Will it break down my rubber seals?

A No, MICRO KILL will enter a solid cell or material

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- Q Can I use it on ferns near a fishpond?*
A Yes, so long as you aim the spray away from the pond. Small doses are of no concern!
- Q Do I have to spray under the leaves?*
A Yes, spray the whole plant to the point of run-off.
- Q Do I have to spray the stems?*
A Yes, pythium in particular, swims up from the base of the plant.
- Q How does it work?*
A By piercing and entering the cells of mould and bacteria.
- Q Is this like those orange extract cleaners?*
A No, we extract the active ingredient from the pith of the orange peel and place the active ingredient within a buffering structure of herbs so your plants won't react to the spray!
- Q What do you mean by 'barrier control'?*
A Mould spores travel by air and water. By spraying benches, supports and floor area you create a barrier. That will defend you for up to two weeks.
- Q The water quality is very poor, can I still use it to mix MICRO KILL?*
A No, the water you use must be fit for human consumption, all impurities will reduce the efficacy, use the cleanest water possible and spray immediately to maximise the effect.
- Q Can I put it in my nutrient tank?*
A Yes MICRO KILL will not react to nutrients unless you are using beneficial bacteria.
- Q Does it react to other Sprays?*
A Copper based sprays have a neutralising effect and should be avoided. MICRO KILL does not react to nutrient, insecticide based sprays. Bacterial sprays can still be used but should be separated by several whole plant waterings, bacterial sprays will also reduce your barrier control

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