

Success Story

Knox Nursery fights disease,
saves production time with
Pageant® Intrinsic™ brand fungicide

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Situation

Growers feel the pressure. Disease threats can destroy a crop – and a customer relationship – entirely. Even if plants avoid disease, other stresses like heat, drought, and cold threaten successful shipping necessary for healthy plants, happy customers, and hearty profits.

Knox Nursery, a family-run greenhouse since 1962, produces over 5,000 varieties of plants, including six million vegetative liners and 120 million plugs. And, like most growing operations, Knox has little wiggle room when it comes to disease control.

“It’s very important that we don’t lose any cuttings in propagation,” stated Matt Blaszczyk, Head Grower of Young Plants at Knox Nursery. “That’s the main thing – that we gain 100 percent yield. We have to be 100 percent sure that we’re shipping clean material to our customers,” said Blaszczyk.

Like most operations, Knox has worked diligently to prevent any incidences of downy mildew and botrytis in recent years, along with leaf burn on the nursery’s poinsettia crop.

“Customers are looking for quality,” noted Blaszczyk. There is no compromise.

Solution

Research displayed at the University of Florida first convinced Blaszczyk to try **Pageant® Intrinsic™ brand fungicide**. He saw that plants sprayed with **Pageant Intrinsic brand fungicide** rooted more uniformly, and were more cold tolerant, fortifying them for shipping in cooler temperatures.



Matt Blaszczyk, Head Grower of Young Plants at Knox Nursery

“It was very easy for me to decide to start using it,” explained Blaszczyk. “With **Pageant Intrinsic [brand fungicide]**, I didn’t have to add any spray adjuvant. I saw good control of botrytis. The plants were rooting quicker and more uniformly. That convinced me to switch completely.”

Since then, the fungicide has become a key part of Knox’s spray rotation to fight downy mildew on some of their most important crops, such as impatiens, coleus, and salvia. Once Knox started incorporating **Pageant Intrinsic brand fungicide** into its rotation, the nursery feels more confident that there will be no occurrence of any downy mildew issues.

“Downy mildew is one of the main diseases our customers are concerned with. Knox Nursery has incorporated **Pageant Intrinsic [brand fungicide]** into the downy mildew rotation and developed one of the tightest downy mildew preventive protocols in the industry. I think **Pageant Intrinsic [brand fungicide]** has helped a lot.”

 **Pageant**
Intrinsic™ brand fungicide

Knox uses **Pageant Intrinsic brand fungicide** on the six million vegetative liners it produces annually – especially to control botrytis.

“For propagation, we don’t rotate anything in the first week, when we’re sticking cuttings. We’re just spraying them with **Pageant Intrinsic [brand fungicide]**.”

“We are also using the product on the most difficult crops when we’re shipping, as a preventive treatment,” added Blaszczyk. “We spray them one to two weeks before shipping.”

In addition, Knox Nursery will produce approximately 2.5 million poinsettia liners this year and has found that using the product for poinsettias is very successful. Using a different fungicide on poinsettias, Knox has encountered unsightly issues, such as leaf burn.

“With **Pageant Intrinsic [brand fungicide]**, I didn’t see any issues. The plants stayed nice and clean. We didn’t see any burn on leaves – nothing.”

Success

“I see the benefits of **Pageant Intrinsic [brand fungicide]** especially in propagation and in rooting, including not getting so many losses due to botrytis,” said Blaszczyk.

Beyond disease control, Knox has seen increased plant health benefits using **Pageant Intrinsic brand fungicide**.

Blaszczyk has observed “faster rooting, all the plants not stressing so much in propagation, cuttings getting rooted much more quickly. The next day, you can see the plants are standing up and are very, very happy. We’re getting nice and uniform rooting, and all the plants are staying healthier.”

“If we can root something faster, we can finish faster,” Blaszczyk added. **“It allows us to cut our production time and ship a healthier, more robust plant. If we can cut our production time, that makes the product line more profitable.** We don’t have to keep the product in the greenhouse for so long. So that’s very, very important.”



For more information about **Pageant Intrinsic brand fungicide**, please visit betterplants.basf.us or IntrinsicPlantHealth.com.