Biological Control of Pythium Root Rot in Container Flower Production Using Microbial Inoculants

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Abstract:
The effectiveness of microbial products, vermicompost and vermicompost extracts for Pythium root rot suppression in young transplants were compared in two studies under typical greenhouse production conditions, using first cucumber and then geranium (Pelargonium) seedlings. Protective drench and preincorporation treatments in a standard soilless mix substrate were included, and were challenged with Pythium inoculum. Data were analyzed and results were shared with growers at several extension meetings in NY during winter 2012-13. Results should aid growers who seek alternatives to chemical control methods or those who want to protect edible/organic crops.