EcoFlora Field Trial on Lisianthus

Product: EcoFlora
Crop: Lisianthus var. Maurine Blue
Trial setting: Field trial
Location: Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

Method of product application

Three commercially available biological products were evaluated (EcoFlora, Soil Guard and Root Guard) to determine the effectiveness of biocontrol of the pathogenic fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* in the flower Lisianthus, variety Maurine Blue.

Ten weeks old plants were used for this trial. The plants were grown in pots with peat moss. 36 plants were treated with each one of the biological products, and 36 plants were not treated and were used as controls. A randomized block design was used as experimental design. The plants were maintained at 28°C under a 12L- 12D photo period. Each plant was inoculated by drench with a very high dose of *Fusarium oxisporium* (1.5 million conidia per plant). Plant mortality was evaluated after six weeks of culture.

The biocontrol agents were applied at planting in the pots, one month before inoculation of the pathogen, 24 hours after inoculation of the pathogen and then, every other week. Dose rates of the biocontrol agents followed label recommended dosages. Control plants received only water

EcoFlora was diluted in water at 0.12% (weight/volume) and was applied to a dose of 0.5 kg per hectare per week (7.14 oz/acre/week).

Results

EcoFlora significantly reduced plant mortality compared with other biocontrol agents ($p<0.05$).

Biocontrol Agent	Mortality
Control	94.4%
Soil Guard	83.3%
Root Guard	66.6%
EcoFlora	52.8%