

CLEANING POTS AND FLATS

Joseph J. Maisano, Jr.
Extension Agent - Horticulture

Used pots or flats should be thoroughly cleaned to prevent spread of disease from crop to crop. While steam or boiling water are satisfactory methods for clay pots and wooden flats, plastics may melt. Therefore, the following surface disinfectants should be used: ten minute dips in either a 1:50 solution of LF-10, a 1:40 solution of Formaldehyde, or a 1:9 solution of sodium hypochlorite.

The following procedure is recommended for disinfecting clay, plastic, wooden or metal pots, trays, paks or flats:

1. Wash soil debris from pots or flats.
2. Wear rubber gloves as a precaution because some individuals are sensitive to these chemicals.
3. Make a solution. (See Dilution Table.)
4. Immerse containers for ten minutes.
5. Remove, drain and store in a clean area. Cover containers with plastic cover to keep them clean.
6. Replace lost solution with additional LF-10 or Formaldehyde solutions.
7. Prepare new solution daily or when it becomes dirty.
8. CAUTION. Use these chemicals with care. Formaldehyde should be used out-of-doors.
9. Do not dump these chemicals in areas where they can cause contamination of soil or streams.

Dilution Table

Disinfestant Material	To make up:					
	1 gal.	10 qts.	5 gal.	10 gal.	25 gal.	50 gal.
	Use:					
1:50 LF-10	2.6 fl. oz.	6.4 fl. oz.	12.8 fl. oz.	1.6 pt.	2 qts.	1 gal.
1:40 Formal- dehyde solu- tion	3.2 fl. oz.	1 cup	1 pt.	1 qt.	2 1/2 qts.	1 1/4 gal.
1:9 Sodium hypochlorite (Chlorox)	12.8 fl. oz.	1 qt.	2 qts.	1 gal.	2 1/2 gal.	5 gal.