

CREOSOTE = DEATH

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Creosote fumes will kill greenhouse crops.

Twice this year growers with beautiful, new, well-built greenhouses reported mysterious death or injury to plants. Investigations revealed that wood treated with creosote preservative was responsible for the problem.

Creosote is very effective in preventing decay in wood, but it should never be used to prolong the life of greenhouse structures. Creosote is so highly toxic and volatile that one creosote-treated board may emit enough deadly fumes to ruin the growth of all the plants in the entire house.

If only a few boards have been creosoted, they may be covered with a commercial primer-sealer (such as Bin). This may reduce fume emission sufficiently to avert plant injury.

It is wise to prevent wood decay of greenhouse structures, but the preservative must be chosen with care. While pentachlorophenol (Penta) is somewhat less injurious to greenhouse plants, it is not recommended. The only material that is recommended for greenhouse use is copper naphthenate. Other naphthenates are safe but less effective.

Penta will injure. Creosote will kill. Never use them.