

Spiral Nematodes on Carnations

Recent observations in the South San Francisco and Colma areas have shown that the spiral nematode, Rotylenchus robustus, may be damaging to carnations. High populations of the spiral nematode were found in soil and root samples taken from ground bed plantings. In the affected areas the carnation plants were stunted, had lost leaf curl, and production was greatly reduced. The nematodes were present in large numbers in spite of the fact that the soil was steam-sterilized prior to planting to a depth of 10 to 14 inches.

It has long been a practice by many field and greenhouse flower growers in northern San Mateo County to fumigate with a nematocide before planting. In the event that steam sterilization is necessary in ground bed plantings for the control of weeds and fungus and bacterial diseases, it can be done two to three weeks after treatment with such nematocides as Telone or D-D. Thirty gallons per acre of either material will do a good job of reducing nematode populations below the depth of steaming. A good job of steaming in raised benches will adequately take care of nematodes and should not have to be supplemented by a nematocide. - W. S. Hart, R. H. Sciaroni, from Flower and Nursery Notes, Univ. of Calif. Agric. Ext. Service, March 1967.