CASE STUDY: Thielaviopsis Disinfection on Growing Trays

# Plug Tray Sanitation
## Which is Better – Steaming or Washing?

### Grower Case Study
### GreenClean® Alkaline Cleaner

**Operation:** Iwasaki Brothers Greenhouse: Hillsboro, Oregon, USA

## Industry Challenge

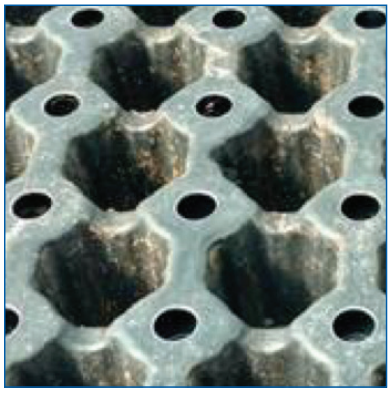
*Thielaviopsis basicola* is a plant-pathogenic, soil-borne fungus that causes black root rot. It affects a wide range of ornamental plants, including vinca and petunia. Without proper disinfection, infection can re-occur on surfaces resulting in crop loss.

## A New Sanitation Program

Iwasaki Brothers was looking for a method to control root diseases in propagation. They focused on their sanitation program and set out to make improvements. Several protocols were developed and trialed. The goal was to eliminate Thielaviopsis inoculum from their propagation trays.

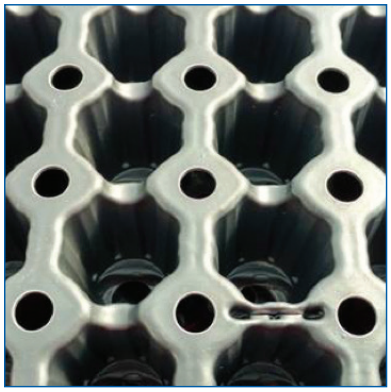
## Solution

Even the method of steam sterilizing couldn't control Thielaviopsis. That's because organic matter left on surfaces provides a safe haven for insects and diseases, even invisible dirt! The solution? Use GreenClean Alkaline Cleaner before sanitizing to remove visible and invisible organic matter.



Unwashed plug trays steam sterilized at 165°F for 30 minutes.

• *Dried organic matter present*



Washed first with GreenClean Alkaline Cleaner

• *No organic matter present*

**Steamed** | **Disinfected with PAA and GreenClean Alkaline Cleaner**

**Petunia**

**Steamed** | **Disinfected with PAA and GreenClean Alkaline Cleaner**

**Vinca**



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