

plant potential

FOR THE PROFESSIONAL GROWER

Gilroy Diagnostics Lab Opens

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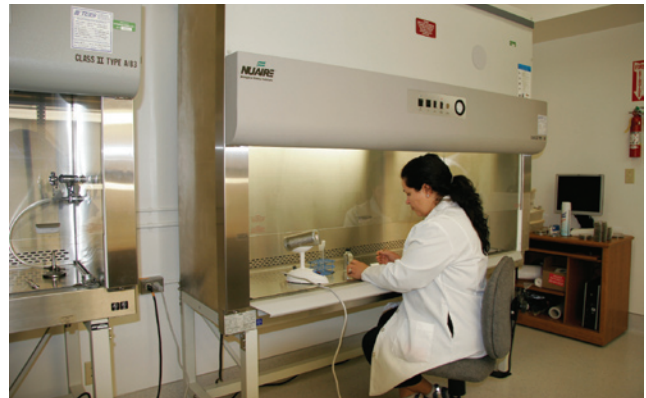
Syngenta Flowers' Plant Diagnostics Lab is up and running at our California facility (formerly Goldsmith Seeds, Inc.), located at 2280 Hecker Pass Highway in Gilroy. The lab offers diagnostics services to customers of Syngenta Flowers within the United States, to our Gilroy breeding operations and to our chrysanthemum production farm in Alva, Fla.

Services

Services include diagnosis of plant diseases caused by virus/viroid, bacteria and fungi. Testing methods include ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay) for viruses, dot blot testing for viroids and standard cultural methods for bacterial and fungal pathogens, with emphasis on fungal pathogens of ornamental plants. The lab will not handle insect and nematode identification. Moist chambers and microscopic observations are utilized when appropriate for the diagnosis of certain pathogens. When chrysanthemum white rust is suspected, digital photos will be used for diagnosis, eliminating the need for specimens to be submitted to the lab.

Specimen Samples

All specimens received by the lab must be accompanied by copies of the permits under which the lab is operating (a federal permit for states outside of California and a state permit for samples within California). Permit requirements are as follows: "Senders of infected plant materials must double seal samples in heavy plastic bags



(e.g. two zip-lock freezer bags) or if viable material is required, in cloth or paper bags (or equivalent material). Place double-bagged, sealed specimens in a sturdy shipping container (e.g. corrugated cardboard or plastic shipping tubes/boxes)." Overnight shipping is preferred and careful packing is crucial so the specimens are in the best possible condition for observation and testing.

Careless packaging may waste precious time and resources. Samples damaged in transit can make diagnosis impossible. If this happens, our pathologist will request a second sample of affected material.

The mission of our new lab is to provide growers with accurate diagnoses of plant diseases in a timely fashion. Syngenta Flowers understands the importance of correct and efficient disease diagnosis. We're proud to put our diagnostics tools and resources to work for our grower customers to help you produce healthy, saleable crops.