



New plant healthcare factsheets are industry's first line of defence

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285 words

A new range of plant healthcare factsheets, designed specifically for the horticultural industry, will be invaluable for early detection and diagnosis of a range of plant diseases. Produced by CSL's Plant Clinic diagnostic experts they make available cutting edge plant-care knowledge to growers, free of charge, helping them protect their crops more effectively.

The sheets cover six of the most common problems growers might encounter - phytophthora diseases, grey mould, downy and powdery mildews, pythium diseases of ornamental plants, and rusts. They will support the diagnosis carried out by the laboratory's Plant Clinic experts. Along with illustrations of typical symptoms and pathogen structures are sections on biology, diagnosis, chemical control and preventative measures. 'Key-facts' are highlighted in easy to understand bullet points giving a useful summary.

Dr. Charles Lane explains: 'We run the largest plant clinic in the UK, serving clients in the UK and overseas. Our experts have carried out extensive research on a number of these diseases – especially on improving their detection and diagnosis, and the factsheets will be updated regularly, as soon as new information becomes available. In future we hope to cover a range of pests and diseases, and some of the screening package work we do – for example on soft fruits, potatoes, and some field vegetable crops.'

'We've tried to distil and simplify information to provide a self-help resource for growers. We describe and illustrate symptoms, refer to the biology of the organisms - how they reproduce, how this affects cropping, how they survive and where. However, growers are not alone, and can rely on the full support available through the Plant Clinic which handles 40,000 samples a year from commercial customers and public sector clients like the Plant Health Inspectorate.'

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Notes For Editors

1. CSL is the UK's foremost public sector laboratory in the fields of agriculture, food and the environment. As an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, our main role is to carry out research in support of Government objectives. Our support for protection of the nation's food and rural environment includes responding to emergencies in the food supply chain through risk assessment, analysis and remedial actions.

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