

Title Hot water treatment prevents *Aphelenchoides besseyi* damage to *Polianthes tuberosa* crops in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam

Author Nguyen Thi Thu Cuc, Nguyen Thanh Son, Tran Minh Trung, Nguyen văn Trang, Lâm Minh Đang and Marc Pilon

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Abstract

Polianthes tuberosa is a commercially valuable flower crop in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam that is propagated by the harvesting and planting of bulbs. Cultivation of *P. tuberosa* is infected by an endemic *Aphelenchoides besseyi* nematode that damages a high proportion of plants and persists within the bulbs. Here we report on the comparison of hot water and pesticide treatments as control methods to protect *P. tuberosa* from *A. besseyi* damage, and conclude that a hot water treatment consisting of soaking bulbs in water for 30 min at 57 °C is the most efficacious method to produce healthy flowers in a cost effective manner.