



## CYCLAMEN LEAF BURN AND FLOWER NECROSIS

Necrotic spots (on the leaves and sometimes also on the rim of the flower petal) may be caused by a physiological imbalance between insufficient uptake through the root system during periods of high evaporation by the foliage and the flowers.

**Temporary increased water requirements** are often caused by a sudden increase in light or temperature. In case the **root system is not fully developed or damaged**, they may not supply the plant with enough water.

As the plant's youngest tissues are the most vulnerable they require the most water and a temporary insufficient water supply can lead in to damaged leaves and flowers.

This cause and effect relationship tends to occur in the advanced growth stages: just before or during flowering.



*Spots on flowers*



*Spots on leaves and flowers*

### How to prevent them ?

- **Plan** the variety's flowering period based on their vigor, pot size and recommended ADT (Average Daily Temperature). Use your **technical leaflet** for further information.
- Respect the **rooting period** at the start of the culture to get sufficient, well-functioning and healthy roots spread evenly throughout the root zone.
- Set shading set points according to ADT. In autumn, periods of sudden temperature variation can lead to incorrect watering which can be the cause of significant root loss.
- Avoid high salinity and excesses nitrogen levels to avoid excessive growth. **Avoid nitrogen** sources containing ammonia or urea .
- Use a balanced fertiliser formula at a  $N/K_2O$  ratio of 1:2 or 1:3. Incorporate sufficient **calcium** levels with the feeding (between 50 and 100 mg/L).
- Use a **tailor made substrate** to meet the requirements of the watering system (drip irrigation or sub-irrigation) with a sufficient drainage capacity yet enough water buffering capacity for the small capillary roots.
- If using **terracotta pots**, monitor excessive draught stress as root loss is more likely with terracotta pots than with plastic pots.
- Use plastic pots that block light from the root zone in hot climate zones. Light entering the root zone will damage roots and reduces the amount of capillary roots.
- During periods of short days, do not exceed 80-85% **relative humidity** in order to keep plants active in transpiration to enable the uptake and transport of nutrients through transpiration.