

Subject: Additional Minimum Citrus Seedling Certification Standards

Citrus Greening disease identified in 2000 is a potentially devastating disease. Since the imposition of ban on movement of infected seedlings, the growth in the citrus area has virtually halted. Over the years, it has been learnt that it is technically possible to raise clean and healthy seedlings under controlled conditions by adopting the following standards strictly:

1. The seedlings should be raised under insect-proof (psyllid proof) screen house having screen specification of 50 micron (maximum size). The screen house should have double doors with the same specification screen.
2. The nursery plants must be sprayed with Dimethoate (Rogor) at the rate of 2 ml per One liter of water. The spraying should start when the seedlings are 2 leaf stage and should continue at an interval of 14 days till the seedlings are certified and removed from the screen house.
3. There should not be any infected citrus trees in and around the screen house.

Therefore, in addition to the standards prescribed under Seed Rules Regulation 2006 for citrus, the above standards have to be met in order to certify the citrus seedlings. The movement of certified seedlings should be allowed.