**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 to damaged leaves and flowers.

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

**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/K₂O 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.