

TECH TIP: Dealing with Ash on Greenhouse Plants

Although there is not research on how to handle wood ash that accumulates on plants in the greenhouse, grower experience offers some wise advice.

When the ash is still coming in:

Don't

- ✓ Get the foliage wet, as wet foliage will result in the ash leaving marks
- ✓ Attempt to spray anything on the plant
- ✓ Allow humidity to get too high, avoid dew point

Do

- ✓ Water only the media (*no water on the top of the plant*).
- ✓ Limit *windward* vents (if possible) to lower surface area and reduce ash entering the house.
- ✓ Keep the top of the plant dry.

After the ash stops entering the greenhouse:

Don't

- ✓ Spray until the plants have been rinsed
- ✓ Allow heat (high light) stress on the plants until they have been rinsed

Do

- ✓ Gently rinse the foliage with clear water, use low pressure through a fine shower head nozzle (ex. red Dramm nozzle).
- ✓ Rinse thoroughly to remove ash before it can dry onto the foliage.
- ✓ Test media pH and EC a couple of days after the rinse - wood ash is alkaline and can increase both pH and salts.
- ✓ Leach with acidic-reacting fertilizer to lower pH and clear water, if EC is high.
- ✓ Keep plants hydrated and in an active growing, bright, modest-humidity growing environment.

There may be some residual ash that will stick to the leaves after the rinse. This is cosmetic only and should not cause any damage.

