QUALITY CONTROL OF BIOFERTILIZERS

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GENERAL CONCEPT OF QUALITY CONTROL

Quality assessment of inoculants has been a matter of interest for years. While examining peat-based rhizobial inoculants for moisture, viable counts, contaminants, and effectiveness using plate counts and MPN it was found that rhizobial counts were variable but that contaminants were present in most of the inoculants, even exceeding the number of rhizobia and affecting inoculation effectiveness. Similar results were obtained with a wide range of inoculants produced and used in different parts of the world. It was stated that inoculants prepared with nonsterile peat contained 100-fold fewer rhizobia than those made with sterilized peat. In an information bulletin on production and quality control of legume inoculants, it was indicated that most of the products