

Talc Formulation of *Pochonia* *Chlamydosporia*



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What is *Pochonia chlamydosporia*?

Pochonia chlamydosporia is a fungus that is used to control nematode. This potent biocontrol agent was isolated from soil. The use of this biocontrol agent is a safer option when compared to chemical nematicides. The ban/restrictions on the use of several chemical pesticides used for control of due to environmental and toxicological concerns also increases the importance of this biocontrol agent. *Pochonia chlamydosporia* can survive in the soil, either as free living nematode or as a saprophyte.

Target nematodes

Generally, *Pochonia* spp. are known as egg parasites of root knot nematodes. But it can be also used to manage other types of nematodes. The ability to colonize the plant rhizosphere area and the ability for fast multiplication by consuming plant exudates are some of the features of this fungus.



How to use

The talc formulation of *Pochonia* can be added directly at the base of the plant and mixed with the soil. For example, 50 gram talc formulation of *Pochonia* can be applied at the base of a fully mature pepper vine.

Mix 1 kg *Pochonia* talc formulation with 20 kg shade-dried farm yard manure (FYM). Sprinkle water to this mixture to make it slightly moist. This mixture can be kept in a shaded area and covered with a wet jute cloth, newspaper sheets or polythene sheets with holes. This mixture need to be mixed well after a week to ensure uniform growth of the fungus. Ensure that sufficient moisture is maintained. After 14 days of incubation the fortified FYM is ready for use. It can be applied directly at the base of the plant. For example, about 3-5 kg of this mixture will be required for a fully grown pepper plant. *Pochonia* can be given to the crop plants twice in a year i.e., May-June and September-October.



Points to remember while using *Pochonia*

- It should not be used in flooded or dry soil.
- There should be enough organic content in the soil at the time of application.
- It should not be mixed with wood ash and lime.
- The chemical fertilizers or pesticides can be applied 14 days after *Pochonia* application.
- The talc formulation must be used before the expiry date.





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