

GIVE THEM AIR!



A common trait of many plant diseases is an affinity for cool, moist conditions. When plants are able to naturally dry out quickly they are less vulnerable to diseases. Place plants that are particularly susceptible in areas that tend to receive ample sunlight, and place enough space in between them so air circulates and they dry quickly. This practice also prevents diseases from spreading between plants.

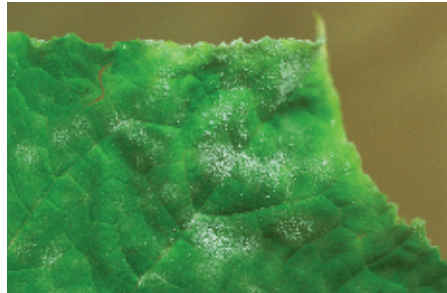
Sometimes weather won't cooperate, and conditions will be ideal for diseases to strike even the most well-planned gardens. Carefully monitor your plants during these times, and consider using a broad-spectrum fungicide, such as chlorothalonil, as a preventative measure or at the first sign of a problem. As with any product, carefully read all instructions on the label before use.

FUNGUS FEATURE: POWDERY MILDEW

Though it generally won't kill a plant, powdery mildew can significantly detract from the natural beauty and overall healthful appearance of a number of ornamental plants. It is caused by a variety of closely related types of fungi, and gets its name from the grayish-white powdery coating the disease causes on leaves, stems, and blossoms. If left unchecked, the disease can

deform leaves and flowers and hinder the growth of the plant.

Powdery mildew can become a problem at any time of the year if the proper conditions exist, although outbreaks in landscape are most common during the spring and fall. The disease tends to thrive in humid weather when days are reasonably warm and nights are cool. Excessive watering and shade also can contribute to the problem. The disease can also develop inside greenhouses at any time of the year.



Some plants are more susceptible to powdery mildew than others, such as roses and lilacs. Place these plants in a location that gets plenty of sunlight and drains well, and keep an eye on them when conditions are favorable to powdery mildew.¹

Fortunately, controlling powdery mildew generally is simple. On particularly sensitive plants, it is a good idea to use a preventative spray with a broad-spectrum fungicide, such as chlorothalonil. Begin spraying in the springtime just before buds begin to appear and continue to every couple of weeks through the early summer. Chlorothalonil also can control powdery mildew once the disease begins to develop. As with any product, carefully read all instructions on the label before use.

FUNGUS FEATURE: GRAY MOLD

Gray mold, or Botrytis blight, infects a wide variety of ornamentals as well as a significant number of fruits and vegetables. There are several species of Botrytis fungi that can cause blights. Some varieties can attack a number of plants, while others are host-specific. For

example, a Botrytis fungi that specifically infects tulips causes the disease commonly referred to as tulip fire.

Gray mold can attack any part of the plant except the root system. However, it tends to only infect one part per plant. For example, on onions or violets, the disease generally causes leaf blights, while on raspberries or tomatoes it tends to attack the fruit, leading to fruit rot. Telltale signs of the disease include any brown, spotted plant material accompanied by powdery gray spores.

Infections occur most frequently during cool, rainy spring or summer weather at temperatures of approximately 60 degrees. Outbreaks are particularly common when such conditions persist during the course of several days to a week.



Keeping plants clean and dry is an important step to preventing gray mold. Remove dead or blighted leaves and blossoms throughout the course of the season, all the way up to autumn, as the disease can survive winter in plant debris.

If a problem with gray mold does develop, or if conditions are particularly ripe for a breakout, spraying a fungicide such as chlorothalonil will help protect your plants from an outbreak. As with any product, carefully read all instructions on the label before use.²

¹ University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension

² Cornell University

As with all fungicides, please read and follow the use instructions on the package. For more information about diseases and/or chlorothalonil, log on to www.gardentech.com.

For more information, please contact Matt Lynch at (312) 787-7249 or info@armentdietrich.com.

Welcome to the second edition of "A Fungus Among Us" brought to you by GardenTech, makers of Daconil, a broad-spectrum fungicide. Each issue will include information on keeping plants disease-free, including telltale signs of different diseases, precautions to take, treatment methods, and tips from the experts. If you have questions, please call Matt Lynch at 312-787-7249.