Columbine Garden Club

MARCH 2024

Newsletter

Meeting Notes
From February 8, 2024

- Kathy Burns joined the Club. Welcome Kathy!
- Donations amounting to $153 were collected for Project Support. The Club will match that for a total of $306.
- Wendy Binninger volunteered to act as Chair for the 2024 "Speed Dating with a Master Gardener" program. Details to follow. Contact Wendy at hulamiss@comcast.net if you are able to help with the planning and execution of this event.

2024 CGC
MEETING SCHEDULE
Second Thursday of the month at noon at the Elks Lodge in Idaho Springs
Please RSVP by Sunday, March 10th by calling Linda at 303-898-8017 or via email – rickyowell7682@msn.com
Thursday, March 14
Air Plants by Nancy Spletzer
Thursday, April 11
Make a Fairy Garden
Thursday, May 9
A Guest Speaker from Sundance Gardens

Columbine Garden Club/Social Ethics
Plant Giveaway and Bake Sale
Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Project Support Senior Center

This event is held in conjunction with Social Ethics. Contributions of plants and baked goods are needed. Houseplants, vegetables, succulents, seeds, perennials or other plants are welcome contributions. Bake sale items should be cut or plated and wrapped or bagged for our grab-and-go buyers. To volunteer on the day of the sale, contact Kris Miller at 303-567-9653. We will take two hour shifts.

CGC PLANT SALE
Thursday to Saturday
June 6-8, 2024
Hanging baskets, color bowls, herbs, tomatoes, peppers, perennials and more!

POWDERY MILDEW – WHAT TO DEW?

Symptoms

Even though there are several types of powdery mildew fungi, they all produce similar symptoms on plant parts. Powdery mildews are characterized by spots or patches of white to grayish, talcum powder-like growth. Tiny, pinhead-sized, spherical fruiting structures that are first white, later yellow-brown and finally black, may be present singly or in a group. These are the cleistothecia or overwintering bodies of the fungus.

The disease is most commonly observed on the upper sides of the leaves. It also affects the bottom sides of leaves, young stems, buds, flowers and young fruit. Infected leaves may become distorted, turn yellow with small patches of green, and fall prematurely. Infected buds may fail to open.

Conditions That Favor the Disease

The severity of the disease depends on many factors: variety of the host plant, age and condition of the plant, and weather conditions during the growing season.

Powdery mildews are severe in warm, dry climates. This is because the fungus does not need the presence of water on the leaf surface for infection to occur. However, the relative humidity of the air does need to be high for spore germination. Therefore, the disease is common in crowded plantings where air circulation is poor and in damp, shaded areas. Incidence of infection increases as relative humidity rises to 90 percent, but it does not occur when leaf surfaces are wet (e.g., in a rain shower). Young, succulent growth usually is more susceptible than older plant tissues.

Cultural Control

Several practices will reduce or prevent powdery mildews. Many plants, such as roses, vegetables and Kentucky bluegrass, have cultivars, which have been developed to be resistant or tolerant to powdery mildew. Inquire about resistant varieties before a purchase. If resistant varieties are unavailable, do not plant in low, shady locations.

Once the disease becomes a problem:

Avoid late-summer applications of nitrogen fertilizer to limit the production of succulent tissue, which is more susceptible to infection.

Avoid overhead watering to help reduce the relative humidity.

Remove and destroy all infected plant parts (leaves, etc.). For infected vegetables and other annuals, remove as much of the plant and its debris in the fall as possible. This decreases the ability of the fungus to survive the winter. **Do not compost infected plant debris. Temperatures often are not hot enough to kill the fungus**.

Selectively prune overcrowded plant material to help increase air circulation. This helps reduce relative humidity and infection.

POWDERY MILDEW – WHAT TO DEW, CONTINUED

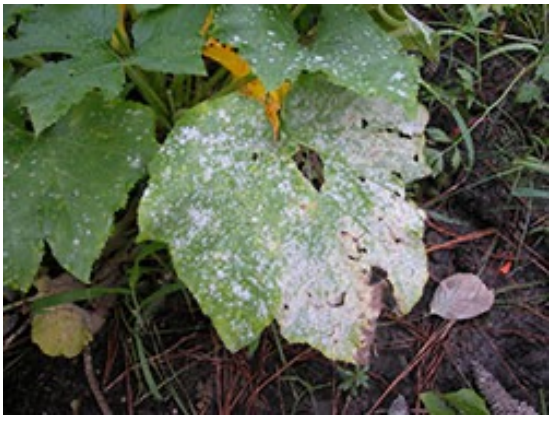
Chemical Control

If cultural controls fail to prevent disease buildup or if the disease pressure is too great, an application of a fungicide may be necessary. These include:

- sulfur
- neem oil (Rose Defense, Shield-All, Triact)
- triforine (Ortho Funginex), ornamental use only
- potassium bicarbonate (Kaligreen, First Step)

Chemicals are most effective when combined with cultural controls. Apply fungicides at seven to 14-day intervals to provide continuous protection throughout the growing season. Follow the instructions on the fungicide label for use on specific plant species, varieties, rates to be used, timing of applications, and waiting periods before harvest.

An alternative nontoxic control for mildew is baking soda (similar to the potassium bicarbonate listed above) combined with a lightweight horticultural oil (Sunspray). Researchers at Cornell University have discovered the fungicidal properties of this combination against powdery mildew on roses. Applications of one tablespoon baking soda plus 2.5 tablespoons of Sunspray oil in 1 gallon of water are still experimental. Use it at your own risk.



Excerpted from Colorado State University Extension Publication #2.902 by
S. Newman and L.P. Pottorff
For complete text, go to
https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/powdery-mildews-2-902/

Quick Facts…

•Powdery mildew is one of the most widespread and easily recognized plant diseases.
•Powdery mildews are characterized by spots or patches of white to grayish, talcum-powder-like growth.
•Powdery mildews are severe in warm, dry climates.
•Many plants have been developed to be resistant or tolerant to powdery mildew. Plant resistant varieties if available.
•Succulent tissue is more susceptible to infection. Once the disease is a problem, avoid late summer applications of nitrogen fertilizer.
•Chemicals are most effective when combined with cultural controls.

To stay up to date with club activities, go to www.columbinegardenclub.com