



Plant Disease in Kansas

Greenhouse Disease Alert: Look out for Downy Mildew of Impatiens

Special points of interest:

- *Greenhouse managers should be on the outlook for Downy Mildew of Impatiens as they gear up for the spring*
- *Winter wheat crop looks great in the SE part of the state, green and has broken dormancy*
- *Pine wilt control time*

Downy mildew of Impatiens **Plasmopara obducens**: This disease is specific to Impatiens walleriana and has been present in the US since 2004. Garden or double Impatiens are well liked showy flowers for landscaped shady areas and of great popularity. Almost every greenhouse and retailer in Kansas sells them.

Why is Downy mildew a concern to Impatiens growers and retailers? Control can be costly and the disease can move easily through a greenhouse or display destroying a valuable crop in a very short time. For the homeowner, the disease can destroy plantings and rest in the soil for years. Here are a few tips on avoiding and then managing the disease if and when you have the unfortunate luck of having the disease in your Impatiens.

The disease is moved easily by cuttings of the plant. There is a latent period of five to 14 days

depending on moisture, temperature, and humidity. Growers are encouraged to isolate new cuttings into houses away from those plants that are near market and full of flowers and foliage. Consider starting impatiens from seed to lower the risk of introduction. Retailers should physically separate shipments of Impatiens when possible. Do not overcrowd.

Scout plants especially those from cuttings for early signs of the disease. Look for leaves that are light green, stippling, or tips are turning downward. These infected leaves will then produce a white mold on the underside of the leaf. If a white mold is found (a hand lens can help), then spores are being produced and can be carried by wind currents or water. Young plants and tender foliage are very susceptible to DM.

If the disease is found be aggressive.

Fungicide programs should begin immediately. Infected plants should be bagged up and disposed of. Bag up the plants on the spot than drag them through the greenhouse to control disease dispersal. New Guinea Impatiens and SunPatiens are resistant.



Mildew growth on underside of leaf, Purdue University



Early yellowing from DM. DM can be mistaken with damping off. Greenhouse Grower.

Pine Wilt: Clean up trees now for control in 2013

This again is that time of year when dead pine trees should be removed from the plantings and taken to the tree compost pile. The sawyer beetle larvae that moves the nematode caused disease from tree to tree in summer and fall months is

overwintering in the dead wood. Now is the time to burn, chip, or bury that wood and break the life cycle. For every tree infected and left standing, on average 3-4 trees will be infected next year. The wood if chipped can be used for

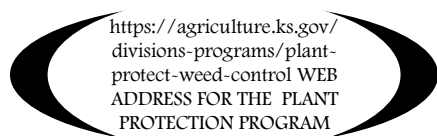
mulch on other tree species other than pine.

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL
PROGRAM

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Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.



INVASIVE SPECIES

Eastern Mistletoe: What is that doing in my tree?

Eastern Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that infects oak and other deciduous trees and found across much of the southeast US. In Kansas, Eastern Mistletoe is reported in oaks of extreme southeast Kansas. Mistletoe generally does not kill its host as all good parasites do but does cause stunting and witches broom. This disease can be pruned out or treated during winter months at this time of year before oak becomes actively growing. Chemical treatments are growth regulators and only can be applied by certified applicators.

In ancient times, Druids or

Celtic priests, used the plant in fertility rituals and the Romans used it as part of their (we will say) rituals also.

Eastern Mistletoe
in Oswego, Ks.

