



Plant Disease in Kansas

Downy mildew of Impatiens—First report

Special points of interest:

- *Downy mildew of Impatiens first state report*
- *Wheat continues to suffer from cold temperatures*
- *Kansas Department of Agriculture announces move to Manhattan*

It was not anticipated to have happened this quick but Downy Mildew (*Plasmopara obducens*) of Impatiens was reported in the state. In Issue 1 of Plant Disease of Kansas this year, an alert was made about the possibility of this disease. During a KDA inspection of a production greenhouse in SE Kansas last week, the disease was found at high levels in Impatiens walleriana (garden). The plants were grown from plugs that originated from a Texas source and were likely infected when brought in. A fungicide program was being administered as a control along with sanitation measures of rogueing heavily infected plants.

Although expensive, preventative fungicides (those with systemic and translaminar activity)

had not been used and may have saved the need for rescue efforts of the crop.

Symptoms include yellowed leaves, downward curling of leaves, defoliation, and general decline of the plants. The mildew was readily apparent on the underside of leaves as a white growth.

Impatiens are popular and used as a bedding plant and for hanging baskets. Almost every production greenhouse and retailer grow and sell garden impatiens.

A few facts about the disease:

- DM does not infect New Guinea Impatiens. DM is host specific to *I. walleriana*.
- There is no evidence of

seed transmission

- The fungus has a resting spore stage (oospores) that may infect soil for a several years, planting Impatiens back into beds where the disease has been, is not recommended.
- The disease is difficult to control once sporulation has occurred.
- Growers should regularly scout and implement fungicides in a recommended preventative program.
- Cool wet conditions promote the disease, the summer climate in Kansas is not conducive for DM.
- See Issue 1 for disease images

Winter has to stop? Freezing temperatures continue

Spring was supposed to have started about a month ago but freezing temperatures sometimes reaching 20 F have been more than common the past two weeks in much of Kansas. Winter wheat is suffering not from one freeze but several over the past three weeks. Hardest hit areas appear to be in the western half of the state.

The question is not if the wheat was hurt but how bad or widespread is it. Coupled with the freezes are still relatively dry soils in many counties in western Kansas. Wheat plants that are trying to recover from the freezes must have soil moisture to regrow and without it, will not make a crop.

In the landscape, those gardeners who planted early are losing plants or finding plants stunted. Retailers are forced to move plants inside or cover plants that are market ready and are delaying orders. The delayed orders are a logistical dilemma for production facilities requiring additional costs in watering, fertilizer, care, and transportation.

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL
PROGRAM

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INVASIVE SPECIES

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.

Kansas Department of Agriculture Visionary Statement: Move to Manhattan

The Kansas Department of Agriculture recently announced that it would be moving most of its operations to Manhattan. It is anticipated that this move will occur in 2014 after completion of a new facility.

Although in the short term some small interruption of services may occur during the moving period, the move is anticipated to greatly enhance the missions of the various programs of the Department in the long run. The facility will be built overlooking the NBAF laboratory (the replacement for the USDA Plum Island research quarantine facility) on the KSU

Research Park. The Department anticipates increased cooperation with both federal and Kansas State programs and private enterprises that will be moving into the area. The move will undoubtedly bring the Department into the forefront of what will become a leading agricultural research center on the campus of Kansas State University and helps the long term goal of the University - becoming an elite TOP 50 research campus.

Manhattan and the Junction City area are already home to various companies involved in plant and animal research and

development.



Figure 1. Dale Rodman, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture announcing the move to Manhattan and the KSU Research Park on April 4. CJ Online.