

# This Month In Diseases

By A.R. Chase



Welcome to the newest addition to GPN! Each month, I will be writing this column (sometimes with the help of other experts) focusing on a disease or pest that usually occurs at that time and highlighting the most characteristic symptoms with images and words. Factors that promote the problem and the best products for preventing or eradicating the problem also will be part of each column.

These columns are only meant to be quick reference guides, since full-length research and review articles are the best way to become really familiar with a problem. If you have ideas for additional facts or other suggestions, please let me know. Thanks also to Syngenta Professional Products for sponsoring this new column.

This month's topic is Botrytis, which usually occurs during the cooler and wetter months. Botrytis rapidly produces spores in damaged tissue, giving it a fuzzy, gray appearance. These spores can be spread via air movement (i.e., wind or fans) or with rain or irrigation water. Shown below are some of the things that we have found at Chase Research Gardens that we think you should know about Botrytis.

— A.R. Chase



Botrytis sporulation on cyclamen

## 5 Symptoms of Botrytis

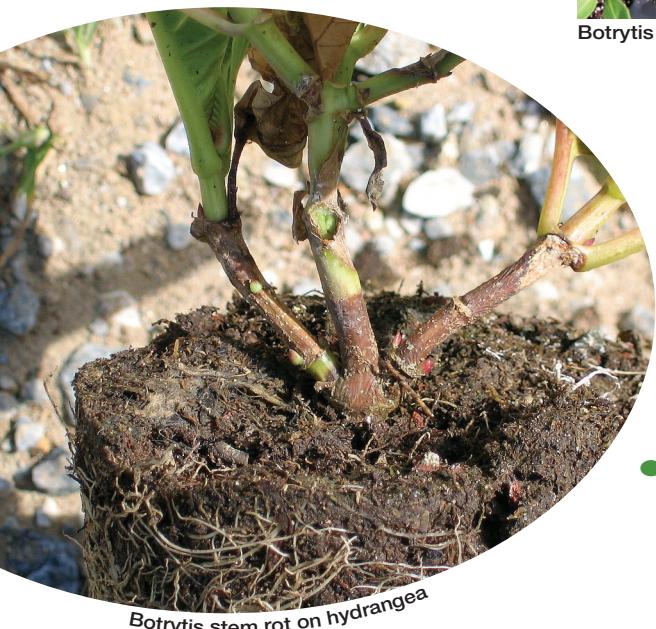
- ▶ Flower spots
- ▶ Stem rot
- ▶ Leaf spots
- ▶ Cutting rot
- ▶ Damping off



Botrytis blight on lisanthus plugs

## Crops commonly susceptible to Botrytis:

Fuschia	Exacum	Hydrangea	Lily
Geranium	Poinsettia	Pansy	Rose
Cyclamen	Primula	Lisianthus	New Guinea Impatiens



Botrytis stem rot on hydrangea

## Fungicides best for controlling Botrytis

- chlorothalonil (Daconil formulations and Spectro)
- fenhexamid (Decree)
- fludioxinil (Medallion)
- iprodione (Chipco 26019 and Sextant)



A.R. Chase is president and pathologist of Chase Research Gardens, floriculture's premier chemical screening and disease diagnostic company. Contact her at [archase@chaseresearch.net](mailto:archase@chaseresearch.net).

## 4 Conditions that promote Botrytis

- High humidity and more than six hours of leaf wetness
- Temperature between 50 and 75° F
- Damage to the crop (phytotoxicity and wounding)
- Poor air circulation

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- Medallion, a unique class of contact fungicide, provides excellent protection against *Botrytis* both in the greenhouse and in the nursery.
- The effectiveness, ease of application, and flexibility of Medallion make it an excellent option for controlling a broad spectrum of root and foliar diseases such as *Fusarium*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Septoria*, and *Alternaria*.

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