

Gray Mold of Poinsettia

Disease Profile

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Gray Mold is caused by the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*. Virtually all herbaceous ornamentals grown in the greenhouse are susceptible to this disease. Wet foliage as a result of overhead irrigation or condensation is a prime contributor to disease development.

Symptoms include the rapid collapse of flower parts followed by the development of a gray "fuzzy" growth. The fungus produces large quantities of minute spores on infected plant parts that can be spread to other plants in the greenhouse by splashing water or wind. The fungus may also cause a stem rot which may kill all or part of the plant.

Minimize leaf wetness by regulating heating and cooling cycles, spacing plants properly, and providing good ventilation. Good sanitation is very important. Remove and discard diseased and weak plants. Fungicide choices include those that contain chlorothalonil, myclobutanil, fludioxonil, and fenhexamid. Always follow label information.

** [See Extension Fact Sheet FSA 7542](#)

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