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# "HOW-TO" GUIDE

*Controlling*

## *Powdery Mildew*

### **What Is It?**

A white powdery substance that appears on mostly new growth and flower buds. Most powdery mildews do not do serious harm to the plant, but there are some that can cause harm and even death of a plant. Infected leaves often drop prematurely and the leaves and shoots may become distorted, dwarfed and discolored.

There are some plants that tend to be more susceptible such as Roses, Crape Myrtles and Euonymous, to name a few.

### **How Does It Grow And Spread?**

Powdery mildew spreads as wind-blown spores. Spores do not need free water to germinate; they die in water. It survives only on plant tissue and in dormant buds and does not survive in the soil. It over-winters on fallen leaves.

Powdery Mildew grows best at moderate temperatures and in shade, but it also occurs in humid, foggy areas as well as dry locations. It is especially active where air circulation is poor. Rain and direct sunlight inhibit its growth.

### **How Do I Treat It?**

Prevention is the best method of reducing powdery mildew occurrences. Place your plants in a sunny location with good air circulation whenever possible. Moderate amounts do not pose a problem and no treatment is necessary. If it becomes a problem, spray with either Green Light Rose Defense (Neem oil) or E-Rase Powdery Mildew Control (Jojoba oil). Both are all natural, non-chemical sprays that stop the spread of this disease.

On highly susceptible plants, a treatment with a sulfur-based fungicide at the first sign of the disease is recommended. Once powdery mildew growth is extensive, it is generally too late for fungicides to be effective. Avoid applying sulfur during hot weather, as it is likely to damage the foliage.