ORNAMENTAL AND FLOWER DISEASES

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CHrysanthemum Rust

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The foliage of chrysanthemum plants growing under glass, and occasionally those growing outdoors is attacked by the rust fungus *Puccinia chrysanthemi*. Certain varieties such as Early Frost, Indianola, Marie dePetris, and Rose Chochard are resistant.

SYMPTOMS: The disease is characterized by the appearance of small blisters about the size of a pinhead on the underside of the leaves. The blisters also appear to some extent on the upper surface. They soon break open and expose a dark brown, powdery mass of spores. Severely infected leaves dry up and cling to the stem. The dark powdery spore masses are the distinguishing characteristics of this disease.

DISEASE CYCLE: When the rust pustules break open the spores are liberated and are carried to other plants by wind, rain, and water used in overhead watering of plants.

CONTROL: Remove and burn diseased leaves from the plants as soon as symptoms appear. Cuttings should not be cut from diseased plants. It is important to keep the humidity under glass as low as possible and care should be taken in syringing the foliage. Avoid overhead watering of out-of-door plants. Chemical control is possible with maneb plus zinc (Fore) applied as soon as first pustules appear in the spring and repeating at 10-day intervals through bloom. Use the fungicide at the rate of 1 1/2 lb/100 gal water (1 1/2 tablespoon/1 gal water). Leaf wetting will be improved if 1/2 teaspoon of a liquid detergent is added to each gal of spray. It is essential that the spray be directed upwards to cover the underside of the leaves.

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KEYS TO PROPER USE OF PESTICIDES

1. Read the label on each pesticide container before each use. Follow instructions to the letter; heed all cautions and warnings, and note precautions about residues.

2. Keep pesticides in the containers in which you bought them. Put them where children or animals cannot get to them, preferably under lock and away from food, feed, seed, or other material that may become harmful if contaminated.

3. Dispose of empty containers in the manner specified on the label.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS OCCUR DURING OR AFTER USE OF PESTICIDES.