

Greenhouse Pest Message, October 27, 2022
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Botrytis Leaf, Stem and Bract Infections on Poinsettia can damage poinsettias during production, and most importantly, later when symptoms develop on the tender bracts. Leaves and bracts may be predisposed to infection if they are damaged by injury from pesticides or when branches are damaged as poinsettias are moved.



Figure 1 & 2: Botrytis stem canker Photos by L. Pundt, UConn and R. Wick, UMass

With Botrytis stem canker, look for light brown to tan, slightly sunken cankers which can form on older stems especially near large branches. Leaf drop and death of branches occur above the stem cankers. Avoid damaging established, well-branched plants.

Late Season Botrytis Control on Poinsettias

Proper environmental and cultural management is the cornerstone of good Botrytis management. Preventive fungicide applications, proper plant spacing, good air flow, sanitation measures and proper watering practices are all needed to prevent Botrytis. If you are considering fungicide treatments now, please make sure the fungicide is safe to tender bracts.

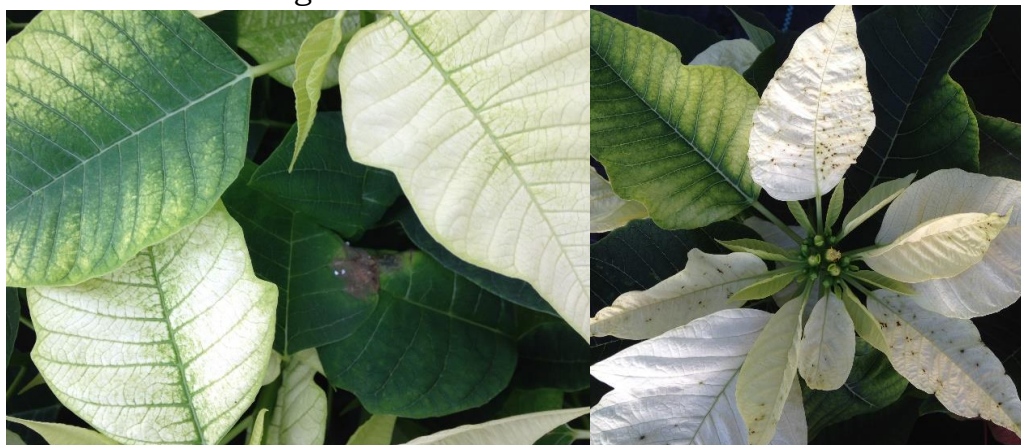


Figure 3 & 4: Botrytis on the more susceptible white cultivars Photos by L. Pundt

Some options to consider include:

- Affirm WDG (polyoxin D zinc salt) (FRAC 19) which has shown excellent flower safety over a large range of plants.
- Astun (isofetamid) (FRAC 7) is reported to be safe on open blooms, according to the company, with the use of a spreader sticker.
- Palladium (cyprodinil & fludioxonil) (FRAC (9 & 12) with Capsil at 4 fl. oz. to 100 gal).
- Postiva (difenoconazole & pydiflumetofen) FRAC 3 & 7) with Capsil at 4 fl. oz. per 100 gal).
- Spirato GHN (fludioxonil) (FRAC 12)
- Decree (fenhexamid) (FRAC 17) with a spreader sticker has shown excellent plant safety to blooms, based on past grower experiences. However, in 2013, resistance to Decree was first reported in the Northeast. To prevent resistance, the label recommends not making more than two consecutive applications.

Differences in cultivars, culture and environmental conditions may increase or decrease bract sensitivity to pesticides. If you are inexperienced with using a fungicide, always test a small portion across varieties before treating your entire crop. Be sure to follow label directions. Consult the company's website for technical bulletins or call the company's technical representative before using a product for the first time.

It is also important to use a spreader sticker that is safe to bracts (if the label permits use), such as Capsil, but use it at a reduced rate (4 fl oz. to 100 gal).

Consult and follow pesticide labels for registered uses. No discrimination is intended for any products not listed. If any information is inconsistent with the label, then follow the label. The label is the law!

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