

Greenhouse Pest Message, May 12, 2025
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Recently, a few pathogens have been observed on plants leading into the Mother's Day weekend. **Botrytis blight** continues to cause damage to herbs and flowers. This is a very common pathogen. Basil, rosemary, dill, lavender, and others are highly susceptible. The alternating cloudy and sunny days make watering challenging, and lead to condensation or overwatered plants that results in increased incidence of Botrytis. Apply fungicides and limit leaf wetness as much as possible. Astun, Broadform, Mural, Daconil, Decree, Orkestra, and Pageant are all good rotation options.



Photo: Basil leaf with developing Botrytis lesion; Stevia with stem canker from Botrytis.

More info on *Botrytis* management here: <https://ipm-cahnr.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3216/2024/06/botrytisblightghs.pdf>

Hanging baskets are a great use of space, however, falling petals can be a source of inoculum or nutrition for *Botrytis*.



Photo 2: Healthy geranium plant covered in petals from hanging basket.

Greenhouse tomatoes are popular and widely grown. On a recent visit to a high tunnel with tomatoes a few plants with **fusarium wilt** were found. This is a common pathogen of tomatoes. Some of the newer cultivars have genetic resistance, however, heirloom varieties are often susceptible to fusarium root rot. There are also resistant rootstock available, which provide resistance to Fusarium, verticillium, and nematodes. Management of fusarium wilt includes using hot water treated seed and fungicide drenches. Empress, Heritage, Medalion, and Postiva are the top available fungicides for this pathogen. These fungicides can be applied as drench treatments or injected through the drip lines. Fusarium is well known for traveling on seed. Extensive work on hot water treatment for tomato seed has been conducted at OSU. Rouge wilted plants and discard.

Seed treatments: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/hyg-5818>

UConn tomato reference: <https://ipm.cahnر.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3216/2023/12/2023fusariumwiltongreenhousetomatoesfinal.pdf>

Fusarium symptoms on Begonia: <https://www.e-gro.org/pdf/334.pdf>



Photo 3: Wilting tomato plant. Note, fusarium wilt usually starts on one side of the plant and then progresses to the other. Stem cut at the base revealing vascular discoloration (two distinct brown sections). “Fusoid” spores of *Fusarium oxysporum* under the microscope.

Additional leaf spots have been observed on certain grasses. Below is a photo of an unknown leafspot on dracaena (possibly *Leptosphaeria* leaf blight) and cordyline.

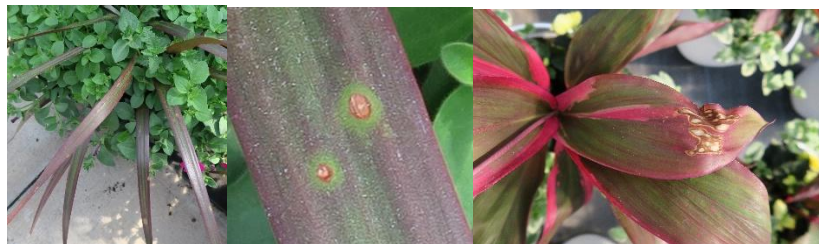


Photo 4: Dracaena in mixed basket with small lesions surrounded by yellow halo; leafspot on cordyline.