

Diseases of Specific Florist Crops

Keeping florist crops free of disease requires constant care and planning. Prevention is the basis of freedom from disease and should be an integral part of the general cultural program. The symptoms of the diseases of major florist crops are described individually by crop in a series of fact sheets.

Carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus*)

Note: Use culture-indexed plants, and steam-pasteurize or fumigate growing media and beds.

- Fusarium wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *dianthi*): Stunting, wilting, foliar yellowing or browning, purplish vascular discoloration.
- Rhizoctonia stem rot: Brown canker at the soil line.
- Alternaria leaf spot (*Alternaria dianthi*): Ashy white spots with dark fungus spore structures on the center of older spots.
- Bacterial wilt (*Pseudomonas caryophylli*): Sudden wilting and drying of the top of the plant or of one branch. Vascular system shows yellow streaks. Root system also decays, and sticky cankered areas may appear at the base of the stem. Symptoms appear at high temperatures. Discard infected plants immediately. Fortunately, this disease is eliminated by culture indexing.
- Fusarium stem rot (*Fusarium roseum*): Roots and stem base may be rotted and discolored.
- Botrytis flower spot: First shows on outer petals on outside of bud.
- Rust (*Uromyces caryophyllinus*): Reddish-brown spore pustules on leaves and stems.
- Fusarium bud rot (*Fusarium tricinctum poae*): Fungus spores are carried to the buds by grass mites. Petals inside bud decay first.
- Greasy blotch (*Zygothiala jamaicensis*): Spots with radiating, spider web-like margins.