

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.

China Aster (*Callistephus chinensis*)

- Fusarium wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *callistephi*): Stunted growth, yellowing or scorching of foliage, collapse. Vascular system discolored.
- Verticillium wilt: Same symptoms as Fusarium wilt. Disease not specific to China aster and may be severe in soil where other crops susceptible to *Verticillium* have been grown previously.
- Aster yellows: Caused by a phytoplasma (previously called a MLO) carried by the aster leafhopper. Plants may be chlorotic and misshapen; flowers may be entirely or partially virescent (green).
- Rust: Pustules filled with orange-colored powdery spores on leaf undersides.
- *Botrytis*: Spotting of petals or leaves.