

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.

Fuchsia (*Fuchsia x hybrida*)

- *Botrytis*: Leaf infections during propagation can cause brown stem cankering and wilting and loss of cuttings. Keep *Botrytis* under control on stock plants to avoid losses during propagation.
- *Phytophthora parasitica*: Particularly during the moist conditions that prevail during propagation, stems are rotted and leaf bases show brown decay.
- Rust: Bright yellow-orange sporulation is obvious on the underside of affected leaves, and the upper surfaces show tan leaf spots with a purple rim. Free moisture is necessary for infection, so losses are greatest during propagation.
- *Thielaviopsis*: Wilting of all or portions of a good-sized plant is typical. Roots may be quite stunted and show areas of very black discoloration. The problem is most likely under conditions of high pH (pH below 5.5 discourages disease development) and in growing mixes that include some mineral soil.