

## 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.

### Lily

- Root rot (*Pythium* sp.): Roots become softened and have a brown discoloration. Particularly likely to occur in poorly drained mixes.
- Root rot (*Rhizoctonia* sp.): Roots show a brown discoloration and may appear stunted. May be present in addition to *Pythium*.
- Virus (mottle, streak): Foliage shows pale streaking or spotting; flowers may be distorted or small. Rogue out infected plants; control aphids (potential vectors). CMV and potyvirus have been found in symptomatic lilies in recent years.
- Leaf scorch (physiological): Seen primarily in Croft lilies; tip scorch on leaves. Keep calcium levels and pH high (use a pH of 6.8 to 7.2) and avoid sources of fluoride such as superphosphate and perlite.
- Upper leaf necrosis (physiological): Seen primarily in the hybrid lily 'Star Gazer,' this appears as dead areas in the leaves just below the flower. The cause of this problem has been determined to be a calcium deficiency that occurs most often with larger bulbs. Research is under way to devise methods for correcting the problem. Keep plants well ventilated to encourage transpiration.