

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.

Pansy (*Viola tricolor*)

- Myrothecium crown rot (*Myrothecium roridum*): Plants yellow and collapse, often after transplanting.
- Phytophthora crown rot (*Phytophthora parasitica*): Softening and discoloration of stem base leads to browning of lower leaf bases and plant collapse.
- Thielaviopsis root rot (*Thielaviopsis basicola*): Scattered individual plants in plug tray or packs are stunted and yellowed; roots are stunted and may be blackened.
- Cercospora leaf spot (*Cercospora violae*): Leaf spots begin as small purple spots and enlarge to form large $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter dark spots without a sharp circular outline (usually seen on lowest leaves). Rogue out immediately.
- Downy mildew (*Pernospora violae*): Pale areas of leaves, with sporulation on leaf undersurface.