



Rust: how to spot and handle it quickly

Prepare to tackle this quick-moving plant disease with these tips.



It can be easy to miss the signs of rust at first glance because it gets its start on the undersides of leaves. When the disease has spread to multiple leaves, “It will start to be apparent on the top of the leaves with pitting and discoloration and can be so disfiguring that there’s no bringing plants back,” says Jen Browning, BASF Technical Service Representative.

Rust has a broad range of hosts and appears in different forms, including orange, black, and grey rust pustules. “It will also utilize multiple hosts, spending alternating seasons on different plants,” Browning says. “[In this scenario], you’re not just managing the disease on one host, but multiple hosts and throughout the year.”

Treating rust

Some products will provide early curative ability to stop the progression of rust so quickly that the plant can grow past it. This is possible only when pressure is low – before its pathogen pressure surges and leaves become engulfed, Browning says. “Maybe you have noticed the early signs of rust developing, and you’ve not treated those plants; that’s a scenario where **Orkestra™ Intrinsic®** brand fungicide can stop the disease, and the plants will outgrow the damage.” When plants have waxier or thicker foliage, incorporating an adjuvant will help to manage rust infections.

An end-of-production exception

“When a grower is going to carry plants over winter, they may be a little more tolerant of damage from pathogens or insects late in the season,” Browning says. “They have time the following spring, particularly with a preventive program as soon as plants emerge from dormancy.” Some growers might also include dormant sprays for woody perennials as part of their disease IPM programs.

Always read and follow label directions.

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