

Powdery Mildew

TREE DOCTOR TIPS

Powdery Mildew

DESCRIPTION:

Powdery mildews, caused by numerous species of fungi, create a white powdery appearance on landscape plants.

HOSTS:

Landscape plants of various species are susceptible to powdery mildew. Commonly affected plants include:

- Rhododendron
- Birch
- Holly
- Lilac
- Dogwood

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

In late summer or early fall, powdery mildew appears as a gray or white powdery substance on the surface of leaves, stems, fruits and flowers. Foliage may eventually discolor and drop prematurely if not treated. The fungus overwinters on fallen leaves and debris. Spores spread in the spring, infecting plants that are experiencing new growth.

MANAGEMENT:

Although powdery mildew is not a serious or difficult to manage problem, it can be unsightly. Early recognition is best to prevent severe damage. Removing dead and diseased leaves and fungicidal treatments can help stop the disease from spreading. Prevention through proper spacing when planting new plants, giving them enough room in between to avoid cross-contamination, can also help keep your landscape healthy.



FIGURE A. CLOSE-UP, POWDERY MILDEW FUNGI

FIGURE B. POWDERY MILDEW COVERING THE FOLIAGE OF A NORWAY MAPLE

*The scientists at **The Davey Institute** laboratory and research facility support our arborists and technicians in diagnosing and prescribing based on the latest arboricultural science. For specific treatment and application details, your arborist may consult *The Davey Institute's Plant Health Care Book*.*

