

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.

Bulb Crops for Forcing

- *Botrytis*: Occasionally, when aeration is insufficient during forcing, *Botrytis* may cause lesions on foliage and cripple the expansion of leaves. Good cultural conditions prevent this problem.
- Tulip fire (*Botrytis tulipae*): Foliar lesions on tulip may be caused by a host-specific species of *Botrytis* introduced within sclerotia on diseased bulbs. Destroy infected plants and protect others with appropriate fungicides during foliage expansion.
- Iris ink disease (*Mystrosporium adustum*): Scales are blackened. Destroy bulbs in which fleshy scales are affected. Not common in North America.
- Bulb rots (*Penicillium* sp., etc.): Portions of bulbs are discolored, most often resulting from invasion of stressed tissue by weak pathogens. Avoid bruising or overheating during handling or storage. *Phytophthora* spp. may cause rotting of the stem, basal plate, and roots; bulb scales are not affected.
- Gray bulb rot (*Sclerotium tuliparum*): A dry rot with sclerotia sometimes evident.
- Flower break or mosaic: Interruption of flower petal color by white streaks or yellow mottling of foliage. Caused by virus infections. Aphid control is important for preventing spread.