



**POWDERY MILDEW
FACT SHEET**

Powdery mildew is a potentially destructive disease in eastern Washington. In north central Washington the first mildew colonies generally occur in late April on leaves of sucker shoots close to the ground, or on leaves produced on main scaffold branches near tree crotches. This occurs throughout the summer in areas that are cool, shady and humid but not wet.

Powdery mildew's physical features will look as though they've been sprinkled with baby powder. If the infection is bad, the mildew may also be speckled with small brownish-black dots and sometimes the leaves will start curling and /or blister.

There is no totally effective prevention or cure for powdery mildew, but a number of precautions can be taken to avoid destructive epidemics:

- 1st - follow a recommended fungicide spray program.
- 2nd - promote good air circulation.
- 3rd - keep water from sprinkler systems off foliage and fruit.
- 4th - prune out young diseased tips anytime, but older infected ones should be removed in the spring.
- 5th - use a forceful spray of water to kill powdery mildew, but beware-wet leaves can be a breeding ground for fungal infection.

The life cycle of powdery mildew spores survive the winter by taking leaf buds hostage; using them as a cozy home. In the spring, they assault tender new bud parts by stabbing them with root-like organs. These organs suck out nutrients from the plant.

Remember the best time to spray for powdery mildew is in the fall and then in the spring, before new buds come out.

Give us a call at 1-800-LAWNCARE if you have any questions.