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Powdery Mildew on Calibrachoa

Powdery mildew can often go unnoticed on calibrachoa. Check your plants for white, powdery, fungal growth - usually on the lower foliage and sometimes accompanied with leaf discoloration and leaf drop.

Powdery mildew can often go unnoticed on calibrachoa. There are a few reasons powdery mildew often is overlooked in calibrachoa crops: symptoms typically first develop on the lower leaves and can be easily missed if plants are not carefully inspected, the powdery fungal growth can be subtle and difficult to see in some cases, many cultivars are not affected by the disease, and symptoms can go unnoticed in baskets until they are taken down for sale.

Check your calibrachoa for the white, powdery-looking fungal growth, typically found first on the lower leaves. Early on, the appearance of the fungal growth can be subtle and easy to miss. In

some cases, leaf discoloration is associated with the mildew. When the disease progresses, lower leaf drop may occur.

As mentioned above there is variation in how different



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cultivars respond to the disease; often it will only be a couple of cultivars among many that show symptoms. If you have had particular trouble with powdery mildew on a specific cultivar, try an alternate cultivar or make sure to carefully scout the susceptible cultivar and be prepared to manage the disease next year.

If powdery mildew is noticed, treat with a fungicide labeled for powdery mildew management. Regular treatments according to label directions are recommended. Rotating between products with systemic activity and contact materials or biological materials often works well. Keeping the greenhouse humidity low will also help manage this disease, as will good plant spacing and air movement.

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