

**1415   
Powdery mildew**

The presence of a white, dusty talcum-like substance on leaves makes diagnosis of powdery mildew easy. Powdery mildew is less prevalent in semi-arid regions; it's more likely to appear in mid- to late summer when cool evenings follow warm, humid days. Lilacs, roses and a few garden perennials such as phlox and rudbeckia are susceptible to powdery mildew in Colorado. Left untreated, powdery mildew can cause leaves to turn yellow, die and fall off.

[[](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/ptlk/1415a.html)](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/ptlk/1415a.html)

Powdery mildew fungi send tubes from a spore on the leaf into the plant that take nutrients out of the plant. The fungi grows radially from the initial point of inoculation, and, after about four days, spores turn powdery and can spread easily through the air.

Good management practices, sanitation and selection of resistant varieties will help reduce spore infections. Provide adequate air circulation with proper thinning and spacing of trees, plant trees in the full sun and avoid overhead watering, especially late in the day. Remove and destroy infected leaves and flowers, and avoid fertilizers high in nitrogen that promote new growth, which is more susceptible to infection.