Botrytis Blight

Botrytis blight occurs on nearly all flowering crops including roses. Disease can start during rooting of cuttings under high humidity, and end with flower blight. *Botrytis cinerea* is the fungus responsible for this disease has a very broad in host range.

SYMPTOMS

Botrytis cinerea causes flower spots and blight; stem rot, leaf spots and blight, cutting rot and damping-off. It can even cause can stem cankers on rose. Be sure to check inside plant canopies whether they are in propagation or production. This is the ideal area for *Botrytis* to start and spread undetected. *Botrytis* gains a foothold on petals and then progresses into the

leaves and stems. *Botrytis* sporulation always looks the same so if you see something very white, brown or purplish you are not looking at *Botrytis*. Spores can be described as grayish or brownish.

CULTURAL CONTROL

High humidity and more than 6 hours of leaf wetness are most important for an outbreak of *Botrytis*. Temperatures around 50 to 75 F are ideal and poor air circulation promotes most

foliar diseases since it means leaves will stay wet longer and relative humidity around the plant is higher. Damage to the crop (phytotoxicity and wounding) can promote a *Botrytis* outbreak.

FUNGICIDES FOR CONTROL

The table below is a summary of trials on Botrytis blight on ornamentals. The most effective fungicides have been Pageant, Palladium, Daconil (do not use on plants in flower), Chipco 26019 and Decree. Check current labels for legal rates and Always rotate between FRAC groups to avoid resistance development in *Botrytis*.

Treatment	Rate/100 gal	Mean
Chipco 26019	16 oz	excellent
Compass	1-4 oz	very good
Daconil Ultrex	22.4 oz	very good-excellent
Decree	12-24 oz	very good-excellent
Heritage	4 oz	fair-good
Medallion	4 oz	very good-excellent
Mural	7 oz	good-excellent
Orkestra	8 oz	excellent
Pageant intrinsic	12-18 oz	very good-excellent
Palladium	4-6 oz	very good
Phyton 27	25 oz	poor-good
Triathon BA	16-20 oz	good-excellent