

Common Plant Diseases

Early Blight

ID: Fungus with brown lesions on leaves, stems and fruit. Increases during warm wet weather. Usually begins on lower leaves and moves upward.

Affects: Tomatoes

Control: Rotate crops. Mulch. Stake or trellis plants. Remove infected plant material.



Photo: Penn State Dept. of Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology Archives, Penn State Univ. Bugwood.org

Cucurbit Downy Mildew

ID: Yellow to brown spots on leaves. Dead leaves.

Affects: Squash, melons, cucumbers.

Control: Plant early in open sunny areas. Avoid overhead irrigation. Apply fungicides.



Photo: Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org

Fusarium Wilt

ID: Fungus enters at soil level and moves up plant restricting water conduction. Plant slowly turns yellow and dies. Significant browning, dead foliage.

Affects: Tomatoes.

Control: Nothing can be done to save plant. Have long crop rotations. Increase organic matter. Use resistant varieties.



Photo: David B. Langston, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Powdery Mildew

ID: White fungal growth on leaves. Leaves turn yellow and brown.

Affects: Cucumbers, squash, melons.

Control: Plant early in open sunny areas. Use resistant varieties. Apply fungicides.



Photo: Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org

Pepper Anthracnose

ID: Sunken lesions on fruit.

Affects: Peppers.

Control: Use disease-free seed and transplants. Rotate crops. Remove infected fruit. Plant in open sunny areas. Avoid overhead irrigation.



Photo: G. Holmes, CPSU, Bugwood.org