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Seedling diseases

Damping-off

Pathogen: Multiple including *Pythium* spp. and *Rhizoctonia* spp.

Hosts: Very large host range.

Symptoms: Damping-off is a general term describing disease problems that occur while seeds are germinating or shortly thereafter, causing pre- and postemergence disease prob

Damping-off of young Delphinium plants in a plug tray, caused by *Rhizoctonia*.



Damping-off – *continued*

lems. Very young seedlings can be infected causing rapid seedling death.

Spread: Damping-off disease problems are generally caused by soil-borne pathogens. Avoid planting in infested soil or infested sites and reusing plug trays.

Management: Maintain good sanitation. Avoid overwatering and limit frequent, light waterings. Germinate seedlings at recommended temperatures to promote rapid germination and development of seedlings. See specific pathogens for more detailed information.



A web of *Pythium* mycelium on the surface of a plug tray. Stems of these seedlings were infected at the soil line.