

Powdery mildew

Microsphaera vaccinii (fungus)

Powdery mildew can be found in most blueberry plantings, but damage tends to be slight.



Symptoms.

Symptoms on blueberry leaves

usually do not develop until midsummer. The leaves show light green, yellow or reddish areas and puckering. Water-soaked spotting is visible on leaf undersides. White, powdery growth may develop on the upper leaf surfaces. In severe cases, plants may defoliate.

Early and late symptoms of powdery mildew on upper leaf surfaces.

Disease cycle. At the end of summer, yellow to black fruiting bodies (chasmothecia) form on infected leaves. Airborne spores released by chasmothecia in the spring infect young leaves. The mycelium is superficial and penetrates only the epidermis.



Water-soaked, radiating spots on underside of leaf.

Secondary spores are produced on the leaves and dispersed by wind throughout the summer. High temperatures and humidity promote disease development.

Management. Plant resistant cultivars; reduce humidity in the planting. Fungicides are not recommended unless the disease is severe.



Yellow to black specks on the leaf surface are chasmothecia (overwintering structures). In the spring, chasmothecia release ascospores that cause primary infections.