Greenhouse Pest Message, July 21, 2022
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Monitor Root Health of Your Garden Mums!

Examine roots carefully. Signs of poor root heath are discolored roots with few white root tips, or even absence of root growth.

Figure 1: Brown, discolored roots from a *Pythium* infection. New white root growth developed after a fungicide drench. Photo by L. Pundt

The hot weather this week, favors the development of *Pythium aphanidermatum*, which has been of more of a concern on garden mums in recent years.

The first symptom is often a wet, black basal rot. Affected plants wilt and collapse rapidly. Often the fungus invades leaves touching the soil and progresses into the stem, which then blackens and dies back.

Figures 2 & 3: Black basal rot and wilting from *Pythium* infection. Photos by J. Allen

Pythium is favored by high fertility and high moisture levels. Avoid root stresses as much as possible. Mums are more likely to suffer from damage from high salts if fertilizer is applied to overly dry growing media.

Many growers are using preventive applications of the biological fungicide RootShield Plus to encourage healthy root growth. Many growers report good results with drenches of Segway O(cyazofamid) (21). Truban (etriadiazole) (14), Terrazole L (14) (etriadiazole), Banol (propamocarb) (28) or Banrot (etridazole 14) & thiophanate-methyl) (1) can be rotated with Segway O.

See New England Greenhouse Floriculture Guide for more options at: https://greenhouseguide.cahnr.uconn.edu/

Garden Mums: Past Crop Problems and Production Tips https://ag.umass.edu/greenhouse-floriculture/fact-sheets/garden-mums-past-crop-problems-production-tips

Online registration is open for the **Greenhouse Biological Control Conference on August 16th** at the Jones Auditorium in New Haven, CT. See: https://greenhouse.uconn.edu/biocontrol-2/

Featured speakers include:

- Ron Valentin, Director of Technical Business, Anatis BioProtection
- Suzanne Wainwright Evans, Buglady Consulting
- Elwood Roberts, Plant Products
- Michael Brownbridge, Bioworks

Registration includes boxed lunch and five pesticide credits. Preregistration is required, no walk ins. Registration will end on Friday, August 12th.

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