

# Tips on Scouting Poinsettia Diseases & Disorders

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[http://ipm.uconn.edu/pa\\_greenhouse/](http://ipm.uconn.edu/pa_greenhouse/)

# Alternaria Leaf Spot



**Look for small spots with tan centers and a chlorotic halo.  
Spots may enlarge to form brown lesions.**

# Bacterial Leaf Spot



**Look for angular, brown, water-soaked lesions.**

# Bacterial Leaf Spot



**Look for angular lesions surrounded by a yellow halo.**

# Latex Eruption



**Yellow spots develop on upper leaf surfaces.**

# Latex Eruption



**Latex eruption on lower leaf surface.**

# Bacterial Soft Rot



***Pectobacterium* sp. (formerly known as *Erwinia*) causes a mushy, soft rot.  
A foul, fish-like odor may be noticed.**

# Scouting for Botrytis Blight

- ***Botrytis* can cause leaf & flower spots & blights**
- **Plants may be attacked at any stage, but the new tender growth, and freshly injured tissues are most susceptible.**
- **Look for leaf blight, and gray fuzzy appearing spores on plant leaves and bracts during humid conditions.**
- **Tan stem cankers may develop.**

# Botrytis Blight



**Look for tan to brown lesion with a gray fuzzy mold developing during humid conditions.**

# Botrytis Blight



**Brown spots on poinsettia bracts caused by *Botrytis*. Red bracts develop a purplish color in affected areas.**

# Botrytis Stem Canker



**Tan stem canker develops, girdling stem, with leaves wilting.  
Sporulation occurs during humid conditions.**

# Powdery Mildew



Use a hands lens to look for the fungal threads to distinguish from powdery-white spray residue.

# Powdery Mildew

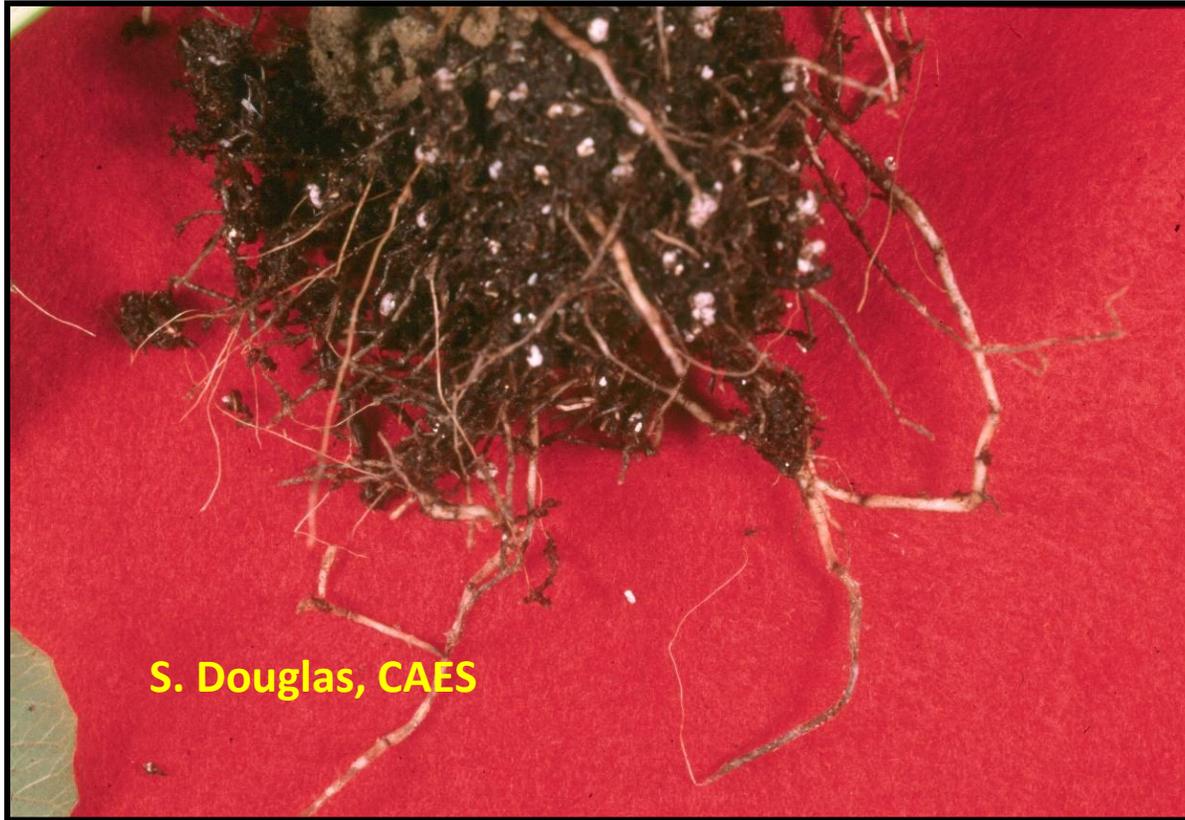


**White powdery colonies on upper leaf surface.**

# Scouting for Crown and Root Rots

- **Leaves turn yellow, and wilt.**
- **Plants may be stunted.**
- **Inspect roots. They may be discolored, and turn brown.**
- **Laboratory analysis is needed to determine the causal agent.**

# Pythium Root Rot



**The outer root easily sloughs off when pulled with finger tips, leaving the inner strand or cortex of the root (rat tail symptom).**

# High Salts



**Excess salts resulted in leaf edge burn. Increases susceptibility to *Pythium* infection.**

# Spray Damage



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**High rates of foliar sprays of chlormequat chloride (Cycocel), a plant growth regulator, can cause yellowing and necrosis of leaf margins.**

# Spray Damage



**Upward leaf cupping due to improper drench application of the insect growth regulator, pyriproxyfen (Distance.)**

# Chlorine bleach injury



**Blackened areas caused by root uptake of chlorine bleach.**

# Spray Residue on Bracts



**Differences in cultivars, culture and environmental conditions may increase or decrease bract sensitivity to pesticides.**