

Tips on Scouting Garden Mums



Leanne Pundt

UConn Extension

www.ipm.uconn.edu

Inspect Incoming Cuttings



Insect and Mite Pests

Scouting for Aphids

- **Look for wingless aphids on the young tender growth.**
- **Green peach aphids, melon and chrysanthemum aphids may occur.**
- **White, cast skins, shiny honeydew, sooty mold and the presence of ants are signs of aphids.**

Green Peach Aphid



Light green aphid with cornicles slightly darker than body with black tips.

Melon Aphids



Light green, dark green to yellow to dark olive
melon aphids found on underside of leaf.

Chrysanthemum Aphids



L. Pundt, UConn

These host specific aphids are only found on chrysanthemum.

Chrysanthemum Aphids



These are shiny, reddish-brown to blackish brown aphids with short, dark cornicles.

Aphid Damage



L. Pundt, UConn

Honeydew leads to the growth of unsightly black, sooty mold fungi.

Asiatic Garden Beetles



Adults hide during the day in cool, moist areas (in the soil) and feed at night.

European Corn Borer



L. Pundt, UConn

Pinkish larvae with a dark brown to black head bores within stems causing wilting.

European Corn Borer



Look for fine sawdust-like castings near their entry hole.

European Corn Borer Damage



Stems wilt and collapse. Garden mums grown near sweet corn may be prone to injury.

European Corn Borer Adults



The yellowish tan moths are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and may move into garden mums from nearby cornfields. Pheromone traps are used to monitor their flight activity in sweet corn. Check UConn Vegetable Pest Messages to help you time pesticide applications.

Caterpillar Damage



Look for fecal droppings as a sign of caterpillar feeding. Salt marsh caterpillars begin feeding on the lower and innermost leaves.

Salt Marsh Caterpillars



Look for fecal droppings and the very hairy caterpillars.

Salt Marsh Caterpillars



Early instars are very hairy and yellowish white.

Salt Marsh Caterpillars



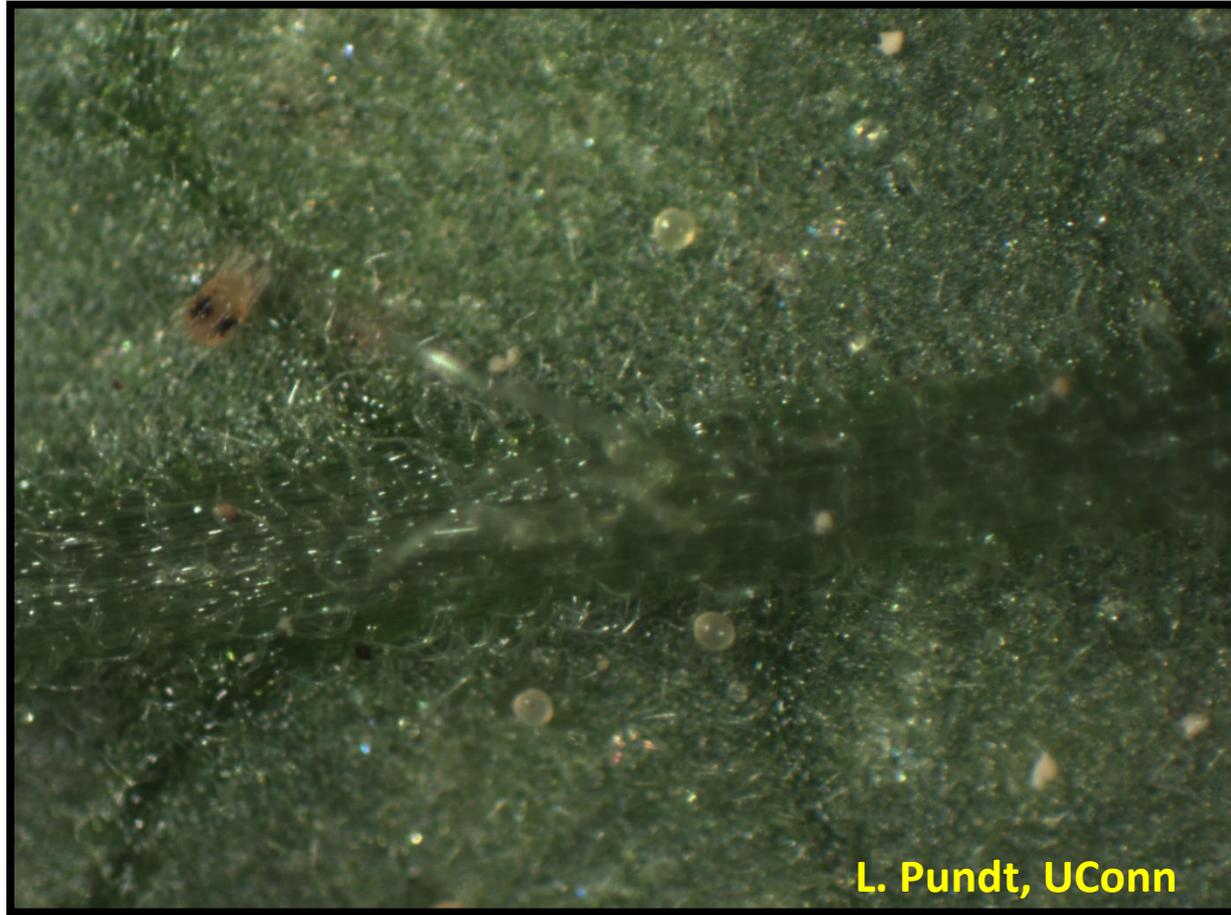
Older instars are hairy and reddish brown in color.

Spider Mites



With high populations, webbing may occur. All life stages may be present. The webbing protects spider mites and helps them move from plant to plant.

Spider Mites



L. Pundt, UConn

Look on underside of leaves along the leaf vein for the spider mites and their round eggs.

Cyclamen Mite Damage



Bronzing, especially on lower leaf surfaces and leaf margins, and stunting may occur.

Blotch Leafminer Damage



Damage may be confused with a leaf spot disease. Leafminers feed between the upper and lower surface of the lowermost leaves.

Thrips



White scarring or etching on the upper leaf surfaces.

Thrips



White scarring, small black fecal spots and the yellow wingless larvae.

Four Lined Plant Bug Damage



L. Pundt, UConn

These distinct spots are caused by four lined plant bugs that inject a toxin when feeding. These spots may be confused with a leaf spot disease.

Four Lined Plant Bug Adults



Four lined plant bug adults have four distinct black lines.

Red headed Flea Beetle



The shiny black adults with a reddish head and enlarged femurs are about 3/16 inch long.

Red Headed Flea Beetle Damage



Adults chew holes and shred the tender, young foliage.

Diseases

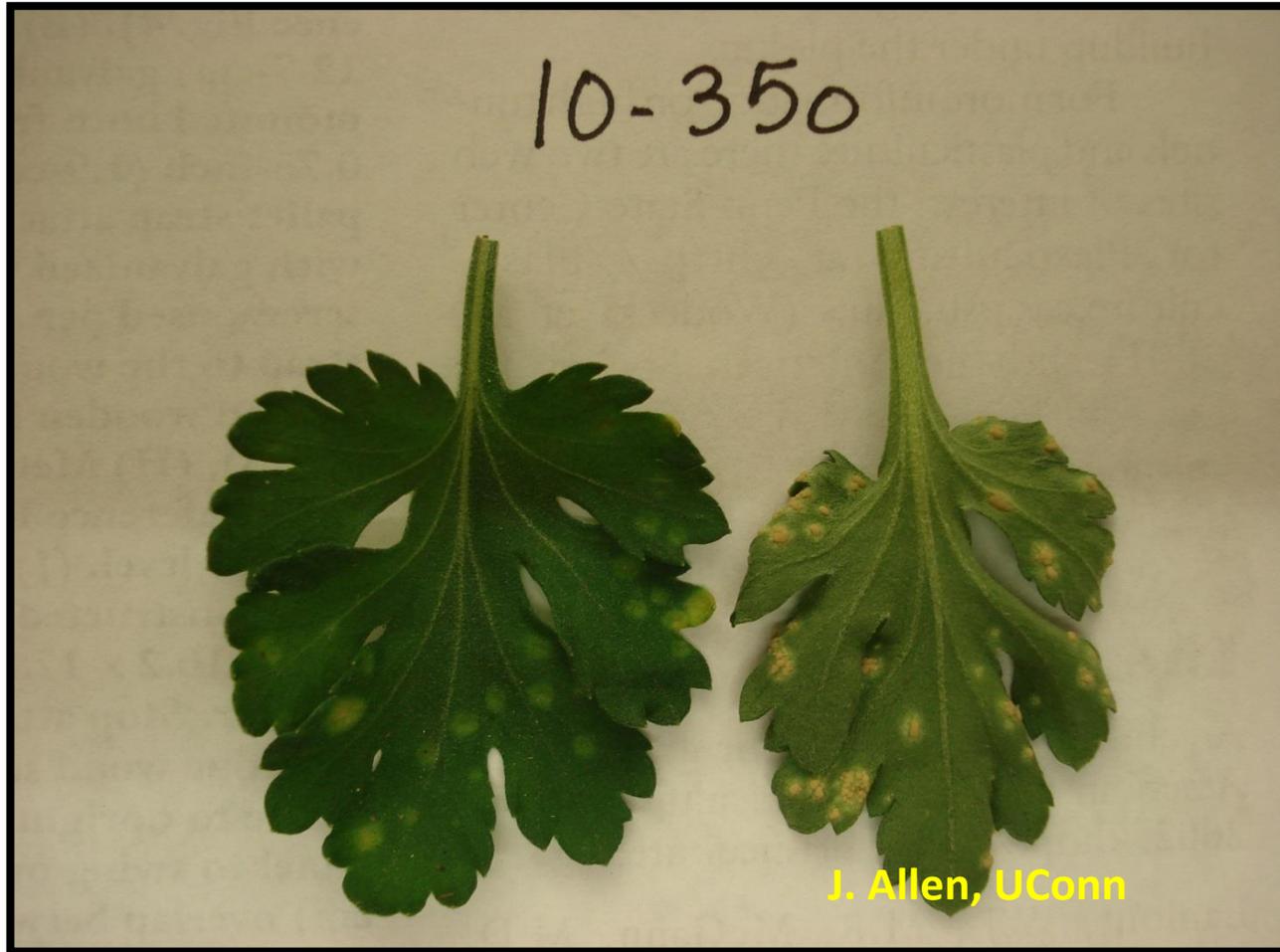
Bacterial Leaf Spot



L. Pundt, UConn

Look for tan to brown leaf spots especially at the base of the plant. Spots may begin at leaf margins.

Chrysanthemum White Rust



Look for yellow spots on the upper leaf surface and eruptions on the lower leaf surface.

Chrysanthemum White Rust



J. Allen, UConn

Pinkish or buff colored pustules develop on the lower leaf surface. Microscopic examination of the teliospores within these pustules is needed to confirm this federally quarantined disease.

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus



L. Pundt, UConn

Brown streaks on stems and leaves develop. New leaves may be stunted with black spots.

Scouting for Crown and Root Rots

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

Pythium Root Rot



Infected plants may be stunted and wilt.

Pythium Root Rot



Stem cankers can develop. Infected roots turn brown and rot.

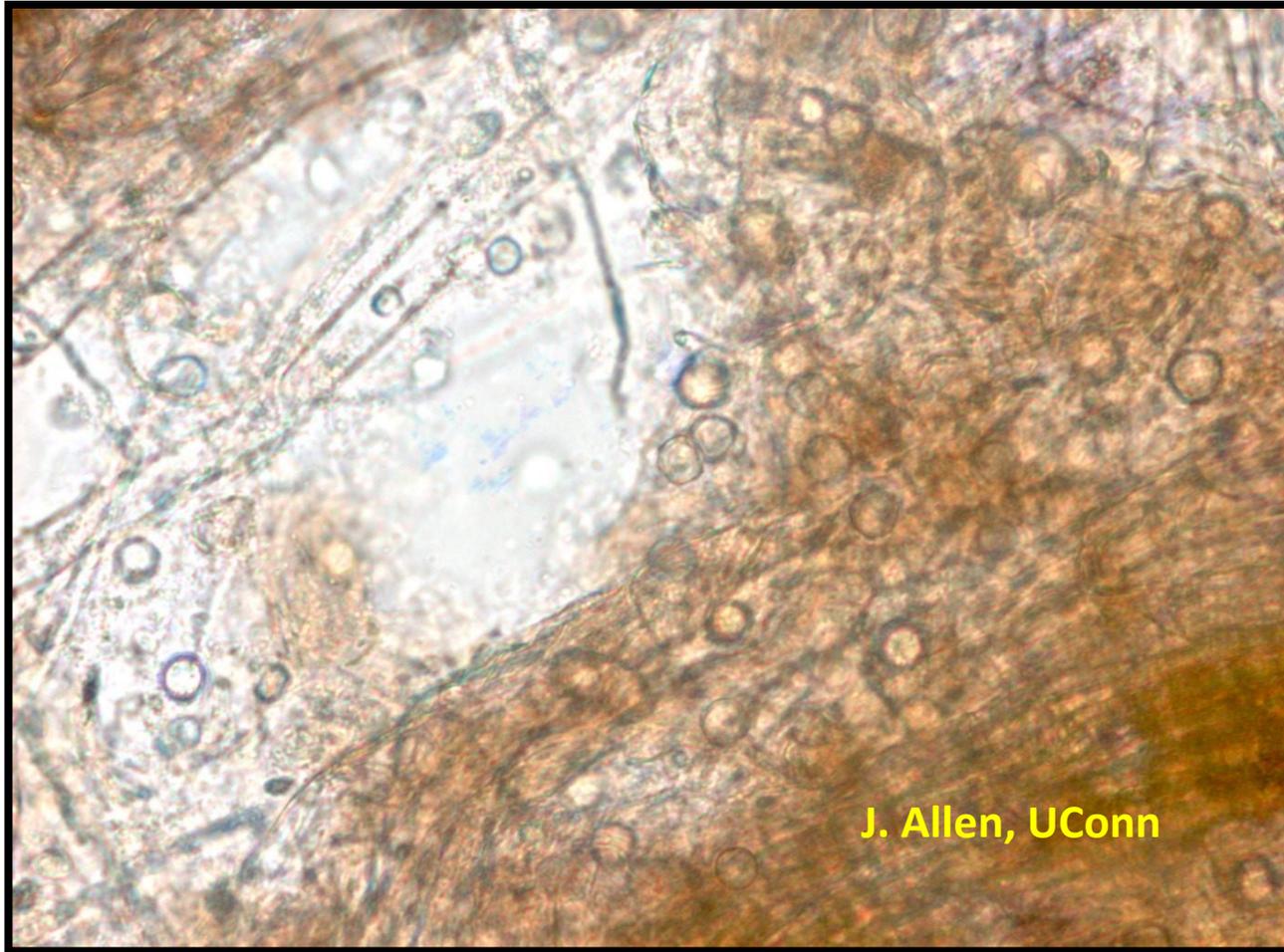
Pythium Root rot



J. Allen, UConn

Stem cankers can develop.

Pythium



Pythium oospores.

Phytophthora Root Rot



Infected plants may wilt due to damaged root systems.

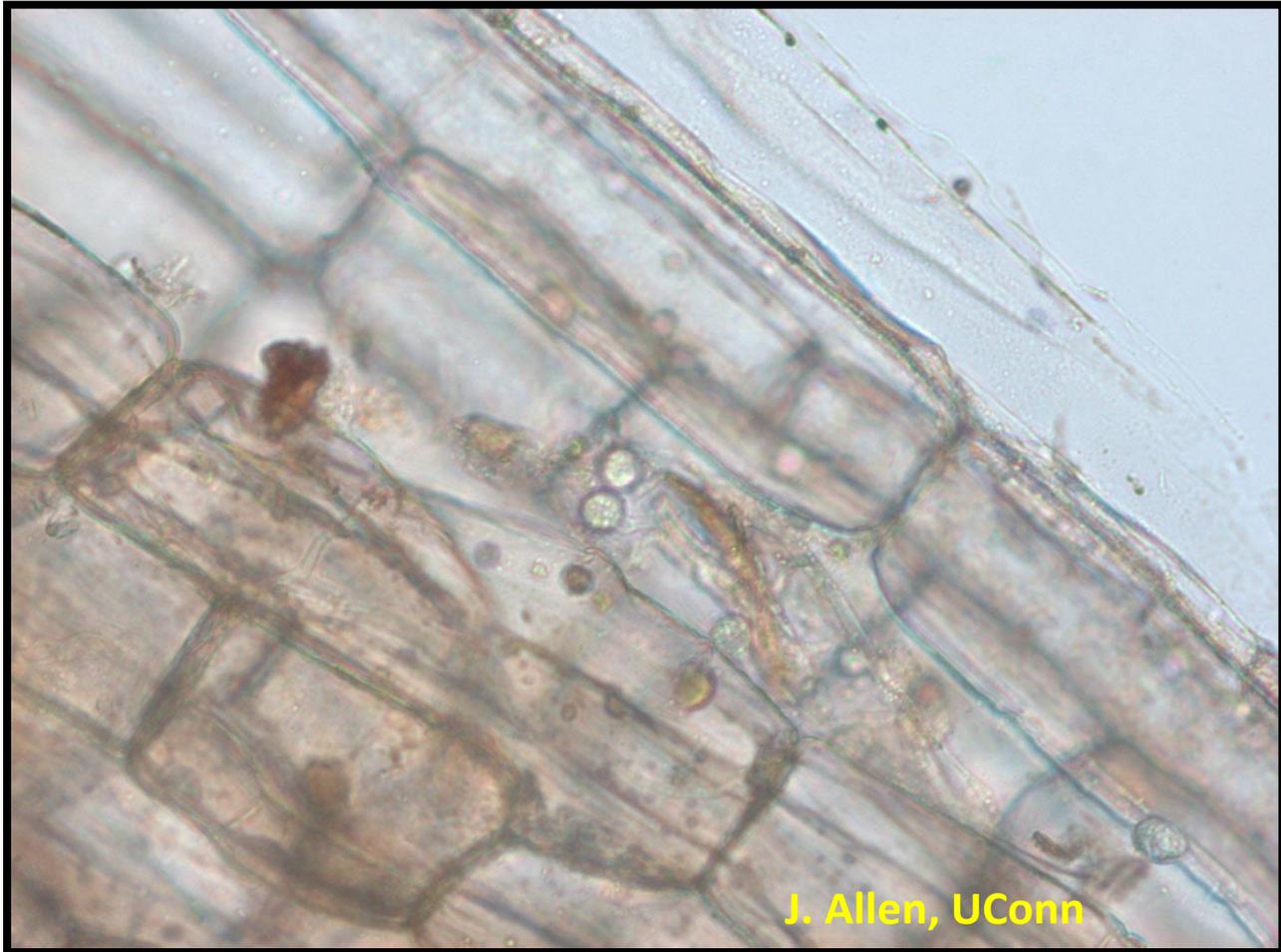
Phytophthora Root Rot



J. Allen, UConn

Tan stem cankers can develop.

Phytophthora Root Rot



Fusarium Wilt



W. Elmer, CAES

Plants may become chlorotic, stunted and wilt. Wilting may occur on one side of the plant. Symptoms may vary according to cultivar as this disease may be introduced via infested cuttings.

Fusarium Wilt



Infected plants show discoloration of the water conducting vessels (xylem) with the stems.

Abiotic Disorders

High Salts



Wilting and leaf edge burn may indicate high salts (EC).

Damaged Roots



Roots damaged by high salts.

Premature budding



L. Pundt, UConn

Early, premature flowering due to cool night temperatures or other stressful growing conditions.

Splitting



L. Pundt, UConn

Excessive top growth can lead to splitting which may be cultivar related.