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INDOOR BLOOMING

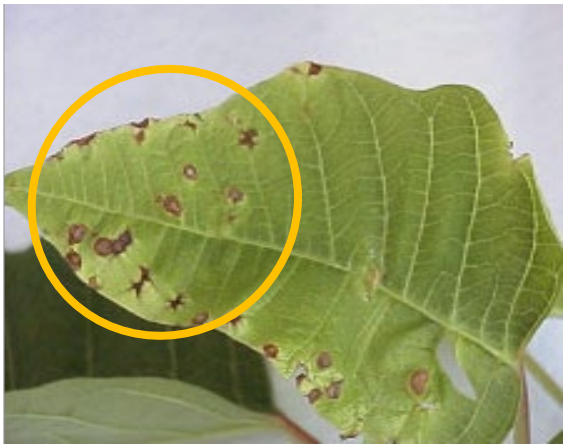
TECHNICAL GUIDE

Managing Poinsettias Scab

Poinsettia scab is caused by the fungus *Sphaceloma poinsettiae*. It is not a common disease on greenhouse grown poinsettias but can occasionally be a concern It is regularly found outdoors in Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and other areas of outdoor production. While the disease is unsightly, with early detection, rogueing, and treatment, it can usually be eliminated quickly.

Symptoms of the disease on stems and leaf petioles include:

- Scab-like or raised lesions with tan centers, often surrounded by white, red, or purple margins.
- Heavily infected branches exhibiting a gibberellin-like effect that may grow twice as long as other branches.



Stem symptoms of scab on poinsettia cuttings including raised lesions and bolting with stretched internodes and increased stem caliper.

Severe scab lesions on the top and underside of the leaf.

On leaves, symptoms include:

- Round to angular spots with purple margins.
- Spots - raised or scab-like on the leaf.
- Tissue near the leaf spot can be bleached out or yellowish in color.
- Leaves with spots are often distorted in growth, with a puckered appearance.

All cultivars are susceptible to the disease to some degree. In general, the dark leaf cultivars tended to be slightly less susceptible to poinsettia scab than the green leaf cultivars.

Hot, wet conditions favor development of this disease. The fungus is spread primarily by splashing water, such as during propagation or with overhead irrigation. This organism is known to infect only poinsettias or other members of the *Euphorbia* family. Infected plants will not necessarily show all the symptoms. Scab does not appear to be highly contagious after the cuttings are moved out of propagation conditions.

Poinsettias may express symptoms during propagation and early crop development that mimic the symptoms of scab. However, these symptoms may be due to other factors, which commonly occur under propagation conditions, such as leaf scarring, Odema, *Alternaria* leaf spot and environmental disorders. As with all diseases, it is important to scout the crops on a regular basis and take the appropriate action. If in doubt, isolate plants and observe them. If you have any questions, please consult our technical advisory staff or your local pathology laboratory.

If this disease is found:

- Rogue plants showing any symptoms. While it is possible to suppress an infection if only minor symptoms are showing, removing infected plants is the first and easiest way to eliminate or reduce spore count. If the GA response of extremely stretched growth is observed, the infection is systemic, and it is not possible to suppress with chemicals. Any plants showing the GA response should be rogued immediately.
- Carefully inspect adjacent plants for early symptoms of the disease and consider rogueing. Place affected plants in plastic bags and remove from the greenhouse.
- Spray the entire crop thoroughly with a fungicide to insure coverage to upper and lower leaf surfaces as well as to stems.
- If symptoms persist, spray again and continue to rogue plants showing new symptoms. Two or 3 fungicide applications at weekly intervals may be required to suppress an active infection.

- Disinfect hands, tools, or other equipment periodically and immediately after handling plants with symptoms of the disease. In greenhouses or zones with active infection, plan work accordingly and enter those houses last in the workday.
- Adopt cultural practices that minimize splashing and leaf wetness.
- If possible, avoid overhead irrigation or syringing of the crop.
- As the disease is favored by warm temperatures and high moisture availability, control temperatures as much as possible, reduce humidity levels, and provide adequate airflow to promote quick leaf drying conditions.
- Continue to scout the crop each week.

Active Ingredient (Suggested Commercial Products)	Rate (per 100gal)	Comments
Azoxystrobin (Heritage®)	1-4oz	
Mancozeb (Protect™)	1-2lb	Additional spreader-sticker can be helpful to improve efficacy.
Mancozeb + Thiophanate methyl (Zyban®)	24oz	Labelled for cut flower production.
Mancozeb + Copper hydroxide (Junction)	2-5lb	Recommended to do test sprays to ensure safety against Phytotoxicity.
Thiophanate methyl + Chlorothalonil (Spectro™)	1-2lb	Multiple options for spray method, review label before mixing
Myclobutanil (Systhane®, Quali-Pro® 20EW)	S: 4fl oz Q: 6-12fl oz	
Copper (Camelot®, Phyton 27)	C: 3 pints P: 20-35fl oz	Broad spectrum uses across multiple greenhouse crops. Phyton is recommended to be used in Propagation.
Trifloxystrobin (Compass®)	1-4oz	Consider higher recommended rate if disease pressure is high.

For Additional Information Please Contact:

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