

Vegetable ~~Matters of~~ Facts

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Carrots

Powdery Mildew in Carrots

- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe heraclei*) has been found on carrot crops in NSW, SA, Tas.
- Symptoms are fluffy white growth on stems and leaves.
- It causes reduced yields and harvesting problems.

Powdery mildew has been found in carrots in the Riverina area of New South Wales as well as Northern Tasmania and South Australia. While the organism causing the disease is commonly found in parsnips, it has not previously been recorded on carrots.

The outbreak has occurred on several carrot varieties and can also be found on parsley and other members of the Apiaceae family.

Leaf stems affected and early senescence



Showing white fluffy growth on leaf.

Symptoms

Powdery Mildew affects leaves, stems and flower heads. The lower or older leaves are infected first.

Symptoms appear as patches of white, fluffy fungus. Foliage becomes brittle, and may eventually turn brown, shrivel, and die. It often covers entire leaves.

Severe infection can result in loss of foliage, making it difficult to harvest the crop and resulting in lower yields.

Control

Powdery mildew can be easily spread, and preventative action can help limit the spread of the disease.

To assist control of the disease, growers should consider:

- monitoring young crops regularly
- limit the movement of machinery and equipment from infected paddocks to non-infected properties or carrot crops.
- Maintain good even crop growth with adequate fertilizer and irrigation programs



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For more information please contact your local VegCheque officer.

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The State of Victoria, Department of Primary Industries, 2003.

Infection will be favoured by conditions of high humidity and moderate temperatures and carrots are more susceptible 7 weeks after planting.

Water stress will increase the disease severity.

Chemical control

Sulphur is currently the only registered fungicide for the control of powdery mildew in carrots.

The label for these sulphur products contains instructions relating to rates and other important information. **This registration is not specific to carrots; it applies to vegetables in general.** Reading and comply with any chemical label will ensure you meet the Australian Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) but export markets may have different requirements and should be assessed individually.

Information on chemical control options can be found through your local reseller, agronomist, consultant, or from

www.apvma.gov.au.

The Victorian chemical use framework allows some off-label use in specific circumstances. More information relating to the risks of using chemicals off label and general information about chemical use requirements can be found at

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards.

Information found in this Matter-of-Facts was provided by Andrew Watson and Tony Napier - New South Wales Department of Primary Industries.

Information about chemical use can be obtained from DPI Chemical Standards branch. To contact your nearest Chemical Standards Officer call 136 186

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