

Barberton Daisies - Powdery Mildew

Powdery mildew is a fungal disease. The fungus thrives in warm, humid environments. The mildew forms spores that spread through wind, insects, and water run-off, which carries the disease to other plants.

How to avoid Powdery Mildew

To prevent powdery mildew from forming in the first place, avoid low-temperature, high-humidity environments.

Do Not Crowd Plants

Good air circulation ensures lower humidity levels, inhibiting the growth of powdery mildew. Crowded plants also provides too much shade for the lower leaves, which encourages fungi growth.

Do Not Grow the Plants in too much Shade

Powdery mildew does not tolerate high temperatures. Direct sunlight helps stem the growth of mildew because the sun's strong rays kill spores before they can spread. Plants that are shaded much of the day will stay cooler, thus encouraging the growth of mildew.

Dispose of Infected Leaves and Stems

Never use infected plant leaves as mulch or compost. Trim off infected leaves and stems and dispose of them properly. Either burn it or put in plastic bag and seal it for disposal. .

Water the Soil, Not the Plants

While water itself will not encourage mildew growth, splashing the leaves with water will spread the spores. Run a hose to the base of your plants instead of using a sprinkler system.

Treatment for Powdery Mildew

Spray all parts of the daisy (above and under the leaves) with a fungicide. Apply every 7 to 10 days until you see results.