

# PLANT DISEASES

## Greenfly

**Plants affected:** Pretty much everything!

**Symptoms:** Infestations of green, pink, cream or brown insects around the softest parts of the plant, usually the tips of shoots and the undersides of young leaves. Greenfly are part of the larger group known as aphids, which also includes blackfly, root aphids and woolly aphids.

**Prevention/Control:** Wipe greenfly off plants with your fingers or spray plants with soft soap or a pesticide containing pirimicarb.

## Whitefly

**Plants affected:** Primarily a greenhouse pest, especially fuchsias and tomatoes. It can also be bad on outdoor brassicas in summer and autumn.

**Symptoms:** Clouds of tiny, white triangular moths erupt from the underside of leaves when moved. Black dirty mould may be seen on the leaves.

**Prevention/Control:** These are resistant to most pesticides so it's best to use organic methods, such as biological control or yellow sticky traps. Plants with yellow flowers, such as French marigolds, can be planted between vulnerable plants to encourage the pests to attack these instead of the vulnerable plants.



## Rust

**Plants affected:** Most rusts are specific to a particular species of plant. Hollyhocks, roses, pelargonium and leeks are popular targets.

**Symptoms:** Reddish brown spots and powdery pustules that look like rust.

**Prevention/Control:** Grow resistant varieties and spread hollyhocks from seed every year. Spray with a suitable fungicide, such as one containing mancozeb or penconazole.

## Blackspot

**Plants affected:** Roses.

**Symptoms:** From mid-summer onwards, irregular rounded black patches appear on rose leaves.

**Prevention/Control:** Chemicals need to be applied following a strict spray programme to be effective. Dig up and burn badly affected varieties and grow naturally disease resistant types. The worst leaves can be picked off by hand and together with leaves that have fallen on the ground should be burned - good hygiene is important.

## Red spider mite

**Plants affected:** Mainly a problem in greenhouses or on pot plants indoors. It commonly affects azaleas and camellias.

**Symptoms:** Pale speckles on the leaves and, if it's a bad infestation, fine webs around the tips of the shoots and on young leaves.

**Prevention/Control:** Very difficult to deal with, even with chemicals. Best avoided by keeping the air humid, by damping down greenhouses or spraying plants with water. Destroy affected leaves and shoots. Houseplants can be placed on damp pea gravel or similar to keep a reservoir of moisture around the base.

## Powdery mildew

**Plants affected:** Indoor and outdoor plants, particularly roses, and plants that are often too dry.

**Symptoms:** A dusting of talcum powder over the upper sides of younger leaves.

**Prevention/Control:** Keep plants well fed and watered. Remove and destroy infected leaves or spray with a suitable fungicide, such as one containing carbendazim or sulphur.

## Grey mould

**Plants affected:** Greenhouse plants.

**Symptoms:** Fluffy grey patches on dead or dying leaves, flowers and fruits, such as strawberries. In damp weather, small, round translucent spots appear on tomatoes.

**Prevention/Control:** Common in winter in humid greenhouses, so ventilate to ensure good air circulation. Remove affected leaves. Spray with a suitable fungicide, such as one containing carbendazim.

[Bbc.co.uk. 2021. BBC - Gardening - How to be a gardener - Problem solving - Common pests.](https://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/htbg/module6/common_pests7.shtml) [online] Available at: <[https://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/htbg/module6/common\\_pests7.shtml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/htbg/module6/common_pests7.shtml)> [Accessed 22 September 2021].



Manitoba extension.wisc.edu. 2021. [online] Available at: <https://manitoba.extension.wisc.edu/files/2010/09/Cardan-Pests-And-> [Accessed 22 September 2021].

# PLANT DISEASES QUESTIONNAIRE

## 1. Choose the correct answer:

1. Plant disease is any abnormal condition that alters the appearance or function of a plant.
2. Visible effects of disease on plants are called:
3. The parasitic organism that causes a disease is a
4. Choose the plant diseases that affect primarily greenhouse plants:  
Blackspot   Whitefly   Red spider mite   Grey mould   Rust
5. Choose the plant diseases that affect roses:  
Greenfly   Powdery mildew   Blackspot   Whitefly   Rust
6. It appears on tomatoes when the weather is damp.  
Greenfly   Powdery mildew   Grey mould
7. When a plant is too dry it can be affected by:  
Greenfly   Powdery mildew   Grey mould
8. What pathogen causes fine webs around the tips of the shoots and on young leaves?  
Powdery mildew   Grey mould   Red spider mite
9. What pathogen is most resistant to pesticides:  
Blackspot   Rust   Whitefly

## 2. Match each disease with the correct symptoms

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| a. Grey mould      | 1. Triangular in shape, they leave honeydew spots on the leaves which finally become black.  |
| b. Rust            | 2. Reddish brown spots and powdery pustules that look like oxidation.  |
| c. Whitefly        | 3. Grey lesions appear on leaves, fruits, stems and flowers, especially in damp atmospheres.   |
| d. Red spider mite | 4. White and yellow dots appear on the leaves which turn completely yellow, fine webs around the tips of the shoots and on young leaves. |

3. Identify the pictures with the control method described.

1	2	3	4
			
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
These are resistant to most pesticides so it's best to use organic methods, such as biological control or yellow sticky traps.	Keep plants well fed and watered. Remove and destroy infected leaves or spray with a suitable fungicide, such as one containing carbendazim or sulphur	Spray with a suitable fungicide, such as one containing mancozeb or penconazole.	Chemicals need to be applied following a strict spray programme to be effective. The worst leaves can be picked off by hand and together with leaves that have fallen on the ground should be burned - good hygiene is important.

4. Match the English symptoms with the equivalent Spanish translation:

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Yellowing leaves         | Polvo de talco blanco         |
| 2. Dusting of talcum powder | Pústulas polvorientas         |
| 3. White triangular moths   | Polillas triangulares blancas |
| 4. Powdery pustules         | Hojas amarillentas            |
| 5. Fluffy grey patches      | Motas pálidas                 |
| 6. Pale speckles            | Manchas grises polvorientas   |
| 7. Black patches            | Manchas negras                |

<sup>1</sup>[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oidio\\_Plantas.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oidio_Plantas.jpg) [Accessed 23 September 2021].

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wikihow.com/Get-Rid-of-the-Whitefly#/Image:Get-Rid-of-the-Whitefly-Step-14-Version-4.jpg> [Accessed 22 September 2021].

<sup>3</sup> Fao.org. 2021. [online] Available at:

<[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/AGRO\\_Noticias/img/7579710588\\_9e3a643b3b\\_z.jpg](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/AGRO_Noticias/img/7579710588_9e3a643b3b_z.jpg)> [Accessed 22 September 2021].

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/htbg/module6/common\\_diseases2.shtml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/htbg/module6/common_diseases2.shtml) [Accessed 22 September 2021].