



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Plant Pest Alert: Daylily Rust (*Puccinia hemerocallidis*)

Daylily Rust Confirmed in Oregon. Daylily rust has recently been confirmed at a nursery in Benton County, on the variety 'Silken Thread'. The infected leaves were harvested and destroyed and the plants were sprayed with a registered fungicide. Follow-up inspections will be conducted by a department Horticulturist and the owner is very cooperative and interested in removing all traces of the rust from their plants. The department has been conducting surveys for this fungus since May of this year at Oregon production nurseries.

The infested material was imported this spring from a nursery in Florida. Although rust spores can travel far on the wind, it is likely that this rust is spreading at very low levels on nursery stock. Daylily rust occurred in several southern states last year, including Florida and has spread to a number of other states this year. The rust is native to Asia, but has been found in propagative materials in central America and the Caribbean region. The rust does not need an alternative host to reproduce. Apparently, *Hemerocallis* and *Partrinia* are the only susceptible hosts.

The survey for daylily rust is continuing this fall. Florida officials report that this fungus is possibly more active in the fall and is predominantly found on the following varieties: Attribution, Pardon Me, Gertrude Condon, Crystal Tide, Stella D' Oro, Joan Senior, Starstuck, Imperial Guard, Col. Scarborough and Double Buttercup.

The best diagnostic symptom is the orange powder [urediospores] coming from small yellow pustules, predominately from the lower sides of actively growing leaves. It can easily be spotted with a hand lens or by rubbing the pustules on a clean dry white tissue. Many varieties will develop leaf spots which may or may not indicate rust. It is the only rust reported on daylily in America.

Daylily Rust



Photo by: Dr. J. Woodward

Control is achieved by destroying and burying infested plants or with the use of registered fungicides. If you use chemicals, be sure to follow the label and rotate between the various formulations to prevent a rapid development of resistance. Chemical recommendations can be made by your local OSU Extension Specialist, or you can visit the daylily web page listed below. If you operate a nursery and find this rust, please contact your ODA Horticulturist (503) 986-4644.

For more information, including a recent history, biology, pictures and control options, please visit the web site: <http://www.ncf.ca/~ah748/rust.html>

Please contact the Plant Division at 1-866-INVADER if you have found daylily rust.

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