

THIS MONTH IN DISEASES

azalea

By A.R. Chase and Margery Daughtrey

	Disease	Pathogen	Stage of crop	Best cultural controls	Best product controls, based mainly on Chase Research trials
	Cylindrocladium cutting rot	<i>Cylindrocladium scoparium</i>	Unrooted cuttings mainly	Use pathogen-free stock plants and discard symptomatic plants when found. Avoid overhead irrigation.	Heritage, Medallion and Terraguard have been the most effective.
	Exobasidium gall	<i>Exobasidium japonicum</i>	At leaf bud break	Keep foliage dry. Pick off galls while still green.	Strike, Protect, Pageant and Spectro
	Foliar nematode	<i>Aphelenchoides</i> spp.	All stages, but most common late in crop or in landscape	Use pathogen-free plants and discard symptomatic plants when found. Minimize leaf wetness periods.	None known to be effective.
	Ovulinia petal blight	<i>Ovulinia</i> sp.	At bloom	Irrigation management; use fans and space for good air movement.	Strike, Protect, Spectro
	Phytophthora stem and root rot	<i>Phytophthora nicotianae</i> (<i>parasitica</i>)	Early and mid-season production	Use pathogen-free cuttings, do not reuse potting media, trays or pots.	Stature or Micora, phosphonates (like Aliette), Adorn, Segway and Fen-Stop
	Powdery mildew	<i>Erysiphe</i> spp.	Rarely found on cuttings in spring or in landscape at end of season	Scout regularly and maintain spacing.	Sterol inhibitors (like Eagle) and strobilurins (like Compass O, Disarm O, Heritage and Insignia)
	Pythium root rot	<i>Pythium irregulare</i>	Usually during finishing	Use well-draining potting media; manage water carefully; use new potting media and pots and pathogen-free liners.	Subdue MAXX (resistance is possible), Terrazole (or Truban or Banrot) and Segway
	Rhizoctonia stem and root rot	<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	All stages of production but mainly during rooting	Use new rooting media and flats	Medallion (or Palladium), thiophanate methyl (like 3336) and strobilurin (like Heritage) sprench

In this issue, we present a summary of diseases that occur in azaleas. Remember: Product controls are based on research trials and do not reflect an endorsement of any sort.

— A.R. Chase is plant pathologist at Chase Agricultural Consulting LLC and can be reached at archase@chaseresearch.net. Margery L. Daughtrey is senior extension associate at Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center and can be reached at mld9@cornell.edu.