



CONTROL OF COMMON DISEASES OF SYRINGA

Root Rot

Lilacs, including the BLOOMERANG® series, are susceptible to phytophthora and rhizoctonia root rot. Symptoms include sudden wilting, stunted or unhealthy-looking foliage, and plant collapse. These diseases proliferate during typical spring weather: cloudy and rainy, with increasing humidity and fluctuating temperatures. Once total plant wilt occurs due to these rapidly-spreading diseases, the plant is not recoverable, so action should be taken as soon as symptoms are observed.

The chance of disease and plant stress increases significantly during periods of temperature fluctuations, so growers should reduce or eliminate these conditions in their growing environment, especially in spring. Avoid large differences between day and night temperatures. If forcing plants early for spring sales, increase temperature steadily over the first weeks of the growing season and maintain a consistent temperature. Standard greenhouse hygiene - providing good air circulation, spacing plants appropriately, and avoiding wetting of foliage - also helps prevent phytophthora and rhizoctonia.

In addition to these cultural protocols, it is highly recommended to treat BLOOMERANG® crops with fungicides in spring as a preventative. Growers in some areas will find it is imperative. A minimum of four treatments is suggested, the first of which should be a tank mix of two fungicides applied as a drench; subsequent applications should be heavy sprays or srenches of single fungicides. Varying chemical modes of action prevents the diseases from developing resistance. Treat every 2-3 weeks once the plants have begun to flush out to ensure a healthy crop.

Recommended applications:

- 1st treatment: Medallion (2 oz/100 gal) + Heritage (2 oz/100 gal) applied as a drench when plants begin to break bud.
- 2nd treatment: Chipco 26019 (2lbs/100gal) applied as a heavy spray.
- 3rd treatment: Insignia (16oz/100gal) applied as a heavy spray.
- 4th treatment: Daconil Ultra (1.25 lbs/100gal) as a heavy spray.

Alternative recommendations:

- 1st treatment: Truban WP (8oz/100 gal) or Truban EC (6oz/100gal) + Cleary's 3336 WP (8oz/100gal), tank mix applied as a drench when plants begin to break bud.
- 2nd treatment: Hurricane (1½oz/100 gal) applied as a drench or Subdue (1oz/100gal) + Medallion (2oz/100 gal) tank mix applied as a drench.
- 3rd treatment: Daconil Ultra (1.25 lbs/100gal) as a heavy spray.
- 4th treatment: Aliette WDG (3 lbs/100gal) as a heavy spray.

Bacterial Leaf Spot

Lilacs, including SCENTARA® *S. hyacinthiflora*, are also susceptible to pseudomonas bacterial leaf spot. Symptoms usually appear on newer leaves and include black leaf margins, water-soaked spots on foliage, and/or leaf curling, cupping, and distortion. Lilacs will only become infected with pseudomonas when there is water on the leaves for an extended period of time (more than a few hours) or there is a late frost after the plants have flushed. This happens when excessive rain, overhead irrigation, dew, or condensation are followed by weather conditions that cause leaves to dry slowly, such as cloud cover and high humidity. It is recommended to treat preventatively if such conditions are expected. If infection occurs, plants can be saved, though it may take a few weeks to grow out of the damage, delaying sale of the product.

The chemical of choice for preventative and curative treatment is Phyton 27 (24oz/100gal) applied as a spray every 7-14 days during wet weather. Other chemicals that may work for pseudomonas, but tend to be less effective are Junction (applied as heavy spray), Camelot or Rhapsody (applied as spray). Follow label instructions for bacterial/pseudomonas control.

Powdery Mildew

Most lilacs are susceptible to powdery mildew, however the BLOOMERANG® series has proven to be quite resistant. Effective fungicides for powdery mildew include Banner Maxx, Clevis, Compass O, Cygnus, Eagle WSP, Heritage, Pageant, Pipron, and Rubigan. Apply as heavy spray at rate recommended for powdery mildew.

Pesticides should only be applied by licensed applicators with proper equipment and protective gear. Follow all label recommendations.