

all infected leaves from the plants as close to the soil as possible (no more than 1/2 inch of tissue is to be left), and all of this material is to be burned or buried. Because this rust spreads quickly, assume that all plants within the same area are infected whether rust pustules are seen or not.

A fungicide spray program should begin immediately following foliage removal and as new leaves emerge. There are many fungicides labeled to control rust diseases. Many, including triadimefon (Strike, Bayleton), propiconazole (Banner Maxx), and

myclobutanil (Systhane) are sterol inhibitors with the same mode of action. It is a good practice to rotate fungicides with different modes of action to reduce the development of fungicide resistance. A rotation of a sterol inhibitor with azoxystrobin (Heritage), trifloxystrobin (Compass) and/or flutolanil (Contrast) can help reduce daylily rust. Quick action in controlling daylily rust could prevent the disease from spreading across the country and being a continual problem for daylily growers and gardeners.

2001: WATER IN THE WEST

by Karen Panter, University of Wyoming

After a summer like last year, when lack of precipitation created one of the driest seasons on record here in Wyoming and the West, managing water in a production operation should certainly be on every grower's mind no matter your location. If weather patterns are indeed changing we ought to be preparing for conserving and reusing our most precious resource here: water.

To that end, the University of Wyoming is trying to set an example. Last fall we completed installation of ebb-and-flood benches in the horticulture research greenhouse. Not only did we increase

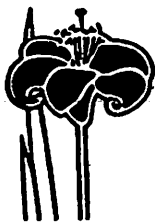
available growing space by 56%, but we now have the capability of recirculating the water to boot.

How did we do this? The ebb-and-flood benches are also rolling benches. By using rolling bench technology, we eliminated all but about 1-1/2 aisles. (The way the greenhouse is configured, we couldn't get it down to only one aisle.) There are four benches, two of which are filled from an 80-gallon stock tank that can be easily drained and refilled at any time. Each bench has its own pump. The other two benches are smaller and only require 40-gallon stock tanks. Currently we use plain, domestic water for crops grown on the benches. As the plants grow and develop we can either fill the stock tank with a fertilizer solution or keep it plain water and use a slow release fertilizer applied around each plant. We prefer the latter.

Currently the pumps are on timers set to fill the benches twice a day, early morning and mid-afternoon. There is a crop of *Dianthus* 'Telstar Scarlet' and some *Artemisia frigida/Castilleja linariifolia* (fringed sage with Indian paintbrush) plants on one bench right now, all in 4" square pots. We can reset the timers for any configuration we'd like. This is an important aspect of growing on these benches, because watering schedules can be changed according to weather patterns, seasonal changes, and the growth and development of the crop.

As 2001 has unfolded, we are already seeing more warm, dry weather and low precipitation levels in the already-arid West. But at least a few of us are prepared for possible water shortages. Are you?

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