

BUD ROT ON HYDRANGEAS

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During the dark treatment, hydrangea leaves commonly are attacked by *Botrytis*. Spores are produced in tremendous numbers. The cool, damp conditions which usually prevail are exceptionally favorable for *Botrytis* and very commonly the dormant buds may be attacked and destroyed.

No specific studies on control of hydrangea bud rot have been reported. The following suggestions are based on knowledge of the fungus and on control of *Botrytis* on other plants.

Much trouble can be avoided by sanitation and adequate ventilation of the storage room. In many cases serious bud rot can be traced solely to crowded conditions and to moist, stagnant air. Correction of such conditions may be all that is needed.

If bud rot has been experienced repeatedly in spite of all attempts to improve ventilation, a pre-storage spray treatment is suggested in a trial way. Any one of the following, at 2 lbs/100 gal. (1 oz./3 gal.), sprayed so as to cover both surfaces of all leaves just before the plants are placed in storage, may control bud rot:

Captan - Stauffer Captan 50W or Orthocide

Zineb - Dithane Z78, Parzate, etc.

Ferbam - Fermate, Nu-Leaf Black, etc.

We suggest dividing a large lot of hydrangeas into four groups of equal size, spraying one group with each of the above and leaving one group unsprayed as a check. Reports on any such tests would be appreciated.

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