

**Krause, W. 1975. Disease risks are increased when fuel savings lead to excessive humidity. *The Grower*. 82 (4):1117.**

There is no doubt that any attempt to economize on fuel is likely to increase losses from disease. The bill for fungicides will probably increase. Fungi such as *Pythium* and *Botrytis*, petal blight of mums, downy and powdery mildews are all likely to present additional problems if humidity is allowed to rise. Susceptibility of plants to leaf diseases is greatly enhanced by any imbalance in nutrient status. If, in an effort to save fuel, an inadequate soil steaming job is done, diseases may spread very rapidly.

This article is a warning to growers that reducing thermostats to save fuel may be sudden disaster for those who are not aware of hidden problems that may arise.