

## DISEASE CONTROL IN EASTER LILIES

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Root and bulb rots are the main disease problems encountered in producing a crop of Easter lilies. One reason for this is that lilies are vegetatively propagated and can carry the diseases on the bulbs.

The fungi associated with root and bulb rot are Fusarium, Rhizoctonia and Pythium sp.

The common symptoms of root rot are a browning and rotting of the root system. As this occurs the plant may show wilting and stunting, yellowing of the basal leaves, leaf scorch, blasted buds or reduced bud count.

Sanitation, of course, is the first method of control. Potting soil, tools and benches should be steam pasteurized before planting. Because a mixture of diseases cause the problem, a mixture of fungicides is needed to control them. The following fungicides are suggested for disease control.

For Pythium: Dexon 35% WP, 8 oz./100 gals.  
Truban 30% WP, 4-10 oz./100 gals.

For Fusarium and Rhizoctonia:  
Benomyl 50% WP, 4 oz./100 gals.  
Terraclor 75% WP, 4 oz./100 gals.

The fungicides should be applied as a drench in the second watering after planting. This is to provide an opportunity for the soil to settle so that the fungicides will be distributed more uniformly through the soil.

A combination of Dexon-Benomyl at the above rates may be repeated at 30-day intervals.

For the grower that only produces a few lilies, perhaps a bulb dip should be considered.

Soak the bulbs for 30 minutes in:

Benomyl 50 WP, 4 oz./100 gals.

or for 15 minutes in:

Terraclor 75 WP, 2 lbs./100 gals.

and

Fermate 76 WP, 2 lbs./100 gals.