

Temik Granules on Leaves – Get Rid of Them

Every year we seem to run into situations involving Temik granules remaining on the foliage of potted plants in retail shops or chain stores. I would like to remind everyone that the Temik label specifically states that no granules should remain on foliage after application; there is a 4-week interval between the last application and sale of the plant. We have seen plants in various retail outlets that violated both label provisions.

Many growers must feel they are improving insect control by allowing granules to remain on leaves for long periods. A recent study comparing three application methods indicated that residues in leaves peaked a short time after application when granules were placed on wet foliage. This was most evident on younger plants. Therefore, in addition to not being legal, it is possible that granules remaining on foliage contribute very little to insect control only a short time after application.

Also, please observe the 4-week interval between the last Temik application and sale of potted (not cut flower) plants. There may or may not be any hazard associated with treatment 1-, 2-, or 3-weeks prior to sale, but it's not

a good idea (in addition to not being legal!) to cheat on the interval. Older plants apparently do not take up as much Temik as younger ones. So, the late applications may not be doing much to control insects anyway, and certainly do not help our efforts to expand the Temik label to include additional plants. Widespread abuses of the label may result in removal of Temik from the market. This would create a bad situation, since there is a general slowdown in registration of new materials and impending restrictions on those we already have. Growers would be wise to treat both Temik and the law with the respect they deserve.

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GERANIUM RUST

Geranium rust can easily become a very serious, widespread disease. This is one disease that no grower will want to introduce into his greenhouse. If you do not have the problem, you should plan to *exclude* the disease from your greenhouse. *All* incoming plants should be examined carefully and the entire shipment rejected if the true rust is found. If a single plant in a shipment is definitely infected, the chances are great that other plants have infections that are not yet visible.

If the disease is established in a greenhouse, the diseased plants should be destroyed and the remainder spaced and sprayed at weekly intervals with Polyram, zineb and maneb. The fungicide with sufficient wetting agent to insure complete wetting should be applied thoroughly to both lower and upper leaf surfaces and to stems. If rust pustules continue to be found, the grower should begin planning drastic action to ensure eradication before the next year's crop. Here are some suggested steps for eradication from an infected greenhouse:

1. Remove *all* geranium plants from premises and bury, or discard in a dump at least a half mile away. Clean up all geranium debris in beds, benches, walks, under benches, etc., then steam sterilize soil in all beds and benches.

2. Do not grow geraniums for a minimum period of 3 months; better yet wait 6 months.

3. Obtain cultured cuttings for stock plants from a known reliable source; grow with automatic watering such as Chapin system so that foliage is kept dry.

4. Regulate temperature and humidity with heat and ventilation to prevent moisture condensation (on temperature fall).

5. Spray stock plants at weekly intervals with Polyram, zineb, or maneb.

6. Water cuttings with a "dew hose" or some system that keeps the foliage dry.

7. Avoid overhead watering of rooted 2¼" or 4" plants.

8. Continue fungicidal spray program to sale.

Your Cooperative Extension Agent can aid you in determining if you have geranium rust. If any doubt exists, he can forward specimens to our lab for determination.

Margery Daughtrey, L.J. Horticulture News

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