

White rust of chrysanthemum

February, 2006

Chrysanthemum white rust is regulated by federal quarantine and Kansas plant health regulation. It is caused by the fungus, *Puccinia horiana* and produces white pustules on the underside of leaves. The disease is established in many of the world including Europe and Central and South America. Although the disease has been found several times in the United States and Canada, it has always been eradicated with sanitary measures and fungicide treatment.

The disease attacks twelve species of chrysanthemum including pot mums, spray mums, and garden mums (*Chrysanthemum morifolium*), Nippon daisy and High daisy. Annual chrysanthemum is resistant to the disease as are some other chrysanthemum and daisy species.

The disease moves from one location to another by the transportation of infected plants. The fungus does not move well from wind or other natural means. Cool wet environments favor the disease and hot dry environments delay or halt symptom expression.

In Kansas, the disease has not been reported and has been under surveillance since 1994. Growers should be especially vigilant of plants which they receive from northeast and northwest areas of the United States where the disease has been observed historically. If you suspect the disease, please contact your local county extension agent or contact the Kansas Department of Agriculture at (785) 862-2180.