**Segment for Week of 9 August 2021**

**Powdery Mildew**

This is Julie Callahan bringing you information on shore friendly living and gardening from the Master Gardeners and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Have you noticed a "powdery" white substance growing on your plants? It's (probably) powdery mildew, an extremely common disease that affects many ornamental plants and garden crops!

The fungi that cause powdery mildew all belong to the family, Erysiphaceae. Some powdery mildew fungi attack several different host plants, but most attack only a single host or, at most, only a few species. Most powdery mildew fungi produce a conspicuous white to grayish growth of fungal mycelium on the surface of the diseased plant part.

The prolific growth and sporulation of the fungus on the surface of leaves and other plant parts give the affected tissue a talcum powder-like appearance, hence the name “powdery mildew." The new growth of infected plants may be completely covered with powdery mildew. As a result, new growth may be dwarfed, and the leaves, stems and young shoots may be curled. In addition, shoot tips may be killed and buds may fail to open. Powdery mildew can also be severe on older leaves or plant parts. Leaves that are heavily infected with powdery mildew may become chlorotic and senesce early.

Powdery mildew fungi attack a variety of ornamental plants grown in Virginia. Photinia, crape myrtle, dogwood, lilac, Japanese euonymus, wintercreeper euonymus, and many crabapple cultivars are highly susceptible and can be seriously damaged by powdery mildew infection. Many herbaceous ornamental plants are also susceptible to powdery mildew.

Learn more about powdery mildew and what you can do to control it by callingyour local Accomack or Northampton County Extension Office. Here on the Shore call either 678-7946 or 787-1361

Powdery mildew on pumpkins: [https://resources.ext.vt.edu/contentdetail?contentid=1861](https://resources.ext.vt.edu/contentdetail?contentid=1861&fbclid=IwAR0HIDQNNTflFzS-q-M5PA62j8iOl67rWQuR0e5KL49WN-rUSDAHSgmGPn8)
On Cucurbits: [https://extension.umn.edu/diseases/powdery-mildew-cucurbits](https://extension.umn.edu/diseases/powdery-mildew-cucurbits?fbclid=IwAR24sQUt0MoeIIP3Hv-JHMJ9p9o-WTmONeJ78o9-qyjkYHw9sCZxJcFJeLo)