



Powdery mildew of field peas: Symptoms, disease impacts, risk factors, and management

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Identification of powdery mildew

Initial symptom expression: **Small patches of white powdery growth on upper surfaces of oldest leaves**



FIELD PEAS

Identification of powdery mildew

Early to mid-symptom expression: White powdery layer above green tissue

Late symptom expression: Patchy gray discoloration, underlying plant tissue.

Plants develop a bluish color.



Powdery Mildew - IMPORTANCE

Impacts of powdery mildew:

- **Reduced yield**
- **Significantly reduced seed size**
- **Severe “mildew dust” at harvest, resulting in breathing and allergy problems for machinery operators**

FIELD PEAS

Conditions favoring disease

Warm, dry weather accompanied by cool nights with dew formation

Dry weather favors this disease.

- Spores germinate in absence of leaf wetness
- Rainfall reduces spore viability



Management of powdery mildew

Resistant varieties confer immunity. Many varieties are susceptible.

Early planting: Late planting increases powdery mildew risk.

Fungicides:

- **Registered fungicides differ widely in efficacy**
- **Must be applied preventatively** before disease development at an appropriate growth stage. New field pea growth will not be protected.
- **A single fungicide application can provide season-long management of powdery mildew** when the most effective products are applied preventatively at the correct growth stage.
- Please reference the accompanying PDF and explanatory video summarizing fungicide efficacy and application timing research for current fungicide recommendations.



Thank you!

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