



# POWDERY MILDEW OF LILAC, PHLOX AND OTHER ORNAMENTALS

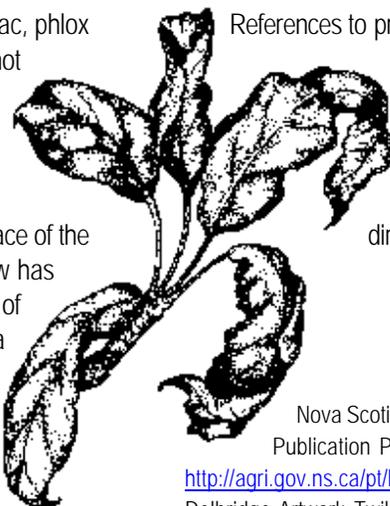
Powdery mildew is a very common disease of lilac, phlox and other ornamentals. Although the disease is not particularly harmful, it does present an unsightly appearance on the foliage especially late in the season.

The white to grayish powdery coating on the surface of the leaves and stems is a sign that powdery mildew has become established. This coating consists of superficial, interwoven threads or hyphae of a specialized fungus and its spores. The fungus feeds only on the plant's surface cells and injures the plant very slowly. For this reason, the coating is usually visible before the symptoms of injury are visible. Typical symptoms consist of stunting, the distortion of leaves and buds, a general decline in plant growth, yellowing of leaves and premature leaf fall.

The fungus survives winter either in dormant buds or on infected stems and old leaves. In the spring, water or air currents carry the fungal spores to other plant surfaces where they germinate, produce extensive growth and start another disease cycle.

## CONTROL

Rake up and destroy infected leaves in the fall. Space plants correctly to avoid overcrowding and excess shade. Fertilize plants based on a soil test, and avoid excessive watering. Fungicides active against powdery mildew include benomyl, thiophanate-methyl, sulphur, lime sulphur, folpet and triforine.



References to products in this publication are for your convenience, and are not an endorsement of one product over other similar products. Use materials according to the manufacturer's current label directions.

Nova Scotia department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
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**Always use a registered domestic class pest control product labeled for powdery mildew control on ornamental plants and carefully follow the label directions.**