



## Powdery Mildew

### **Description**

There are many diseases that fall under the general description of powdery mildew, but they are all a species of fungi. Host plants are of all types - vegetables, fruit trees, grapes, roses, ornamental trees and shrubs. The fungus is composed of *mycellium* and spores (*conidia*) which are wind-blown to other plants or other parts of the same plant. Powdery mildew is host specific, meaning that the mildew on a rose, for instance, will not spread to another species. It is also a type of fungi that can only grow on living plant tissue.

### **Symptoms**

The white powdery growth consists of the fungal *mycellium* and reproductive spores. It can cause mild to severe damage to plants. Young plants and those with actively growing shoots are more severely damaged than older plants. Infected leaves may be dwarfed, curled, or deformed. And some plants may drop their leaves without development of the obvious white powdery substance.

Conditions under which powdery mildew thrive are moderate to high humidity, lack of air circulation, and low light. And, unlike many pathogens, this mildew fungi infect their hosts in the absence of free water.

Photos courtesy of Larry Costello PhD - University of California

### **Wellness Approach**

Species affected:

Rose, Sycamore, Tulip and some Oak species

To control powdery mildew, Arborwell technicians implement timely applications of the necessary products during the spring to protect new emerging leaves. Early detection is critical to a successful eradication program.

### **Contact Us**

To speak with an Arborwell Wellness Specialist, please call 888-969-8733. Our team of certified arborists are ready to help with all your arboricultural needs.

Pruning & Removals are not part of the Wellness programs