

OSU EXTENSION NEWS

Assessing the too much rain reality

Too Much Rain?

I never thought I'd be complaining about too much rain, especially after drought conditions the past few years. But the rain this spring is getting to be too much of a good thing for gardeners. Since we can no longer seem to predict what nature has in store for us, let's take a look at some simple things we can do to protect our gardens and plants.

With heavy rainfall our flower and vegetable gardens start to become a breeding ground for fungus and foliar diseases. Foliage diseases flourish in damp conditions. About 85 percent of them are caused by fungi, which produce reproductive spores that allow the fungus to disperse and reproduce. They can then be carried for miles on the wind.

A good fungus and disease prevention program begins with selecting resistant plant varieties and planting in locations with well drained soils. Air flow is another factor to consider; the better the air can circulate through the plants the less prone they are to fungus and foliar problems. A good fungicide spray program should also be considered. There are several organic and



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non-organic fungicide sprays on the market. Begin spraying plants early in the growing season as a preventive measure. As wet rainy weather continues or signs of fungus and diseases are seen, spraying needs to continue every 7-14 days.

Some good plant fungicides that can be found locally include: Bayer Advanced Garden Disease Control, Spectracide Immunox Multi-purpose Fungicide, Ortho Garden Disease Control and Advanced All-In-One Rose & Flower Concentrate. Be sure and read labels and consider all information before using any sprays.

Some lessons never change. Just as during drought we had to learn the hard way that some plants simply won't thrive in too dry a situation, now we may have to learn about those that cannot survive with too much rain. Either way- It is just nature.