



**MICHIGAN FLORICULTURE
GROWERS COUNCIL**

MFGC Member Alert

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CHRYSANTHEMUM WHITE RUST FOUND IN MICHIGAN

Chrysanthemum White Rust (CWR) has been discovered at a smaller growing operation near Grand Blanc. The USDA has positively identified the disease in and believes that there are approximately 400 affected plants in the greenhouse. MFGC continues to oppose the practice of destroying plants at growers' expense. A Pennsylvania source of the diseased plants has been identified; it is being investigated and its cuttings tracked, with the hope of locating any additional plants that need to be destroyed.

USDA and MDA officials will meet with the grower Monday, August 11 regarding this matter and the anticipated plant destruction. This regulatory action is under the auspices of USDA-APHIS Michigan Plant Health Director Craig Kellogg, working with Mike Bryan, Nursery Program Manager of the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division of MDA. Mike is available for questions and further information: 517-241-2977 - bryanm@michigan.gov

Mike reports:

“We received a confirmed identification of *Puccinia horiana*, causal agent of Chrysanthemum White Rust, in chrysanthemum samples from a nursery in Genesee Co. Michigan. There is a national protocol which has been developed to provide guidance for such instances. The MDA/USDA response is being conducted in accordance with this protocol which can be found at the following web site: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/cwr/downloads/cwrplan.pdf

“The document provides some good background information on this pathogen and in Appendix I lists management practices. Additional information will be forthcoming on this detection and the response actions.”

More...

Because Chrysanthemum White Rust is considered a quarantine-significant pest by both the U.S. and Canada, it's important that growers take preventive steps. Exclusion and prevention are the first lines of defense. CWR has never been traced back to reputable cutting producers, so buy cuttings from reputable commercial sources only. Keep any imported flowers out of mum-growing greenhouses. Maintain strict separation from production facilities; don't let workers move between the two areas. Scout crops often. Maintain low humidity, dry foliage and clean growing practices. Early detection and eradication are the second lines of defense. If you see CWR, you must inform your USDA, state, or county officials, to supervise eradication and treatment.

Fortunately, this disease does not spread easily. Unless you bring in infected plants, you are unlikely to "catch" the disease from a neighboring greenhouse.

Sign Up for Chrysanthemum White Rust Webinar

SAF and ANLA have designed a free, 30-minute CWR "webinar" (seminar conducted entirely online, from your computer.) It has excellent photos of CWR symptoms, and important advice on how to avoid it. The webinar is available on www.safnow.org on the top right corner under Grower Alert, and on ANLA's website, www.anla.org.

The webinar about chrysanthemum white rust is scheduled for Aug. 12. The session will be presented by Yoder Bros. diagnostics and audits manager Jane Trolinger, who will give advice on how to avoid CWR. The webinars are sponsored by SAF, ANLA, Ball Hort. Co., GroLink and Yoder Bros. CWR is considered a quarantine-significant pest by both the U.S. and Canada.

MFGC is being kept fully informed about this Michigan infestation by MDA. Our Grower Council is being recognized as the voice for Michigan floriculture growers.

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