

## 2026 Spring into Gardening

### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases

Brian D. Hudelson

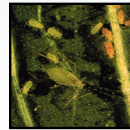
Department of Plant Pathology

University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension



### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Definition

- Anything that you can do to reduce the impact of disease
- Integrated with other types of management



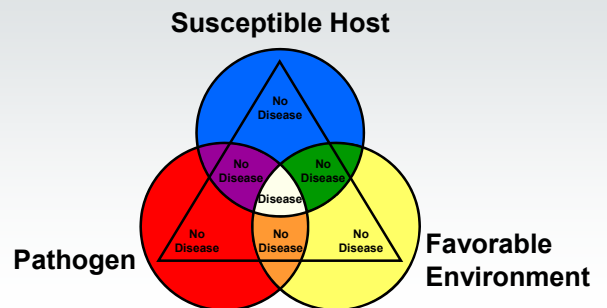
### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Diagnosis

- First step in successful management
- Recognition that something is wrong



- Detective work to figure out what happened and why something happened

### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases The Disease Triangle

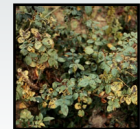


### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases R-E-P-E-A-T

- Resistance
- Exclusion
- Protection
- Eradication
- Avoidance
- Therapy

### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Resistance

- Using a plant's natural ability to fend off disease



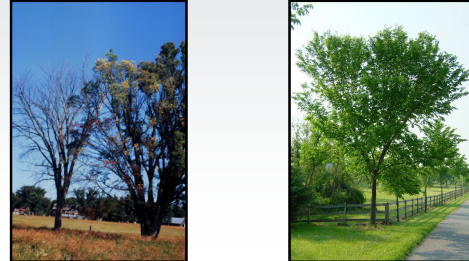
## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Resistance

- Resistance is NOT universal!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Resistance

- Resistance is NOT immunity!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Resistance

- Resistance can depend on plant "age" and plant part!



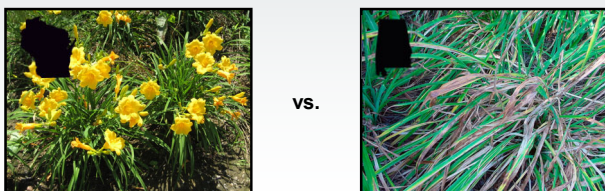
## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Resistance

- Resistance effectiveness can depend on the weather!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Resistance

- Resistance may not be equally effective in all locations!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Resistance

- Resistance is sometimes NOT forever!



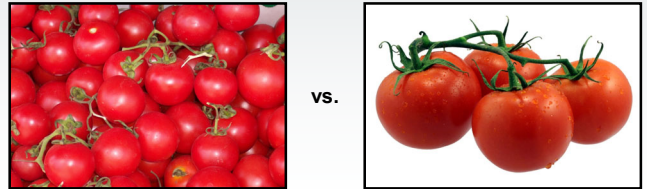
## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Resistance

- Resistance is not everything you may need in a plant!



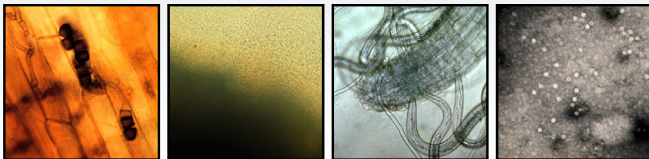
## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Resistance

- Resistance is not always good!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Exclusion

- Preventing introduction of pathogens into you garden



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Exclusion

- Buy healthy plants!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Exclusion

- Buy healthy seeds!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Exclusion

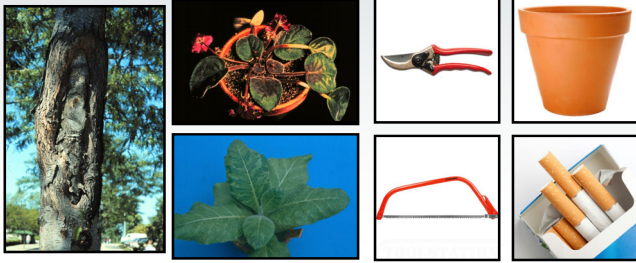
- Limit soil movement!





## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Exclusion

- Limit other pathogen introductions!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Exclusion

- Decontaminate, decontaminate, decontaminate!



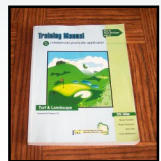
## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Protection

- Applying materials to prevent infections by pathogens from occurring



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Protection

- Use as a last resort!
- Read pesticide labels!
- Use proper rates!
- Apply at the right times!
- Wear appropriate clothing!
- Alternate active ingredients!
- Get training!



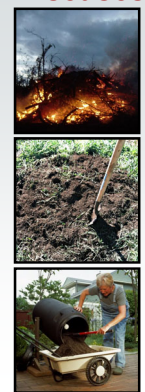
## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Eradication

- Getting rid of pathogens once they have arrived in your garden



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Eradication

- Do good fall clean-up!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Eradication

- Prune diseased branches!



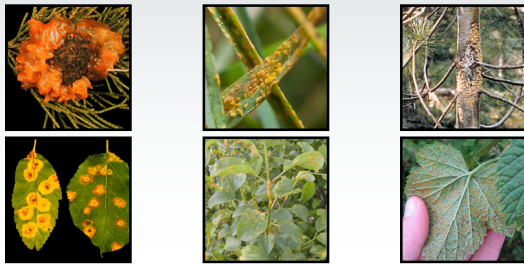
## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Eradication

- Remove entire plants!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Eradication

- Control alternate hosts!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Eradication

- Control weeds!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Eradication

- Rotate, rotate, rotate!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Eradication

- Decontaminate, decontaminate, decontaminate!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Avoidance

- Manipulating how you grow your plants to prevent conditions favorable for disease



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Avoidance

- DO NOT plant susceptible plants where a known disease exists!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Avoidance

- DO NOT plant too early or too deeply!



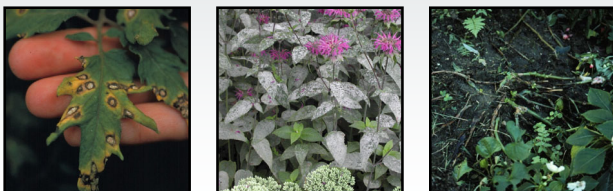
## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Avoidance

- DO NOT plant too densely!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Avoidance

- DO NOT water too much!



## Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Avoidance

- DO NOT use sprinklers to water!





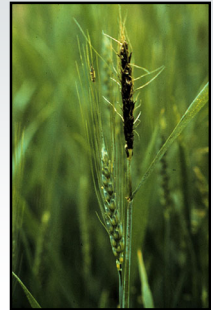
### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Avoidance

- DO NOT water, heat or nutrient stress plants!



### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Therapy

- Eliminating pathogens from infected plants



### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Putting It All Together

- Figure out what diseases you have
- Figure out what management techniques work
- Integrate your disease management with other management needs
- DO NOT expect perfection
- Enjoy your garden (including the diseases)

### Dealing with Common Garden Diseases Where to Go for Help

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic  
Department of Plant Pathology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1630 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706-1598  
(608) 262-2863  
[pddc@wisc.edu](mailto:pddc@wisc.edu)  
<https://pddc.wisc.edu>

Follow on Facebook, Twitter, Bluesky: @UWPDDC  
Subscribe to the PDDC Listserv: UWPDDCLearn