



Plant Pest Alert: Daylily Rust

The Oregon Department of Agriculture recently discovered Daylily Rust growing on plants in Benton County. The plant leaves were destroyed and the plants have been sprayed with a registered fungicide. The infested material was imported on nursery stock from Florida this spring. This rust is very destructive to daylilies and can be spread by the wind as well as on plant material. The fungus forms a bright orange pustule and spore mass predominantly on the lower side of green leaves. The rust looks a lot like the orange rust that grows on some rose leaves in this area. The spores have not survived the winter in cold climates where plants are killed back to the ground. However in Oregon if we have an average to mild winter these spores will survive and spread next summer. The OSU extension plant pathologist at Corvallis is recommending that homeowners and landscapers cut all their daylilies to the ground late this fall and bury or burn the tops to prevent this rust from over wintering in your gardens. If next spring you find spores on your plants spray them with either Bayleton or Heritage. If your plants are healthy you still may want to give them a preventative spray next spring with Daconil Ultrex or Fore. If you find this rust please contact the ODA at 866-468-2337.

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