Leaf Distortions on Poinsettias, Downy Mildews, Leaf Spots, Protecting Bees
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Leaf Distortions on Poinsettia
Poinsettia leaf distortions often occur on young or immature leaves and maybe caused by many factors. Physical damage that occurs during pinching, ruptured cells and latex residue can cause the expanding leaf to become distorted. Environmental stresses, overhead fertilization with phosphorus fertilizers during propagation or abrasion may lead to leaf distortion. Leaf distortion can also results from dramatic temperature and humidity changes as plants are moved from propagation to production. As the plants grow and mature, new leaves cover these damaged young leaves.

![Leaf Distortion on Poinsettia](image)

Figure 1: Leaf Distortion on Poinsettia, Photo by L. Pundt

Downy Mildews
The weather has been very favorable for downy mildew diseases, such as downy mildew on basil, and rudbeckia, at least in the western part of the state, where we have had the bulk of the rainy weather this past month.
Not all downy mildew diseases are the same. See
Downy Mildews of Ornamental Plants
http://extension.umass.edu/floriculture/fact-sheets/downy-mildews-ornamental-plants

Have you seen or heard of impatiens downy mildew from your customers this year? What are
your plans for the coming season?

Leaf Spots on Hakone Grass
Hakonechloa (Hakone grass) is susceptible to leaf spots caused by several fungi including
Pyricularia. As with all leaf spot diseases, try to minimize periods of leaf wetness. Use
recommended fungicides if needed and discard severely affected plants.

Leaf Spots and close-up. Photos by J. Allen
Protecting Bees
Kim Stoner gave an excellent talk *Honey Bees and Bumble Bees: Their Problems and What You can Do to Help* at the CT Ag Experiment Station Plant Science Field Day this week. Dr. Stoner has developed fact sheets for the general public that may be of help for garden center owners, as you answer customer questions about this important topic.

Planting Flowers for Bees in Connecticut

Protecting Bees from Pesticides
Disclaimer for Fact Sheets:

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