



ASTER YELLOWS

Host Plants and Description

Aster yellows is most noticeable in mid-summer, although it can occur at any time during the growing season. It is seen sporadically on a wide range of annuals and perennials, but most commonly occurs on Chrysanthemum, Gaillardia, Aster, Delphinium, Coreopsis, Rudbeckia, and Salvia, as well as daisies, marigolds and petunias. Weeds such as dandelions and plantain are also susceptible. The disease is spread by Aster leafhoppers, greenish-yellow, black-spotted, wedge shaped insects about 1/8 " long.

Plant Damage and Symptoms

Plants infected with this disease first lose pigment around leaf veins. Plants become stunted, stiff, erect and bushy. Foliage yellows and flowers are smaller than usual and partially or totally green. Seeds and fruit do not develop. Sometimes buds develop at the plant 's base and form bushy growths.

Controls

There is no cure for this disease. Pull weeds from the garden, and remove any infected plants as soon as they are discovered. The leafhoppers that spread this disease are difficult to control, but carbaryl (Sevin) or acephate sprays are sometimes effective.