



## CLEMATIS WILT

### Host Plants and Description

The larger flowered Clematis hybrids are more vulnerable to this disease, which is caused by a fungus, *Ascochyta clematidina*. This fungus attacks the stems of the Clematis vine, causing all or part of the plant to wilt.

### Plant Damage/Symptoms

Symptoms of this disease start with blackening of the growing tips and quickly progress to the point where all or part of the vine is suddenly wilting and dying back. Usually this happens at a time when the plant is growing rapidly and is in or near full flower. The disease is particularly prevalent during humid weather.

### Controls

Cut back, remove and destroy all affected areas of the plant. The vine can be cut down to soil level, or even below, if necessary. In most cases, the vine will grow back, although this may take a month or two. Deep planting will increase the chances that the vine will survive an attack. Clematis should be planted with the top of the root ball three inches below the soil level.

New foliage that is produced, and next year's growth, should be treated with a preventative fungicide of either sulfur or Ferti-lome Halt (thiophanate-methyl). It is wise to treat all other Clematis in the area, too, whether or not they were attacked by wilt.

In addition, try to minimize physical damage by carefully tying Clematis vines to their supports, especially new growth, which can be quite brittle.

Interestingly, Clematis vines frequently become more resistant to Clematis wilt over time, and can sometimes overcome susceptibility altogether.