

TAKE PART IN THE OFFENSE AGAINST CHRYSANTHEMUM WHITE RUST!

Learn how to protect your business by clicking [here](#).

It is not too early to begin thinking about your fall chrysanthemum crop – in fact, now, as you are getting your new cuttings started, is the perfect time to focus on protecting yourself, and helping protect the North American industry, against Chrysanthemum White Rust (CWR).

This disease has occurred in a limited number of growing operations in the Northeastern states, the Pacific Northwest, California, and Canada over the past few years, causing economic harm to those few growers who were impacted. Because it is considered a quarantine significant pest by both the U.S. and Canada, it is particularly important for all growers to be aware of steps they can take to avoid having the disease in their mum crops. The federal and state governments are working with the major propagation and breeding companies to try to better understand and prevent these kinds of outbreaks – but participation of commercial growers in that effort is essential. You need to be aware of this quarantine disease and how to prevent it.

Exclusion and prevention are the first line of defense.

- Since CWR has never been traced back to reputable cutting producers, make sure you are buying your cuttings only from a reputable commercial source.
- Never allow imported flowers or bouquet production in mum-growing greenhouses or headhouses. If you do allow imported flowers on your premises during mum-growing season, you must maintain strict separation from your production facilities, and must be sure that workers are not moving between the two areas and potentially carrying the disease on their hands, clothing, or equipment.
- Scout your crops often. Maintain low humidity and dry foliage. Maintain clean growing practices.

The second line of defense is early detection and eradication. If you do see this disease, because it is a quarantine-significant pest, you will need to inform your USDA, state or county officials, who will supervise the eradication and treatment process. Nonetheless, early detection and eradication will be much less costly for you than an unanticipated detection during the fall shipping season!

We have joined together to design a free training session about this disease, in a "Webinar" format (a seminar conducted entirely online, from your computer). We would encourage you and your employees to view this important seminar. It takes about 30 minutes, has excellent photographs teaching you to recognize the symptoms of the disease, and offers important advice on how to avoid it in your 2008 chrysanthemum crop.

The Webinar is available on SAF's website, <http://www.safnow.org/>, on the top right hand side of the screen under Grower Alert, and on ANLA's website, <http://www.anla.org/>, or you can contact any of the propagation-breeder companies for further information about scheduling a Webinar.

While we believe the risk of this disease is small, we do not live in a risk-free world, so the main question

becomes how to *minimize* that risk. Usually, the answer is "through a systems approach," involving precautionary steps all along the way -- right down to the retail grower. We ask and urge your help, support and cooperation in the effort.

With best wishes for a successful 2009 season!

