



College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Plant Pathology,
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Common Problems of Common Annuals & Perennials — An Index

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INTRODUCTION

Annuals and perennials are an important parts of landscapes. However, these types of plants may experience a wide range of issues including disease, insects, and abiotic disorders. This publication includes the most frequently observed problems of common annuals and perennials in Kentucky listed in alphabetical order (not necessarily in order of importance). Contact a local County Extension Agent for assistance with diagnosing and managing these and other problems.

Annuals				
Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Begonia <i>Begonia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gray mold (Botrytis leaf & flower blight) ▪ Pythium root & crown rot 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunscald ▪ Heat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bacterial blight ▪ Brown soft scale ▪ Mites ▪ Thrips
Chrysanthemum <i>Chrysanthemum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bacterial leaf spot ▪ Cercospora leaf spot ▪ Fusarium wilt ▪ Pythium root rot ▪ Rhizoctonia web blight 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aphids ▪ Blister beetles ▪ Budworms ▪ Caterpillars (armyworms) ▪ Leafminers ▪ Mites ▪ Nutritional deficiency ▪ Thrips



RHIZOCTONIA WEB BLIGHT



SUNFLOWER MOTH



SUNSCALD

Annuals				
Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Coleus <i>Coleus</i>	▪ Pythium root rot		▪ Sunscald	▪ Mealybugs ▪ Rhizoctonia crown rot
Geranium <i>Pelargonium</i>	▪ Bacterial blight ▪ Gray mold (Botrytis flower blight) ▪ Pythium root & crown rot (blackleg)	▪ Geranium budworm	▪ Sun/heat	▪ Aphids ▪ Bacterial spot ▪ Harlequin bug ▪ Mites
Impatiens <i>Impatiens</i>	▪ Impatiens downy mildew		▪ Sunscald	▪ Aphids ▪ Mites ▪ Spotted cucumber beetle ▪ Virus (INSV) ▪ Whiteflies
New Guinea impatiens <i>Impatiens hawker</i>	▪ Pythium root & crown rot			▪ Viruses (INSV, TSWV)
Pansy <i>Viola</i>	▪ Black root rot ▪ Pythium root & crown rot		▪ Heat	▪ Aphid ▪ Mites ▪ Slugs
Periwinkle (Madagascar), Annual vinca <i>Catharanthus roseus, Vinca</i>	▪ Pythium root rot		▪ Wet feet ▪ Insufficient sunlight	▪ Aphids ▪ Brown soft scale ▪ Earwigs ▪ Rhizoctonia root & stem rot ▪ Thrips
Petunia <i>Petunia</i>	▪ Gray mold (Botrytis flower blight)	▪ Thrips	▪ Heat	▪ Aphids ▪ Budworms ▪ Mites ▪ Oriental beetle ▪ Pythium root & crown rot
Sunflower <i>Helianthus</i>	▪ Septoria leaf spot ▪ Rust	▪ Sunflower moth		▪ Aphids ▪ Carrot beetle ▪ Lacebugs ▪ Painted lady ▪ Sunflower headclipper weevil
Zinnia <i>Zinnia</i>	▪ Cercospora leaf spot ▪ Powdery mildew			▪ Corn earworm ▪ Japanese beetle
Potential problems that can affect all annual species	▪ Pythium root & crown rot	▪ Aphids ▪ Cyclamen mites ▪ Japanese beetles ▪ Leafminers ▪ Spider mites ▪ Thrips	▪ Water stress (container-grown) ▪ Wet feet	▪ Southern blight ▪ Virus ▪ White mold (Sclerotinia)

Perennials				
Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Coneflower <i>Echinacea</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aster yellows ▪ Cercospora leaf spot ▪ Gray mold (Botrytis leaf & stem rot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tarnished plant bug 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fuller rose beetle (weevil) ▪ Pythium root & crown rot ▪ Septoria leaf spot ▪ Spittle bugs ▪ Sunflower moth ▪ White mold (timber rot) ▪ Whiteflies
Coral bells <i>Heuchera</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bacterial leaf spot ▪ Foliar nematodes ▪ Gray mold (Botrytis flower blight) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunscald 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anthracnose (Colletotrichum leaf spot) ▪ Root weevils
Daylily <i>Hemerocallis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anthracnose (Colletotrichum leaf spot) ▪ Daylily leaf streak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daylily leaf miner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunscald 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daylily aphids ▪ Daylily rust ▪ Japanese beetles ▪ Thrips
Hosta <i>Hosta</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anthracnose (Colletotrichum leaf spot) ▪ Foliar nematodes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Slugs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunscald 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black vine beetle ▪ Earwigs ▪ Fusarium crown & root rot ▪ Phytophthora leaf blight ▪ Southern blight ▪ Viruses (HVX, INSV)
Iris <i>Iris</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bacterial root rot ▪ Iris leaf spot ▪ Mycosphaerella leaf spot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Iris borer 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thrips ▪ Whiteflies
Pachysandra <i>Pachysandra</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volutella leaf & stem blight 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunscald 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boxwood blight ▪ Euonymus scale ▪ Spider mites
Peony <i>Paeonia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bacterial blight ▪ Gray mold (Botrytis flower blight & leaf spot) ▪ Peony leaf blotch ▪ Powdery mildew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ants (not harmful to plants) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black vine weevil ▪ Japanese beetle ▪ Southern blight
Rudbeckia <i>Rudbeckia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Septoria leaf spot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flea beetles ▪ Tarnished plant bug 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Angular leaf spot ▪ Fuller rose beetle (weevil) ▪ Pythium root & stem rot ▪ Rhizoctonia root & stem rot ▪ Southern blight ▪ Sunflower moth ▪ Whiteflies
Potential problems that can affect all perennial species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crown rots (Fusarium, Rhizoctonia, Sclerotium) ▪ Gray mold ▪ Powdery mildew ▪ Sooty mold ▪ Southern blight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thrips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunscald ▪ Wet feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Four lined plant bug ▪ Virus

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Department of Entomology Website
<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/landscape>
- Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Website
<https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/extension-home>
- Department of Horticulture Website
<https://www.uky.edu/hort/home-horticulture>
- Department of Plant Pathology Website
<http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications>

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