



Diagnosing Problems with Annual/Perennial Flowers

- Ask questioner for name, variety, size and age of the problem plant(s). What is the original source of plant material?
- Describe the problem (off-color foliage, scorched leaf margins, holes in leaves or flowers, damage to roots).
- When did you first notice the problem? How has it progressed? Are similar plants nearby affected by what appears to be the same problem?
- Describe all measures you've used to try to control the problem.
- Is the plant growing near a foundation, pool or other structure? What kind of structure?
- Have you been watering the flowers? How? (sprinkler, hose, watering can, etc.) How often? How much?
- Describe soil and location of problem plants: Shade, semi-shade or full sun? If shaded, what creates shade (trees, shrubs, building, etc.). Condition of topsoil and subsoil. Is the site windy? Does the ground slope? Exposure? Drainage? Are plants growing near salted roads or walkways? Are plants crowded by neighbors or invasive root systems of nearby plants?
- Name and rate of application of any lime and fertilizers used on flowers. Did you use wood ashes around the plant(s)? How much?
- Are the flowers growing near a downspout or in a depression where water gathers?
- Did you use herbicides or "weed and feed" fertilizers near or around the affected plants? What kind? How much? When?

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