



Topic: Confusing Disease and Insect Pest

Question: I have powdery mildew on my Dwarf Burford Holly shrubs. What is the best product and application schedule to use to eliminate this fungus? See attached picture.
- Paul, email

Answer: The problem is not caused by powdery mildew, a disease, but by an insect. Thus, treating for a disease would have no effect on stopping the problem. Firstly, Powdery mildew is more prominent on the top of affected leaves. This problem is on the underside of the leaves. Secondly, enlargement of the image shows what appears to be scale insects and their associated white deposition which can be confused with powdery mildew. There are numerous insecticides that are recommended for the control of scales and mealybugs.



Useful Link

[Stephen's Webpage](#)

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by sending an email to brownsh@leegov.com.