

Disease Management

Prevention is the most important method of disease management; for many diseases, prevention is the only effective option. Learn the cultural and environmental requirements of your plants and provide them with proper care. Pathogens frequently kill plants that are poorly cared for, so keep valued plants vigorous. Avoid conditions stressful to plants. Stresses include soil that is kept continually too wet, too dry, or compacted; overfertilization; and improper pruning, especially at bud break or during early growth flush; and repeated insect defoliation. Physical damage to roots and trunks, changes in soil grade, excessive herbicides or salts, use of injections or implants, and planting species that are poorly adapted for local conditions also cause stress. Most pathogens require specific conditions to spread and infect plants. Learn the conditions that promote diseases common to your plants and avoid creating those situations.