

Botrytis (Bud Rot) Information Sheet

Botrytis is a very common worldwide fungus that, under certain conditions, will attack both indoor and outdoor crops. Botrytis is most commonly known as Bud Rot, but is also called “brown rot”, “grey mould” and many other names. Airborne Botrytis spores can be found anywhere, at all times of the year, and can infect many different species of plants, both annual and perennial species. Botrytis will attack flowers, leaves, flower buds, seeds, seedlings, crowns and stems – in fact, anywhere on the plant apart from the roots.

Growers should be extra sure to keep an eye out for Botrytis near harvest time. Fruiting plants provide ideal conditions for spore germination with their warm and moist plant tissues. Botrytis will initially attack the largest and densest plants in the garden, because they provide the ideal conditions for germination. Weak plants will also be attacked rapidly.

Identification and Prevention of Bud Rot



Bud Rot will infect plants and turn them to mush in a matter of days, and may destroy a crop in a week if left unchecked. Botrytis loves warm, and humid (humidity of 50% or above) conditions. Lowering humidity will slow and stop spore germination. Grow rooms with good ventilation and decent air circulation will be less prone to Bud Rot.

A grow room may smell noticeably mouldy if Botrytis has attacked one or more large plants. Once a section of the plant has been infected, Botrytis will spread incredibly fast. Entire fruits will turn to brown mush and further spores will be produced, attacking other nearby fruits.

Ventilation may spread viable spores throughout the room.

Measures to prevent Bud Rot in the final stages of flowering:

- Early veg and flower pruning of undergrowth to promote air circulation
- Lowering room humidity (warming night time air and venting frequently)
- Decreasing watering cycles and amounts to reduce room humidity.

- Keep indoor grow rooms as clean and tidy as possible.
- Large, dense fruits should be periodically inspected. Brown tissues deep within the bud will smell mouldy and may become liquid.
- Removing larger leaves during the last few days before harvest will help promote air circulation.
- Try to never overcrowd your plants.
- Use Bud Rot Stop or Microbial.

Fungicides

Bud Rot Stop

Bud Rot Stop should be applied as a foliar spray directly onto the leaves and buds of your plants. For effective application, all surfaces must stay wetted for 4 hours at the beginning of the night period. You may need to turn off your extractor fans in order to achieve this 4 hours without drying out, although each room is different.

1. Bud Rot Stop should only be used in the flowering cycle and MUST be applied in the night period.
2. Ensure all surfaces are wet.
3. Surfaces need to remain wet for 4 hours or more for the product to be effective.
4. For optimum results spray twice a week towards the end of the flowering cycle or when growth period or environmental conditions are conducive to the onset of disease
5. Rinse all equipment thoroughly after use.

Microbial

Microbial when applied directly to foliage or stems rejuvenates the plant allowing it to naturally withstand many moulds, mildews and algae outbreaks. In tests to date Microbial has shown that it enhances plant health and improves immunity against botrytis, blight, fusarium, leaf mould, stem rot and powdery mildew.



What to do when Botrytis is identified

Once Bud Rot has been detected, the grower should isolate infected plants by removing them from the grow room and harvesting all infected fruit/flowers. This should be done as soon as possible but avoid doing when they are wet as this could spread the spores during the conditions they thrive in. If possible, try covering with black sacks and remove them while covered. Don't forget to destroy the plant and the black sack as the spores can travel. If applicable, try drying out infected fruit. Also take immediate steps to reduce room humidity. Afterwards, the entire crop should be carefully inspected for infection and damage.

Some gardeners may want to harvest early if more than one rotting plant has been found. Spores may have spread and be germinating deep within the plant.

You may be able to salvage some plants. Remove the infected plants from the main room and trim out the infection using the amazing [bud clean scissors](#). These are ideal for this purpose, as they are extremely sharp and can get deep into the foliage. Try to trim more than just the visibly affected area as botrytis often infects adjacent tissues. Re-inspect your plants - none of them should smell mouldy.

For more information on Plant Health, Plant Nutrient Deficiencies and Pest Problems, please visit our information page [found here](#).

If you have any plant health questions or for any other advice please feel free to call one of our stores today or visit www.3ch.co.uk



Botrytis Bunch Rot on Grapes.