



## **Powdery mildew of field peas:**

Symptoms, disease impacts, risk factors, and management

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## Identification of powdery mildew

Initial symptom expression: **Small patches of white powdery growth on upper surfaces of oldest leaves**





## FIELD PEAS

### Identification of powdery mildew

Early to mid-symptom expression: White powdery layer above green tissue

Late symptom expression: Patchy gray discoloration, underlying plant tissue.

Plants develop a bluish color.



## Powdery Mildew - IMPORTANCE

Impacts of powdery mildew:

- **Reduced yield**
- **Significantly reduced seed size**
- **Severe “mildew dust” at harvest**, resulting in breathing and allergy problems for machinery operators



## FIELD PEAS

### Conditions favoring disease

**Warm, dry weather accompanied by cool nights with dew formation**

**Dry weather favors this disease.**

- Spores germinate in absence of leaf wetness
- Rainfall reduces spore viability



### Management of powdery mildew

**Resistant varieties confer immunity.** Many varieties are susceptible.

**Early planting:** Late planting increases powdery mildew risk.

#### **Fungicides:**

- **Registered fungicides differ widely in efficacy**
- **Must be applied preventatively** before disease development at an appropriate growth stage. New field pea growth will not be protected.
- **A single fungicide application can provide season-long management of powdery mildew** when the most effective products are applied preventatively at the correct growth stage.
- Please reference the accompanying PDF and explanatory video summarizing fungicide efficacy and application timing research for current fungicide recommendations.





**Thank you!**

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