

**Problem:** Hollyhock Rust: *Puccinia malvacearum*



**Host:** Hollyhock, Rose Mallow, Rose-of-Sharon

**Description:** This rust is very common during wet years. Unlike cedar-apple rust, it does not require two hosts to complete its life cycle. Therefore, disease spores can re-infect the same plant. Also, rose mallow can be infected and can serve as a source of infection for hollyhock as well.

Hollyhock rust first appears as small, red to brown pustules on the bottom of the leaf surface with light, yellow orange spots on top. Though rarely killed, infected plants are unattractive and appear ragged.

**Recommendations:** Damp or humid weather is necessary for infection with infection being more likely the longer foliage remains wet. Therefore, overhead irrigation is discouraged. Sanitation is also critical for control. Remove infected leaves as they develop during the summer. The flower stalk should also be gotten rid of when flowers fade. All plant parts should be removed and discarded in the fall.

Plants that have shown a history of infection would benefit from preventative fungicide applications during warm, moist weather. Spray every two weeks until dry weather returns. Sulfur and myclobutanil (Immunox, Monterey Fungi-Max, F-Stop Lawn & Garden Fungicide) are recommended. Note that sulfur may damage leaves if the temperature rises above 85 degrees F within 24 hours of application.

**References:**

1. [Hollyhock Rust](#), Colorado State University, Planttalk Colorado 1412
2. [Hollyhock Rust](#), University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin Horticulture, Division of Extension

**Last Update:** 10/30/2023

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