# Identification of Greenhouse Vegetable Foliar Diseases



### **Powdery mildew**

- Problem in greenhouse vegetables the whole year
- Favours temperatures around 20-25°C
- Does not need high humidity to establish or grow
- · Usually appears on the oldest leaves first
- In cucumber white powdery growth appears on top and bottom of the leaves



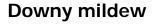


- In capsicum the white powdery growth usually begins on the bottom of leaves (left)
- Yellow lesions can often be seen on top of infected capsicum leaves (right) that should not be confused with downy mildew
- Powdery mildew will also grow on top of capsicum leaves



- There are several different species of powdery mildew
- The powdery mildew that infects cucumbers is different to the one that infects capsicums and eggplants

## Do not confuse powdery mildew with downy mildew!!!





- Needs high humidity and temperatures around 20-25°C
- · Usually seen in spring
- Yellow lesions appear first on older leaves
- Lesions are characteristically bordered by leaf veins so appear very angular
- Produces greyish fluff on undersides of lesions only
- Only infects cucumber not known on capsicum



- Leaves infected with powdery or downy mildew will usually wither and die, leaving fruit exposed to sunscald
- Mildew does not infect the fruit directly
- Severe infections will shorten the life of the crop and reduce yield

### **Botrytis** (Grey mould)



- Botrytis needs high humidity to develop and favours mild temperatures around 18-24°C
- · Growth is grey and fluffy
- Infects through flowers and causes flower or fruit rot (left) or through pruning wounds and causes a stem rot that can kill plants (right)
- It is usually seen during the winter and spring months



#### Sclerotinia



- Cool-mild temperatures and high humidity favour Sclerotinia
- It is usually seen during winter and early spring
- Growth is white and fluffy
- *Sclerotinia* forms characteristic survival structures that look like mouse droppings (right)
- It causes fruit rot or stem rot that can kill plants (left)



#### Make sure you know what disease you are trying to control!

- Correct disease identification is crucial to effective management of a disease
- If you aren't sure then find out

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