

Orchid Diseases

Bacterial Disease

Bacteria Rot

As suggested by the name these bacteria rot is caused by bacteria, mainly *Erwinea* and *Pseudomonas*. They mainly affect *Phalaenopsis* in the warmer months when both temperatures and humidity are high. Bacteria rot often starts as small water-soaked spots on the leaf that quickly develop into fluid filled areas. It can kill an entire plant within a number of days if not addressed quickly. Rot caused by *Erwinea* will have a particularly foul odor.

To Treat Bacterial Disease

To treat bacteria rot, use a sterile knife and cut the leaf off below the infected area, making sure not to cut through the infected tissue. If the infected area has reached the crown of the plant, it is most likely too late to save it and the plant should be discarded of properly. After removing the diseased tissue it would be wise to spray the infected plant (and those around it) with a bactericide like Physan or SA-20 at the labeled rate.

Fungal Root Diseases

Black Rot

Black Rot is the main fungal rot affecting orchids. *Cattleyas* seem to be particularly susceptible. Black Rot starts as black spots/lesions on infected tissue and can affect any part of the plant, but usually affects young leaves and shoots. The spots/lesions grow quickly and can rapidly spread throughout the plant.

Fusarium

Fusarium is another fungal disease that affects a wide range of orchids. It mainly enters though the roots affecting the rhizome first before spreading throughout the plant. A tell-tail sign of this pathogen is a distinct purple halo on the outer edges of the rhizome when you cut through it. On *Phalaenopsis*, early symptoms are observed as yellowing at the very base of the leaves by the stem. This may quickly blacken and the leaves will drop.

Rhizoctonia

Rhizoctonia root rot is mainly associated with old, rotting potting media or damage caused by over-fertilization. It infects the plant roots causing them to go brown and decay.

To Treat Fungal Root Diseases

Treatment involves completely removing the old media from the roots, and well as any dead/decaying root matter, drenching the plant with a systemic fungicide and repotting in clean, fresh media.

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Fusarium



Rhizoctonia

