



## Information

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### **Peach leaf curl (*Taphrina deformans*)**

This is a fungal infection which can lead to total defoliation of plants in some cases.

#### Symptoms

When infected young leaves emerge in the spring, they can be thick, swollen and distorted and sometimes tinged with red. They can also appear to have large blisters forming on the foliage (and sometimes the fruit) which can range in colour from white, green and pink. As these mature, they can become covered in a white 'bloom' which is a mass of fungal spores. A severe infection can lead to defoliation, which can put the plant under some stress during the growing season. Make sure plants are checked regularly as a second flush of leaves may come through afterwards and appear healthy.

The primary method of re-infection the following year is not usually from fallen leaves; the spores generally overwinter on the stems. Therefore, control needs to start on the bare branches and before flower buds emerge in January/early February.

#### Cultural control

- Collect and dispose of infected leaves before the spores appear which may help to reduce the risk of re-infection. Do not compost the infected foliage.
- Shelter individual plants from excessive rain and dew during the winter months.
- Reduce the risk of stress by making sure affected plants have enough water and an adequate nutrient supply during the growing season.

#### Chemical control

Copper-based products are recommended for this disease and current retail products include:

- Bordeaux Mixture (Vitax Ltd)
- Fruit and Vegetable Disease Control (Bayer Garden)

Murphy Traditional Liquid Copper Fungicide (Scotts) can be stored and used by gardeners until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

The following commercial products are approved for use on peaches:

- Cromptex Fungex (copper ammonium carbonate)
- Cuprokyt and Cuprokyt FL (copper oxychloride)

Timing is essential for copper products as they are easily washed off in rain or by overhead irrigation. Finish applications before bud burst. An application in autumn may also be beneficial.

**Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use**

Dove Associates shall in no event be liable for any loss or damage caused by the use of products mentioned in this document

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