

Container Gardening Troubleshooting- most problems are cultural

Symptom	Possible Cause(s)	Action
Few or No Flowers	Too much shade	Move to sunnier location
	Too much nitrogen	Add potash
	Dryness at the roots delaying flowering & flower & bud drop	Change watering schedule
	Frost damage (improper or no hardening off)	Wait until frost is past or provide frost protection
	Poor pruning – too much; too little; too late	Research pruning needs & follow them
Leaf Wilt, Leaf Drop, Yellowing	Insufficient watering during summer months	Water thoroughly during summer months.. sprinkle the leaves at the first sign of wilt

Troubleshooting...Cont

Symptom(s)	Possible Cause(s)	Action
Limp-soft leaves – stem & root rot	Waterlogged	Check drainage holes for blockage. Add more drainage holes or slits if using a growing bag
	Growing medium too heavy	Replant with lighter growing medium
Brown / dead evergreens	Cold induced drought ~ bright sunny weather after a cold spell	Spray leaves of newly planted specimens – provide protection from frost & east winds
Brown patches on leaves	Sun scorch is likely the problem (in the absence of any pests or disease) caused by overhead watering. The droplets of water act as lenses & burn the leaves.	Minimize the suns' effect on water droplets .. water early in the day or in the evening

Troubleshooting...cont

Symptom	Possible Cause(s)	Action
Twisted leaves & twisted leaf stalks	Exposure to lawn weed killer	Minimize the sun's effect on water droplets..water early in the day or evening.
	Over watering	Reduce watering &/or check drainage
	Lack of sunlight	Move plant to a sunnier location
Lanky plants	Lack of sunlight	Move plant to a sunnier location
	Under nourished	Feed regularly per pkg instructions
	Crowded	Thin out

Troubleshooting

Symptom	Possible Cause(s)	Action
Plant Death: Summer	Container too small; Dark container absorbing too much heat. Container poorly insulated. Exposure to sun all day.	
Plant Death: winter	Frozen plant medium causes root damage. Container too small &/or poorly insulated	
Pot bound	Roots growing through drainage holes	Release root ball from soil; trim roots and pot in same or larger pot
	Plant dries out quickly	Release root ball from soil; trim roots, pot in same or larger pot.

Troubleshooting...cont

Symptom	Possible Cause(s)	Action
Stunted growth, small pale leaves, weak stems	Nutrition deficiencies (Nitrogen shortage)	Apply a balanced fertilizer
Leaves wit brown brittle edges. Small flowers, Low disease resistance	Nutrition deficiencies (Potash shortage)	Use a lime-free compost
Lime haters affected: Yellow between veins. Oldest leaves worst	Nutrition deficiencies (Manganese shortage)	Use a lime-free compost