

Ornamental Hosts for Powdery Mildew

Over the years I have made listings for downy mildew, bacteria and rust diseases on ornamentals and even a relatively exhaustive one on the diseases of foliage plants. However, I never went to the trouble to do one for powdery mildew on perennials. Finally, I did take a little time and made a short list of the known ornamental hosts of the most common powdery mildew, *Erysiphe cichoracearum* (Table 1). The list includes both perennials and annuals. Remember, that *E. cichoracearum* is only one of the many powdery mildew fungi attacking our plants. For instance, roses and crape myrtles are each attacked by a different powdery mildew fungus.

Table 1. Some of the ornamental hosts of *Erysiphe cichoracearum*.

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| Abelmoschus | Cosmos | Liatris |
| <i>Achillea</i> (yarrow) | <i>Cynoglossum</i> | <i>Linaria</i> (toad flax) |
| <i>Ageratum</i> | <i>Dahlia</i> | <i>Meconopsis</i> |
| <i>Ajuga</i> | <i>Delphinium</i> | <i>Mentha</i> |
| <i>Alcea</i> (hollyhock) | <i>Erigeron</i> | <i>Mimulus</i> (monkey flower) |
| Angelonia | <i>Eriogonum</i> (buckwheat) | <i>Monarda</i> (bee balm, bergamot) |
| <i>Antirrhinum</i> (snapdragon) | <i>Eupatorium</i> | <i>Myosotis</i> |
| <i>Artemisia</i> | <i>Gaillardia</i> (blanket flower) | <i>Nemophila</i> |
| <i>Aster</i> | <i>Galium</i> | <i>Nicotiana</i> (flowering tobacco) |
| <i>Begonia</i> | <i>Gerbera</i> | <i>Penstemon</i> |
| <i>Calendula</i> | <i>Gloxinia</i> | <i>Phlox</i> |
| <i>Callistephus</i> (China aster) | <i>Hebe</i> | <i>Polemonium</i> |
| <i>Campanula</i> | <i>Hedera</i> (English ivy) | <i>Prunella</i> |
| <i>Centaurea</i> (Bachelor's button) | <i>Helianthus</i> (sunflower) | <i>Rudbeckia</i> |
| <i>Chelone</i> | <i>Heliopsis</i> | <i>Salvia</i> |
| <i>Chrysanthemum</i> | <i>Heuchera</i> (coral bells) | <i>Solidago</i> (golden rod) |
| <i>Cirsium</i> | <i>Hibiscus</i> | <i>Stokesia</i> |
| <i>Clarkia</i> | <i>Hypericum</i> (St. John's Wort) | <i>Verbena</i> |
| <i>Coreopsis</i> | <i>Lamium</i> | <i>Zinnia</i> |