

Pests in Gardens and Landscapes

DAFFODIL

Dry rot—*Stromatinia gladioli*

Dry rot attacks plants such as daffodils, freesias, and gladiolus. The initial infection attacks corms either in storage or in the soil. After the initial infection, decay spreads up to the leaf bases. Dry rot causes leaves to yellow and die. Plants are stunted and fail to bloom. Leaf bases or stems rot near the soil and tissue appears shredded. Very small black sclerotia are imbedded in dead tissue. Bulbs develop dark brown, sunken lesions with raised margins.

Solutions

Dry rot is favored by cool, wet soil. Don't grow in infested soil during cool weather. Use pathogen-free bulbs or plants. Provide good soil drainage. Avoid overwatering. Remove infested plants and bulbs.

Smoulder—*Sclerotinia* or *Botrytis narcissicola*

Smoulder infects bulbs, such as daffodil, both in storage and in the ground. When infected bulbs start to grow, symptoms are seen on foliage. Smoulder causes brown, streaked lesions to appear first on leaf tips. Leaves infected on the inner edge may curl. Diseased tissue may have woolly gray growth and small black sclerotia, especially near the soil.

Solutions

Smoulder is favored by cool, wet weather. Provide good drainage. Dig out infected plants. Avoid planting bulbs in areas where infected plants have grown previously.