

Powdery Mildew is a fungus that infects developing shoots on apple varieties. It does little damage on apples of Delicious variety and does not require fungicides but heavy infections make it more difficult to market fruit and can interfere with photosynthesis.



## Symptoms:

- White powdery fungus that grows on the tops of leaves
- Primarily occurs on the lower branches
- Leaves may be twisted, distorted, or wilting

## Timing:

- Infections occur when the relative humidity (RH) is greater than 70%
- Opportune temperatures for infection to occur fall in the range of 66-80°F (19-27°C)
- Occurs mainly in June and July

## How to Avoid:

- Purchase trees that have a higher degree of resistance to PM.
- Ensure proper ventilation around and within trees.
- Prune multiple times a year; you should be able to see some sunlight through the tree even with foliage on the tree.

## How to Treat:

- A baking soda solution (4 teaspoons baking soda per gallon of water, with 1 teaspoon of liquid dish soap as a surfactant/adhesive agent) will work on contact if mildew begins to establish on new leaf growth in spring.

Sources: MyIPM, Pennsylvania State University Extension, Cornell University Integrated Pest Management, Colorado State Extension, and Michael Phillips, "The Holistic Orchard". Photo credits: Patrick L. Byers, Horticulture Specialist.