

Wilts

Wilts cause part or all of the plant to droop, often yellow, wither, and die. The plant may die gradually or rapidly. Water-conducting tissues often become discolored and non-functional, causing permanent wilting and death. Wilts may be the result of insect damage (borers or root feeders) or may be caused by certain viruses, bacteria, or fungi.

To control, use disease-free planting stock, and destroy infected plants. Control wilts by controlling insect vectors (those playing a part in the spread of wilt, such as flea beetles or cucumber beetles). Use wilt-resistant varieties and a three- or four-year plant rotation. Avoid wounding the plant. Destroy plant residue.