

# Powdery Mildew-Resistant Woody Ornamentals

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Powdery mildew is a common fungal disease of many ornamental plant species. Although plants are not often killed by the disease, they may become unsightly when heavy fungal growth develops on leaves and flowers. Controlling the disease on susceptible plants usually requires multiple sprays of an appropriate fungicide. Use of resistant cultivars in new plantings can significantly reduce plant maintenance related to powdery mildew control. Assembled below are lists of species, cultivars, and/or hybrids of some of the more popular woody landscape plants that are reported to have resistance to

powdery mildew (Tables 1-5). This information was compiled from several different landscape and field studies in which resistance to powdery mildew was evaluated.\*\* Although the exact level of powdery mildew resistance exhibited by an individual cultivar may vary depending on where the plant is grown, all the plants listed should have moderate to excellent resistance and a reduced need for fungicide sprays. For more information on powdery mildew, refer to VCE Publication 450-603W, *Powdery Mildew of Ornamental Plants*.

**Table 1.**

Powdery mildew-resistant dogwood cultivars

**Flowering Dogwood  
(*Cornus florida*)**

Cherokee Brave  
Sweetwater Red

**Rutger's Hybrids  
(*Cornus florida* x  
*Cornus kousa*)**

Aurora  
Celestial  
Stellar Pink

**Kousa Dogwood  
(*Cornus kousa*)**

Angustata  
Autumn Rose  
Benji Fuji  
Big Apple  
Blue Shadow  
China Girl  
Chinensis Bodnant  
Doubloon  
Emerald Star  
Form  
Gay Head  
Greensleeves  
Hart #3  
Julian  
Milky Way

**Milky Way Select**

Miss Satomi  
Moonbeam  
National  
Radiant Rose  
Rochester  
Snow Flake  
Speciosa  
Summer Majesty  
Sunsplash  
Temple Jewel  
Trinity Star  
Triple Crown  
Weavers Weeping  
Wilton  
Wolf Eyes

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**Table 2.**

Powdery mildew-resistant rose cultivars

<b>Floribundas</b>	<b>Hybrid Teas</b>	Modern Art	Anytime	Singles Better
Class Act	Bobby Charlton	Mon Cheri	Beauty Secret	Smoky Mountain
Escapade	Bride's Dream	Nantucket	Black Jade	Sweet Pickins
French Lace	Canadian White Star	New Year	Centerpiece	Watercolor
Iceberg	Cary Grant	Olympiad	Cinderella	
Intrigue	Chablis	Otto Miller	Cuddles	<b>Shrub Roses</b>
Koricole	Dainty Bess	Pascale	Deep Velvet	Alba Mediland
Lavaglut	Duet	Polarstern	Ginny	Albo Semi-plena
Playboy	Electron	Precious Platinum	Green Ice	Blanc Double de
Playgirl	Elina	Princess of Monaco	Heartland	Coubert
Regensbery	Elizabeth Taylor	Pristine	Jean Kenneally	Bonica
Rob Roy	Elmhurst	Red Devil	Jennifer	Frau Dagmar
Sarabande	Folklore	Sheer Bliss	Kathy Robinson	Hartopp
Sexy Remy	Helmut Schmidt	Suffolk	Linville	Linda Campbell
Simplicity	Keepsake	Sunbright	Loving Touch	Pink Meidiland
Sun Flare	Konrad Henkel	Tansinnroh	Magic Carrousel	Roseraie de l'Hay
Sunsprite	Lady	Uncle Joe	Mary Bell	Rugosa Alba
Traumerei	Lady Rose	Voo Doo	Minnie Pearl	Sarah Van Fleet
	Lady X	Wimi	Old Glory	Scarlet
<b>Grandifloras</b>	Las Vegas	World Peace	Peacemaker	Meidiland
Love	Maid of Honor		Puppy Love	Topaz Jewel
Prima Donna	Mikado	<b>Miniatures</b>	Queen City	
Sonia	Miss All American	Always a Lady	Red Flush	
	Beauty	Angel Darling	Simplex	

**Table 3.**Powdery mildew-resistant lilacs (*Syringa* species and hybrids)

*S. diversifolia*  
*S. emodi*  
*S. henryi* 'White Summers'  
*S. josiflexa* 'Anna Amhof'  
*S. josiflexa* 'Royalty'  
*S. julianae*  
*S. meyeri* 'Palibin'  
*S. microphylla*  
*S. microphylla* 'Superba'  
*S. oblata* var. *dilatata*  
*S. patula* 'Miss Kim'  
*S. persica* (= *S. x persica*)  
*S. refexandowii*  
*S. reticulata* 'Summer Snow'  
*S. swegiflexa* (= *S. x swegiflexa*)  
*S. villosa*  
*S. yunnanensis*  
*S. x prestoniae* 'Donald Wyman'  
*S. x prestoniae* 'James McFarlane'  
*S. x prestoniae* 'Minuet'

**Table 4.**

Crape myrtle cultivars tolerant or resistant to powdery mildew

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Flower</b>	<b>Twig/Bark/Inner Bark</b>	<b>Fall Color</b>	<b>Form</b>
Acoma	white	purple/brown/lt gray	orange	semi-dwarf
Apalachee	lt lavender	red/gray brown/cinnamon	dull orange	upright lg shrub
Biloxi	pale pink	gray brown/dk brown	yellow to red	tree
Catawba	dk purple	tan/buff	orange-red	globose
Cherokee	bright red	-	-	globose
Comanche	coral pink	brown/gray brown/ gray orange	dk orange to dk purple	sm tree
Hopi	pink	red/gray brown/lt gray	orange-red	shrub
Lipan	med lavender	red purple/gray/green-mottled white	orange	upright shrub
Miami	dk pink	gray brown/gray green/ dk brown	orange to red	tree
Muskogee	lt lavender	med brown	red	sm tree
Natchez	white	dk cinnamon	orange	shrub/sm tree
Osage	pink	red purple/gray brown/ chestnut brown	red	sm tree
Pecos	pink	red/gray/dk brown	maroon	globose shrub
Powhatan	lt lavender	-	-	globose
Seminole	pink	-	-	globose
Sioux	dk pink	dull red/gray brown/ lt gray brown	maroon to red	upright sm tree
Tuscarora	dk coral pink	lt brown	orange-red	sm tree
Tuskegee	dk pink-red	gray/tan	orange-red	broad
Wichita	lt magenta	red purple/gray/ dk mahogany	russet/ mahogany	tree
Yuma	med lavender	red purple/gray/lt gray	yellow to orange	sm tree
Zuni	med lavender	red/gray/lt brown	dk red	semi-dwarf

**Table 5.**

Powdery mildew-resistant crabapple cultivars

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Bud/Flower Color</b>	<b>Fruit Color</b>	<b>Form</b>
Adirondack	carmine/white	orange-red	sm columnar
Ames White	pink/white	yellow	round
Autumn Glory	red/white	orange-red	upright
Baskatong	dk red/lt purple red	dk purple red	tree
Beauty	rose pink/white	dark red	fastigate
Coral Cascade	coral red/white	coral pink	med weeping
David	pink/white	scarlet	round
Donald Wyman	pink/white	bright red	upright
Gibb's Golden Gage	pink/white	yellow	sm rounded
Golden Raindrops	pink/white	golden yellow	sm rounded
Gwendolyn	pink/pink	red	-
Harvest Gold	white/white	gold	upright
Indian Summer	red/rose red	red	broad/globe
Molten Lava	red/white	red-orange	spread wide/weeping
Mount Arbor Special	carmine/pink	red	-
Naragansett	red/white	cherry red	small rounded
Prariefire	red/dk red	red-purple	rounded
Professor Sprenger	pink/white	yellow-pink	upright-spreading
Purple Prince	carmine/red	bl-purple	rounded
Red Snow	orange-red/pink	bright red	sm arching
Tina	red/white	red	dwarf, low spreading
Wies	pink/pink	dark red-purple	upright

\*\*The information presented in Tables 1-5 was compiled from surveys and field trials conducted in Tennessee, Maryland, and North Carolina between 1990-1996. Information from a 1980 crabapple survey conducted in Pennsylvania is also included.

## Selected References

Dirr, M. A. 1998. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, 5th ed. Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL. 1187 pp.