

# Geranium

## Diseases

### **Root rot/wilt** (*Rhizoctonia solani*)

Root rot/wilt of geranium is observed very often on the crop. In the beginning, only a few plants exhibit the typical wilting and drooping symptoms, which soon attain alarming rate if ignored.

**Control:** The wilt out-break could be minimised by observing the following package of disease management practices.

- i. At the time of planting, fresh cuttings in nursery beds are dipped in 0.3% Dithane M-45. The nursery bed is also drenched with the same fungicide.
- ii. Rooted cuttings are dipped in 0.3% Dithane M-45 before transplanting. The soil around the plant is also drenched with the same fungicide.
- iii. After every harvest or after every heavy rain the soil around the plant is drenched with 0.3% Dithane M-45.
- iv. Overwatering increases the incidence of wilt, and hence should be avoided.
- v. Sharp sickles should be used for harvesting to avoid mechanical damage to the plant.

### **Alternaria Leaf Spot** (*Alternaria tenuis*)

Small brown spots with alternating light and dark bands are most evident on lower surface of older leaves. It occurs on garden geraniums during cool, wet weather. The fungus rarely sporulates on attached leaves but does so readily on fallen leaves.

**Control:** Removal and destruction of infected foliage and application of foliar fungicides immediately upon the appearance of disease helps to control the disease.