

# SOLUTIONS TO COMMON FALL GARDEN ISSUES

ISSUE	PHOTO	HOW TO ID	PREVENTION TIPS	TREATMENT
Spider Mites		Stippled white or light brown spots on leaves; leaf undersides have sandy texture; webbing occasionally present	Keep an eye on plants in hot, dry environments with limited air circulation—rotate, jostle, and spray foliage periodically; water consistently to avoid dry soil; wipe houseplant leaves with water or Neem Oil.	For outdoor plants, apply Bonide Mite-X or BioAdvanced 3-in-1 Insect Disease & Mite Control. For indoor plants, use Arber Bio Insecticide or Bonide Mite-X Indoor.
Powdery Mildew		White, dull circular spots formed on tops of leaves or white dusty appearance on entire leaf surface	In Fall, powdery mildew can occur as leaves decay; humidity can exacerbate the issue—avoid overhead watering especially on warm days; on evergreen plants, treat leaves and improve air circulation through selective pruning.	Apply Neem Oil to evergreen plants. Allow herbaceous perennials to go dormant and deciduous leaves to drop. Or apply Bonide Infuse Systemic Fungicide.
Browning Flowers on Perennials		Flowers are dry and colors are dull, appearing brown, especially around edges	This is a natural part of a plant's lifecycle—if buds are still present, deadhead spent flowers to encourage repeat blooming; in Fall or if plant is done blooming, leave spent flowers as seed heads for structure and to feed wildlife.	Leave flower heads in place so seed can mature and feed birds and wildlife, or remove spent flowers to maintain a tidy appearance.
Boring Insects		Small, circular holes in the bark along the trunk of trees; leads to browning, dying branches	Boring insects are especially fond of White Birch and Hinoki Cypress. Band trees with tanglefoot, or consider alternative planting choices to reduce pest pressure.	Remove or replace plants, or soil drench with Tree & Shrub Protect & Feed or Annual Tree & Shrub Insecticide.
Overwatering/Poor Drainage		Wilting leaf tips; leaves or branches are soft and pliable even though they may look brown or yellow	Improve soil aeration by adding organic matter like compost when planting. Plant at or slightly above the soil level; never bury plant's trunk or crown. Water only as needed.	Reduce irrigation and/or handwatering. Remove dead leaves or branches. Apply organic fertilizer at half strength to promote root and shoot regrowth.
Botrytis		Grey, fuzzy fungal growth on leaves and spent flowers; mushy green or black leaves	Be sure plants like Pansies have proper air circulation. Remove spent flowers by pinching back dead growth.	Remove overgrown or diseased portions to improve air flow. Spray with fungicide like Neem Oil.