

In the Garden ~ Powdery Mildew

Series by: Nadia Bunner
Tel: 016973 52024
gardens-by-nadia.co.uk

At this time of the year powdery mildews can become quite noticeable on a range of plants. It is identifiable as a dry whitish powder which coats leaves, shoot tips and often flowers.

Other symptoms include stunted and distorted growth, and reduced flowering. Many garden plants are affected, both woody and herbaceous, particularly apple trees, roses and sweet peas and those growing in containers. Vegetable foliage is also prone, including beetroot, parsnip and spinach. Powdery mildews are caused by a range of closely related fungal species. As each has a limited host range the powdery mildew affecting one plant is unlikely to be responsible for mildew on another species. For example powdery mildew on lilac is unlikely to infect your phlox, although phlox will be susceptible to a different powdery mildew. However some mildews can spread to cultivated plants from closely related weed hosts, so weed control is an important part of disease limitation.

Plants dry at the roots may become susceptible to mildews but it then thrives in moderate temperatures and high

humidity typical of a British summer

The RHS suggests the following measures to reduce susceptibility to the disease:

- Keep plants well watered, so they are not dry at the roots
- Mulch to preserve soil moisture.
- Improve air-flow around plants to reduce humidity. For woody plants such as roses this can be achieved by pruning to establish an open branch structure.
- Avoid overcrowding smaller plants.
- Thin vegetable crops to recommended spacing.
- Avoid high nitrogen fertilisers, as these encourage soft sappy growth that is more easily colonised by fungi.

• Ensure plants are in their ideal position. For example, a sun-lover will struggle in shade and be at greater risk of infection.

- Check catalogues and grow resistant varieties wherever possible.

If the plant has flowered cut out the affected shoots and destroy. It is never a good idea to add disease spores to the compost heap. Fungicides are available for powdery mildew control which contain myclobutanil, penconazole or sulphur. Check the labels carefully before choosing a product. Occasionally, the label will also list certain cultivars that may be damaged by the application of a specific fungicide, e.g. certain gooseberry and apple cultivars may be damaged by sulphur dusts.

Plants for late summer

Lily of the Nile or African lily (Agapanthus)

This is a stunning bulbous plant, which grows best when grown

rather crowded in tubs. It grows to a height of 2-3 ft. It needs a sunny spot and winter protection.



Globe Thistle (Echinops ritro)



This is a perennial with large ball shaped blue blooms on tall stalks, with jagged leaves which are green on top and gray underneath. The plant is drought resistant growing to a height of 4 ft. It likes a well drained soil and full sun.

Lacecap Hydrangeas

Lacecap Hydrangeas are easy to grow shrubs for sun or shade growing to a height of 5 ft. The lacecaps have flat heads which are much more attractive than the mop head hydrangeas. The flower heads can be used in dried flower arrangements.

Enjoy your gardening
Nadia



Abbeytown Graduates



Report by: Linda McDonald

**On Thursday
17th July, the year
two children from
Holm Cultram Abbey**

Hair 4U Zone

We have some great new colouring techniques for you this month.

Our advert shows one of them on our model Megan in our advert on this page.

This technique is called smudging, it very cleverly infuses and blends colours together. Megan's colour was a blend of the brightest copper imaginable and a deep intense red, you would think they would clash but with this new technique and on Megan's dark aubergine base, it looks fantastic.

Peter & the Team

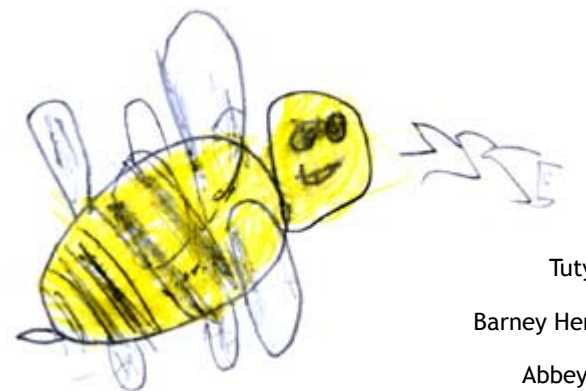
CE School officially graduated to the Junior class.

They made their own Graduation Mortarboards, and received their scrolls to signify this significant event in their school careers. The children have really enjoyed the Infant class, especially being taught by Miss Frazer and Mrs Scales.

They will not have

a chance to miss Miss Frazer, as she is moving up with them, and will be teaching them in Year 3!

Congratulations on your graduation to: Ellie-Mae Sanderson, Emma Barwise, Hayden Charters, Finn Graham, Nathan Sturrock, Mary Williamson, Dylan O'Brien, Andrew Mitchell, Gemma Harrison and Bethany Rowe.



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by
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from
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**A Blend of
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Smudged Lowlights**

OAP's
tue / wed

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27 Eden Street, Silloth-on-Solway
Tel: 016973 31333