



**Scientific Name**

*Botrytis cinerea*

**Greenhouse/High Tunnel Host Crops**

Tomato, pepper, lettuce, cucumber

**Identification**

**Leaves**

- Young infected leaves first appear as brown with blighted areas, often V-shaped
- Abundant gray-brown mycelial growth with conidia appears on dead or dying tissue

**Stems**

- The stems turn white and develop cankers
- Infected stems girdle and wilt

**Flowers**

- Gray conidiophores producing conidia cover the dying flowers and the calyx of the fruit
- Mycelium spreads from the flowers to the fruit and back toward the stem

**Fruits**

- Fruits turn light brown or gray and develop a soft rot
- Fruits may also develop ghost spots, or necrotic flecks surrounded by whitish halos
- Gray mold may be visible on the fruit calyx

**Often Confused With**

Sclerotinia white mold, Rhizopus rot

**Thresholds**

Currently, no threshold information is available.



**Favorable Environmental Conditions**

Favorable conditions are wet (high humidity >80%) with moderate temperatures of 65 – 75°F.

**Scouting Notes**

Periodically monitor for disease symptoms of Botrytis in wounded tissues (e.g., broken stems,

leaves damaged by mechanical or chemical injury) and fading flowers, especially in spring and fall.

**Management Notes**

*Follow Sound Cultural Practices* – Remove and destroy all infected tissue. Discard any faded flower blossoms and fallen petals to prevent germination of overwintering structures. Sanitizing tools will aid in preventing further infections of Botrytis gray mold.



*Maintain Healthy Plants* – Plant health can be maintained through proper fertilization, irrigation, and pruning practices. Maintaining soil moisture optimum for plant growth and nutrients will keep the plant healthy and less susceptible to Botrytis gray mold infections.

*Increase Air Circulation* – Maintain adequate ventilation by using wide spacing and timely pruning to promote drying and increasing air circulation. Also, avoid excess water on the surfaces of plants by not using overhead irrigation systems, especially during times of high humidity.

*Avoid Damaging Plants* – *Botrytis cinerea* best colonizes healthy plant tissues through wounds is present. Once the pathogen enters the host, it colonizes very rapidly leading to further spread of the disease. Use good pruning techniques to avoid damaging the plants.

