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Dealing with Plant Disease

Today on Gardening in a Minute: dealing with plant disease.

The two most common causes of plant disease are bacteria and fungi, and how you treat the disease depends on which pathogen your plant is infected with.

Pathogens can be spread by people, wind, rain, and insects, and can even be found in the soil. But plants that are overwatered and overfertilized are more susceptible to disease.

If you have a disease problem, remove the infected tissue or the entire plant and destroy it. Watering a diseased plant can hasten the spread of the pathogen to other parts of the landscape.

Always make sure you identify what the problem is before embarking on a treatment.

Most diseases can be managed if detected early.

But if a plant is continually fighting disease problems, consider replacing it with a lower-maintenance choice.

For more information about plant disease and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

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