

Rusts and smuts

White smut

Pathogen: *Entyloma polysporum*.

Hosts: *Aster*, *Echinacea*, *Gaillardia*, *Helianthus* and *Rudbeckia*.

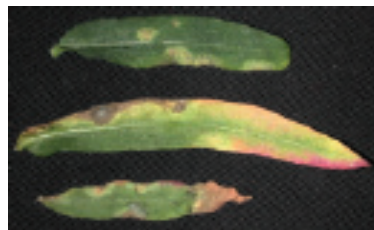
Symptoms: Round, white spots, up to 1 centimeter in diameter. Young lesions may create very faint spots. Over time, the spots turn brown and become necrotic.



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Whitish, round lesions on *Gaillardia* foliage.

Spread: Spores are formed inside the leaf tissue. As lesions



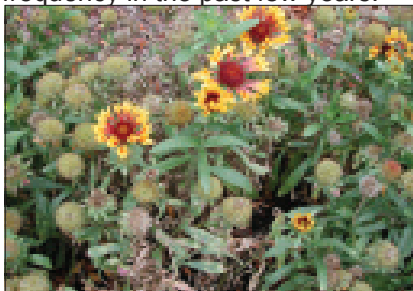
Older lesions caused by white smut on *Gaillardia* have coalesced and are causing necrosis.

White smut – *continued*

mature, the leaf surface ruptures, releasing the spores. Spores are wind-dispersed. A white, powdery material may be visible on the leaf surface. Spores of this fungus are not known to survive winters in the northern United States.

Management: Remove all symptomatic plants. Plants in greenhouses may need fungicide applications for good disease control. The disease is favored by cool, humid conditions; disease spread will be slow under warm, dry conditions.

Note: Of the hosts listed, *Gaillardia* is most susceptible. The disease has been documented on the cultivars ‘Goblin’, ‘Baby Cole’ and ‘Fanfare.’ This disease has been seen with increasing frequency in the past few years.



Dieback caused by a severe white smut infestation on a landscape planting of *Gaillardia*.