

Otherwise, the disease will spread to neighboring plants, will carry over in the bulbs to the following season, and very soon the entire stock of bulbs will be ruined.

Another serious disease is **Botrytis blight**. This is a leaf spot or foliage disease which sometimes, under favorable conditions, blasts the foliage of entire plantings within a few days. Blight usually makes its appearance during late winter or early spring, and thereafter is a constant menace to the plants. Injury from blight may be almost entirely prevented by spraying the plants frequently with bordeaux mixture or the use of some other effective copper spray or dust.

Aphids are an important insect pest of Easter lilies in this State. Ordinarily, aphids are troublesome only when the buds are first forming, and they can then be easily held in check by timely applications of a spray containing nicotine and soap. Aphids not only puncture very young buds, causing an injury which later results in brown spotting of the flowers, but they also spread mosaic disease from plant to plant.

Failure to provide against these destructive diseases and insects has proved costly to many Florida growers.

CARE OF BULBS DURING REST PERIOD

A second important cause of loss is improper care of bulbs during the rest period. Regardless of when dug or how short a time they are held out of the ground, precautions should be taken to avoid injury to external tissues. The bulbs should never be exposed to the sun for more than a few minutes or allowed to remain uncovered longer than necessary to remove surface moisture. A satisfactory procedure following digging is to spread the bulbs in a thin layer for a few hours in some covered, well ventilated place. They should then be placed in boxes of a size convenient for handling and covered with sand which has been thoroughly dried. Powder-dry sand taken from beneath buildings serves the purpose very well. While dry sand takes up any excess moisture from the surface of the bulbs, it likewise reduces water loss from the bulbs. Bulbs so handled, and held during storage in a place which is fairly cool and has good ventilation, usually will remain in sound condition throughout the rest period.

It is realized that occasionally, due to causes not anticipated or beyond control of the grower, Easter lily bulbs are damaged so that they begin to mold. Exposure to high temperatures or