

# SLIME MOLD

*by Marty Mann*

A formation of a dark jelly-like mass which spreads over the surface of your potted material or in the dark depths of your nursery stock is a most disconcerting mess. This is called slime mold and is actually a tiny, plant-like parasite which reproduces by forming mold spores. These spores unite to form an ugly creeping carpet. It often covers existing healthy moss, and, while it is not actually harmful to your plant, it does create a fairly water impregnable surface that prevents proper distribution of your water and feeding efforts.

Low levels of potash create an environment which encourages slime mold to thrive. The solution to this problem, and perhaps a *cure*", is the addition of wood charcoal **dust** sprinkled on this mold and onto your soil surface. This is actually the addition of *potash*. It will compensate for the deficiency of this important element in your soil mix. Do be careful to use only charcoal ashes that have been created by burning wood only. Do not use any prefueled briquettes or treated wood products. Also, a word of caution: excessive amounts of potash can create harmful side effects.

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