



Frequently Asked Questions – obtained thru the Website email.

Name:

Louise T

Email:

louise123@bigpond.com

Message:

Hi there I would be so grateful for your help. I live in Sydney's north and have noticed that some of my Clivia plants are suffering. Some of the leaves are drying off, losing their colour and collapsing - they look very sick. We have had a very hot summer and the humidity has been very high for the past few months. The plants are almost completely in the shade. If you wouldn't mind sending me your email address I can send photos if you like. Any help would be very much appreciated. With best wishes Louise

This message was submitted from your website contact form:

toowoombacliviasociety.com.au

REPLY from Greg Anderson (Treasurer & a Grower) Toowoomba Clivia Society Inc

Without access to photos it sounds as though a caterpillar infestation has allowed some fungal or bacterial infections to take hold of your plants via the damage they are causing. The extreme heat and humidity you have been getting lately would have exaggerated the problem. Firstly, you will need to tackle the caterpillars - I would suggest taking one along to your local nursery or produce store for identification and they should be able to suggest a suitable way to treat them. You will also need to get some fungicide while you are there. I have had good success with both Mancozeb Plus or Copper Oxychloride type fungicides in helping to limit the spread of the infections but again the nursery may have other similar alternatives to offer. If possible, it should be compatible with the caterpillar treatment so that any necessary spraying can be kept to a minimum as you want to limit moisture on the plants as much as possible.

Prior to spraying get some disposable gloves and remove all dead and diseased leaf material. Do not put it in your compost, put it in your bin so it can be completely removed from your property as soon as practical. It would also help to remove (and dispose of) any leaf litter and mulch away from the base of the plants to allow plenty of air flow between them (if you like some ground cover around the plants you should be able to replace it with fresh mulch in a few months' time as the plants start to recover). Now you can apply your treatment (ideally early morning on a dry day to allow the fungicide to dry on the leaves). You should avoid spraying in temperatures above 30°. One further treatment will likely be necessary for complete control of the caterpillars (usually after 3 weeks but your nurseryman will advise a timeline) and I'd suggest another dose of fungicide at the same time would be helpful. Unless the damage is severe your plants should make a good recovery. You may be in time to see some new healthy growth prior to winter but if not, they should start to get going again in spring.