

Mr. Tom Ackers
305 Pineview Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 26789

September 25, 2022

Mr. Jim Spears, Horticultural Specialist
Extension Service
1039 Hillsborough Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 26789

Dear Mr. Spears:

I purchased a renovated home this past spring and am just beginning to work on the landscape. The lawn has a row of five crape myrtles along the back border. The problem is that in mid-summer, the leaves on the plants were almost completely grayish-white on both sides and, to some extent, on the flower. They looked terrible, and the leaves became twisted or curled and began to fall off.

These crape myrtles appear to have been here for some time. Can you tell me what the problem is and if there is a long-range control? I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Tom Ackers
Tom Ackers

Based on the information provided, prepare a letter to Mr. Ackers with an appropriate response. The information below may be useful in your reply.

Problem Diagnosis: Powdery Mildew Disease

Recommendation:

- Description suggests powdery mildew, a fungus
- Worse during warm, humid weather
- Severely infected plants may lose their leaves
- Prune to allow more sun into the plant and encourage good air circulation
- Numerous fungicides, both natural and synthetic, are available
- Neem oil extract is a good, natural, effective fungicide
- Always follow the label of any fungicide when using
- Pesticides may be required yearly at the sign of first symptoms
- Remove fallen foliage and blossoms around the plant – harbor spores
- Resistant varieties are available should you desire to replace the plants