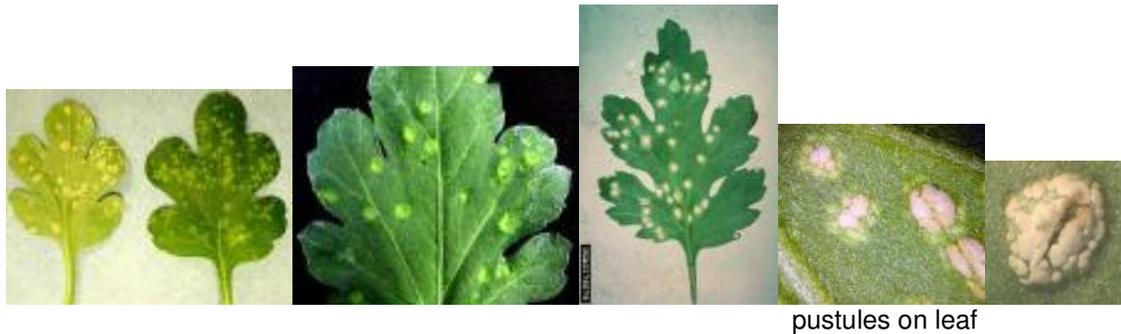


# Chrysanthemum White Rust

**Causal agent:** *Puccinia horiana*

**Disease cycle:** autoecious fungus requiring only one host to complete its life cycle, which happens to be about 12 species of chrysanthemums. The disease causes conspicuous and debilitating lesions on all of the green above-ground parts of florist chrysanthemum and some close relatives. The fungus produces only two spore types (as opposed to the 4 or 5 of other rust fungi). Teliospores are produced in the pustules seen on the leaves below. The teliospores germinate under conditions of high humidity and produce basidiospores which are blown or splashed onto new host tissue. Basidiospore production from teliospores can occur in as little as three hours after wetness, and two hours of leaf wetness is all that is required for successful infection by dispersed basidiospores. New telial pustules appear in about 2-4 weeks after infection.



**Control:** sanitation is essential. Clean up leaf and stem debris, which can harbor rust spores. Avoid leaf wetness, reduce humidity, avoid overhead irrigation, and space plants for good air movement/circulation. Grow resistant varieties.