

# Powdery Mildew (Oidium Fungus) Eradication From African Violets

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10 minute process to totally clear up powdery mildew

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Powdery Mildew is caused by the Oidium fungus and can be eradicated from your African violets in a simple 10 min process.



Powdery Mildew is caused by the fungus *Oidium*. It is unmistakable as a white to gray powder appears to cover part of or in advanced cases the entire leaf of the plant. As the fungus spreads and/or the conditions continue to exist that allowed for this fungus to get a foothold on the plant, the entire plant becomes consumed by the fungus resulting in the death of the plant.

What causes it?

Conditions of high humidity, plants kept too wet, poor air circulation, and sudden changes in temperature all contribute to the establishment and spread.

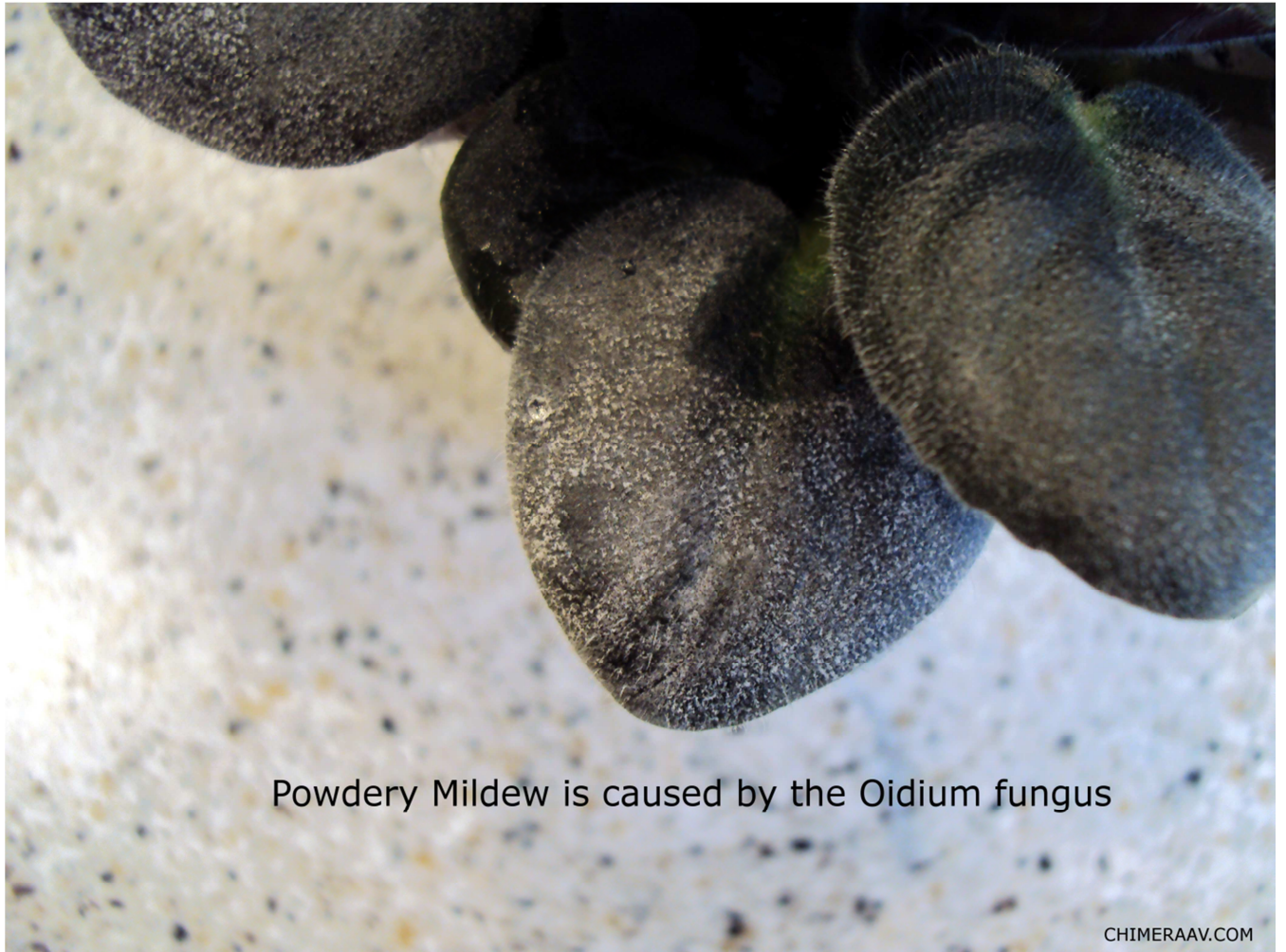
The treatment is simple, direct and should take you 10 minutes or less per plant to get rid of this fungus. No need for harsh or toxic chemicals. The following are four simple steps that take 10 minutes or less.

**Step 1** - Preparing the treatment solution.

**Step 3** - Plant cleaning. (5 min)

**Step 4** – Plant rinsing. (2 min)

**Step 5** – Plant drying. (2 min)



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So this is what I started with. The leaves were all covered, with the exception of the 3 youngest leaves in the crown of the plant. The plant we are working with here is Rob's Monkey Shine. It is a very nice semi-miniature chimera African violet.



### STEP 1..... Preparing the cleaning solution



The solution you will use is a 10% bleach solution. In this example I take 200 cc of Clorox bleach and added 1800 cc of room temperature tap water. To this I added 1 drop of dish detergent and stir. It is imperative that the drop of dish soap be added as the soap is a surfactant and essentially makes water wetter allowing to coat the leaves on the plant.

At this point you may wish to wrap plastic around the base of the plant to hold in the soil and plant as you will be turning the plant upside down for about 5 minutes.

Also at this time you may want to put on a pair of rubber gloves as your fingers will be coming in prolonged contact with the 10% bleach.



## STEP 2..... Cleaning the plant



Take the plant and dip and rotate the plant into the 10% Clorox bleach for 5 minutes. It is important you time this step. 5 minutes is all you need. But for best results make sure the plants leaves are submerged the full 5 minutes while rotating the plant clockwise then counterclockwise to constantly keep solution moving across the leaves assuring the Clorox bleach is in contact with the leaves surface.



This is the plant immediately after the 5 minute wash. Note the white mold on the leaves is now gone.



### STEP 3..... Rinse the plant



Immediately after the 5 minute wash in the 10% Clorox bleach, rinse the leaves in tap water (room temperature). Rotating the plant to assure all the leaves are thoroughly rinsed. Do this for about 2 minutes. My own personal bias is to set the water spigot so it sends out a shower stream which is a bit more forceful and it comes out in a wider spray area.

**STEP 5..... Dry the plant**



Using the paper towel and the advantage of the wicking ability of the paper towel, insert the edge of the towel in the center of the plant trying to remove as much of the water on the plant in all the crevices of the plant where water sitting for an extended period can cause issues.





Finally gently blot off each leaf. You will not get every droplet of water and that is fine. Now place the plant in an area where good air circulation exists.



After 1 week (this is the plant that was treated and photographed in the above illustrations) no evidence of Powdery Mildew is seen. And based on my past experiences it will not return as long as the appropriate conditions are maintained.