

CONTROL ROSE DISEASES

Black Spot

Black spot is caused by a fungus (*Diplocarpon rosae*) that spends the winter in foliage, mulch, or canes. With spring rain or watering, the fungus enters the leaf tissue, forming spots the size of a pinhead. The black spots enlarge up to 3/4" in diameter, as the fungus spreads. Lower leaves are usually the first to become infected and if left untreated most of the leaves will drop and the plant may die or look very unsightly. When irrigating roses use soaker hoses or drip irrigation instead of sprinklers. Always water in the mornings, so the foliage is dry by sunset. A shredded wood mulch will reduce splashing water from natural rainfall or irrigation. Begin preventative spray programs in early May and repeat every 10-14 days through the season. We offer Bonide Copper Fungicide and Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide for controlling black spot.

Rust

Yellow to brown spots up to 1/4" in diameter, appear on the upper surfaces of leaves, starting in early spring and again in late fall. The lower leaves are affected first. On the undersides of leaves are spots or blotches containing a red, orange, or black powdery material that can be scraped off. Infected leaves may become twisted and dry and drop off the plant. Plants lack vigor due to the diseased leaves. Rust is caused by several species of fungi (*Phragmidium* species) that infest only rose plants. Rose varieties vary in their resistance to this fungus. Moisture and moderate temperatures (55 to 75 F) initiate the spores that enter the tissue on the undersides of leaves. Rusty spots develop directly above, on the upper surfaces. Rust fungus can survive the winter on dead leaves. Spray Bonide Copper Fungicide or Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide from early May thru the season every 10-14 days will prevent this damaging fungus.



Powdery Mildew

Powdery mildew is the most widespread and serious disease of roses. Young leaves, twigs, and flower buds are covered with a thin layer of grayish white powdery material. Infected leaves may be distorted, turn yellow or purplish, and drop off. Badly infected flower buds do not open properly. Powdery Mildew occurs most often when daytime temperatures are cool, between 70-80 F, daytime humidity is low, and night time relative humidity is high. It almost always occurs when natural precipitation is low. Rose varieties differ in their susceptibility to powdery mildew. Spray with Fertilome Liquid Systemic Insecticide or Bonide Copper Fungicide at first sign of mildew and repeat every 10-14 days if the above described weather conditions continue. In late fall, remove all diseased leaves from around the roses.

