

Summer Rose Care – Disease & Insect Identification and Control, 2014

By Jim Wagner

In looking back over the past year, our rose and vegetable gardens flourished with little or no need to water and by fall some of our roses were six to seven feet tall with lots of buds and blooms and minimal blackspot. A harsh winter, including sub-zero temperatures following a January thaw and other times did serious damage to roses and other plantings

Summer vs. Spring Rose Care

In April and May, the primary care is spring pruning, applications of a fungicide to minimize the start of blackspot and powdery mildew, and the addition of a granular fertilizer in early to mid-May. By June, you may see evidence of insect damage in addition to fungus diseases, if not sooner. Along with proper fertilizing and watering of your roses, identification and control of disease and insects is needed for healthy roses and their survival.

The More Common Summer Time Disease, Insect, & Mite Challenges



Blackspot



Powdery Mildew



Aphids



White Flies

Blackspot

On the above, the darkest areas are the blackspot; lighter areas the yellowing part of the leaf, and the rest the leaf's normal green color. If a fungicide is not used starting in early spring, such damage can occur then, usually starting from the ground level upward and becomes more evident at temperatures around 75 degree for extended periods when the foliage is wet. Such leaves should be removed, placed in your trash, and either a chemical or organic spray, with or without an insecticide applied regularly, usually every 7 to 10 days from spring through fall.

Powdery Mildew

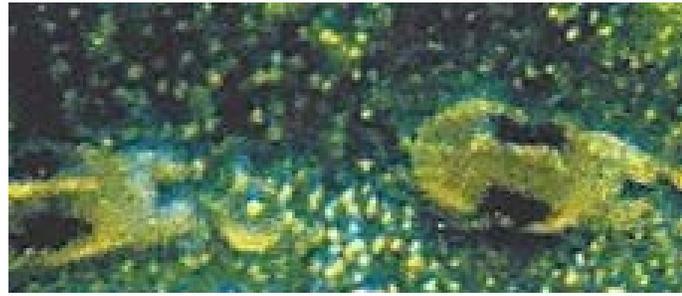
First indications are usually blisters on the surface and curling upwards of the leaves, especially on newer growth. Then a white like powder forms on the underside and then upper side of leaf. This disease is the worst during hot, dry weather with cool, moist nights. One website suggested washing mildew off by a forceful spraying of water early in the day so foliage has a chance to dry. Otherwise, consider the same care suggested for Blackspot.

Aphids & White Flies

Aphids are green, red, or black soft bugs, about 1/8" long, found mostly clustered on newer growth from spring to early fall. They suck juices from plants and discharge a sticky substance that sticks to one's clothing. White flies come in several species that feed on tender new growth all season. Both of these may be dislodged by strong water sprays. Otherwise, use insecticidal sprays, including insecticidal soaps or aerosol insecticides labeled for plant pests.



Japanese Beetles



Two Spotted Spider Mites

Japanese Beetles & Two Spotted Spider Mites

With the coming July 4 Independence Day, be on the watch for two unwelcome visitors – Japanese Beetles and Spider Mites. I have minimized the first by applying and watering in GrubEx or comparable products to the lawn in early June for a number of years with these beetles being almost non-existent the past couple of years. Otherwise, frequent picking off the beetles into soapy (detergent) water or lightly spraying the new growth and flower buds with Sevin frequently but that latter should be done late in the evening as Sevin is very toxic to bees.

Spider Mites can come on quickly and cause serious defoliation if you have a couple or more days of hot, dry weather. To verify, shake the foliage on clean white paper. If you see little moving specs, you likely have spider mites. Can often be controlled by a heavy spray of water every few days to both the under and upper sides of the foliage. If this does not work, spray with something that includes a miticide. Failure to control promptly, the bushes (especially miniatures) can lose all their foliage and blooms for one cycle.

Less Likely But Often More Destructive – Crown Gall, Midge, & Rose Rosette Disease



**Crown Gall
Mature, Large Size**



**Crown Gall
Mature, Small Size**



Midge



**Rose Rosette
Disease**

Crown Gall

A bacterial fungus that can form on the roots and the canes of roses. Often hard to detect unless working close to the lower parts of a bush. It is best to totally dig up the bush and dispose of it. If found on the roots, again totally remove the bush and also replace the soil.

Rose Midge

Larvae feed on immature buds of roses, turning the tips brown to blackish destroying the bloom on that cane. Rose midge pupae found on soil near plants. Several generations per year. as often as every two to four weeks. If it gets a major foothold, you may not have blooms for one or more bloom cycles. If seen, cut off and destroy upper part of infected canes daily. One of the best treatments is Spectracide Triazicide Insect Killer. Apply granular at first sign of damage and/or in spring and fall as a precautionary measure. Also available for use with hose end sprayers.

Rose Rosette Disease

Symptoms of this disease include rapid elongation of new shoots followed by witches' brooms, or leaves are small and distorted, larger than normal thorns, and/or may have a conspicuous red pigmentation. If you notice any of these symptoms and catch it quickly enough, remove the cane but if it has spread to multiple canes, it may be better to totally remove the entire bush and replace the soil it was growing in.

When disposing of the parts or all of plants with Crown Gall, Rose Midge, and/or Rose Rosette Disease, do not place in your clippings or compost but place inside a plastic bag and put in your trash. And carefully disinfect your tools, shovels, etc. before using them elsewhere.

Notes: Above illustrations are from various websites and the ARS Consulting Rosarian Manual.

File: Summer Rose Care 2014 (04/29/14)