



Rose Diseases

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There are many diseases that attack roses. Fortunately there are only a few that are widespread in the upper Midwest. Black Spot, Powdery Mildew, Downy Mildew, Rust and Anthracnose are the most common diseases and will be the subject of this guide.

Black Spot:

Source: Fungus *Diplocarpon rosae*.

Identification: Mostly black, circular spots that appear on the upper side of leaf, often surrounded by a yellowing of the leaf. The yellowing continues until leaf drop. Black spot spores are spread by splashing water with the disease usually starting at the bottom of the bush. A serious infection can completely defoliate a bush. Optimum conditions for infection and disease development are temperatures of 75°F to 85°F with relative humidity of 85% and six or more hours of leaf wetness.

Control: Remove and destroy diseased foliage and canes. Regular applications of preventative fungicides such as Immunox™, Funginex™ (triforine), Daconil™ (chlorothaliniol) or Mancozeb.

Powdery Mildew:

Source: *Sphaerotheca pannosa* var. *rosa*

Identification: Powdery mildew appears as small white patches of dust on leaves, stems, buds and flowers. Infection occurs at temperatures of 70°F to 80°F with humidity of 90-99%. Powdery patches appear usually a week after infection. Powdery Mildew is rarely present in hot, dry weather.

Control: Remove and destroy diseased foliage and canes. Regular applications of preventative fungicides such as Immunox™, Funginex™ (triforine), Banner Maxx™, Daconil (chlorothaliniol), copper, sulfur and in the fall lime sulfur.

Downy Mildew:

Source: *Peronospora sparsa*

Identification: Symptoms occur primarily on leaf, canes and peduncles. Large red to brown angular spots surrounded by yellow margins. Often confused with black spot. Appears during periods of cool, humid weather. Humidity below 85% and temperatures above 80°F tend to suppress disease development.

Control: Aliette, Heritage™ and Phyton™ 27.

Rust:

Source: *Phragmidium* (several species)

Identification: Small orange pustules normally develop on the underside of leaves and other plant parts at temperatures of 65° to 70°F with continuous moisture of two to three hours. There is little spread of the disease during the summer months. In late summer infected plants often develop black structures that overwinter on canes and fallen leaves.

Control: Remove and destroy diseased foliage and canes. Regular applications of preventative fungicides such as Immunox™, Funginex™ (triforine), sulfur or in the fall lime sulfur.

Anthracnose:

Source: *Elsinoe rosarum*

Identification: Initial infection usually starts out with small black spots, easily confused with black spot. As the disease continues the spots become purple to brown with a red or purple margin. Yellowing with defoliation can occur in severe infections.

Control: Remove and destroy diseased foliage and canes. Regular applications of preventative fungicides such as Immunox™, Funginex™ (triforine), Daconil™ (chlorothaliniol) or Mancozeb.

JOIN THE MINNESOTA ROSE SOCIETY. You'll meet new friends and keep up-to-date on rose care. For further information contact: Jim, 651-738-7957, jim@minnesotarosesociety.org or visit our website www.minnesotarosesociety.org

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