

## ROSE DISEASES AND PESTS

There are several types of diseases and insects that attack roses. Knowing what is disturbing the plant can with decisions for best treatment.

Spider mites and aphids are both small pests that inhabit the underside of the leaves and sometimes the buds and shoots of roses. Mites are associated with fine webbing while aphids will attract ants. Spraying water to dislodge them will take care of light infestations. For larger populations, use a miticide for mites and insecticidal soap for aphids.

Japanese beetles, which are metallic green, and rose chafers, which are yellowish brown, are two types of beetles found on roses, especially in June and July. They can be picked off and dropped into soapy water to kill them or sprayed with an appropriate pesticide.

Thrips and rose borers are pests that infest the internal parts of the plant and are not easily visible. Brown and distorted buds are signs of thrips and stem swelling is an indication of rose borers. The best control for both of these insects is to remove and destroy all infested material. Sealing pruning cuts with a sealer will help prevent reinfestation of borers.

Fungal diseases most common in roses are black spot, powdery mildew, and rust. Black Spot appears as circular black spots on the leaves, powdery mildew as a whitish powder, and rust as yellow or orange pustules. Although fungicides are available for these diseases, the best way to control fungus is through good cultural practices. This includes buying disease resistant plants, removing and disposing all infested plant material, allowing good air circulation between plants, and avoiding wetting the leaves when watering. Cleaning pruning equipment between plants is also helpful in avoiding the spread of these problems.

The **Master Gardener Hotline** is open from April to October, Monday through Friday. Lines are available 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at 888-678-3464

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