



REFERENCE:

Rose Rosette Disease

While Rose Rosette Disease has been documented for more than fifty years, it has become more commonplace and continues to spread in North Texas. Caused by a virus, there are actually multiple symptoms, and they may vary in their number and with the rose variety:



- Excessively thorned shoots or canes, or malformed leaves
- A 'Witch's broom' effect, where numerous small shoots form a cluster like a broom
- Unusually red or purplish colored new growth
- Overall stunted or abnormal growth
- Flowers that don't open in clusters, causing a 'rosette' form, and a general lack of vitality

We now know that a tiny *Eriophyid* mite definitely causes the spread of a virus that produces the symptoms above. Note that many roses naturally have new red growth, and a rose must have *more than one symptom* to be considered infected. While additional research and breeding is being undertaken and there is some hope, as of yet there is no cure.

NHG recommends the following to help us all stop the SPREAD of this disease:

- **Carefully observe your roses at least once weekly.** Early detection is key since rose rosette spreads and can affect other nearby roses quickly. *This is the most important step you can take to help stop the spread of the disease to other gardens.* Quarantine and monitor any new plants to help prevent further infection.
- For help with diagnosis, **you may bring in photos for help** (please do NOT bring in samples to NHG), email them to feedback@nhg.com, or seek help from the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Agency.
- **Remove infected roses immediately.** On a windless day, bag the plant *first*, and then *remove the plant roots and all*. Be sure to remove the entirety of the root system along with any leaf and stem debris, and dispose of it without composting in the bag. Do not use leaf blowers to remove any debris.
- **You *can* replant** with another rose in the same location, *if* the area has been cleared *and* you wait at least 1-2 months before replanting roses. For help with rose alternatives, see one of our Garden Advisors.
- When planting roses, **mix varieties with other kinds of plants.** Diversity is key to gardening success.
- **You may wish to treat any other roses with a miticide** to help kill the mite or spray dormant or all-season oils during cooler weather to reduce their numbers. Maintaining overall health can be good prevention.

FOR UPDATED INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE WWW.ROSEROSETTE.ORG.

Speak to a Garden Advisor for further diagnosis help and rose culture tips.

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