

Controlling black spot fungus disease on roses

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OSU Master Gardener's

Question: Black spots on my rose plants have really taken over this year. Many of my leaves have fallen off and I am afraid I have lost them. Should I pull out the plants and get new ones or radically prune them and hope they recover?

Answer: Unfortunately your problem could be coming from a couple of different sources. From your description and since you do not mention discoloration of the stems, it sounds as if you have a serious infection of

the fungus *Diplocarpon rosae* (Black Spot).

Black spot on roses is common in the spring and the fall and can also

be found during a wet summer or on plants that receive overhead watering. It survives from year to year on living or dead plant tissue and spreads when water activates the spores. Once infected leaves will fall off.



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This is a serious infection of the fungus *Diplocarpon rosae* (Black Spot).

Start by removing any dead plant material from around your roses as this will be the source of continuing infection. You did not mention where

your roses are located. Roses do not like to be in a dense area or in the shade.

Either of these conditions can contribute to the

problem. And as mentioned before they do not do well with overhead watering. If you are watering your grass and the roses get the spray that will be just as harmful as rain or intentional watering.

As leaves fall remove them

from the area and at the end of the season rake up and burn all plant residue from around your roses. Burn the residue rather than put it in your compost pile.

Once the wet season is past the infection should stop spreading and your leaves will probably grow back. If your canes are infected prune them back to two buds. Remove and destroy the diseased canes.

Chemical treatments are available and should be applied frequently in the wet spring and into the summer if the problem persists. When using a chemical treatment alternate the chemicals used so as to prevent creating a resistant fungus in your garden.



UC DAVIS

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The Pacific Northwest Guide to Plant Disease lists the following products as available for home use.

Bonide Captan 50 WP at 2 Tbsp/gal water can be used in home gardens.

Bonide Fung-onil Multi-purpose Fungicide at 2.25 teaspoons/gal water. Group M5 fungicide.

Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide at 1.44 fl oz/gal. May result in purple spots on some cultivars in cool conditions.

Ferti-lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide II at 1 fl oz/gal water plus another fungicide. Group 3 fungicide.

Hi-Yield Captan 50 W Fungicide may be used in Oregon home gardens at 2

Tbsp/gal water.

Infuse Systemic Disease Control at 2 Tbsp/gal water plus another fungicide. Group 3 fungicides.

Monterey Liqui-Cop at 3 Tbsp/gal water. May discolor blooms.

Ortho MAX Garden Disease Control at 1.5 Tbsp/4 gal water.

Ortho RosePride Disease Control at 1 Tbsp/gal water. Group 3 fungicide.

Spectracide Immunox at 1 oz/gal water. Group 3 fungicide.

As with any pesticide, the user is responsible for its use. Carefully read the label prior to making your purchase to insure it is for your plant and the disease. Before you mix and apply the chemical read the label again. Adding extra chemical to a solution does not improve the efficiency and in some cases can cause harm to the plants. Store the unused portion of the chemical in a safe place and/

or dispose of the empty container in accordance with the instructions on the label.

As a note, this diagnosis was done without seeing your plant or the disease. For a positive identification of your disease bring in a sample of the infected leaves to the Master Gardener Plant Clinic. The Plant Clinic is located in the OSU extension office at 1134 S.E. Douglas Ave., Roseburg (next door to the courthouse). If you have further questions you can call the Master Gardeners at 541-672-4461. Summer hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please e-mail, call, or visit the Douglas County Master Gardeners Plant Clinic at douglasmg@oregon-state.edu

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