

ROSE CARE AND TROUBLE SHOOTING

A rose problem is almost always a reflection of the plant's environment. Bad drainage, too little water, poor soil preparation, insects, disease - all are environmental conditions and can be successfully countered or avoided. This chart will help you diagnose and treat problems. The first line of defence against any rose problem is a strong, healthy plant. A little advance preparation such as the addition of peat or well-composted organic material to the soil, choosing the correct spot, good, deep watering practices and proper pruning will provide a blooming environment.

CULTURAL PROBLEMS

SYMPTOM

New roses are slow to start.

POSSIBLE CAUSES

Inadequate water after planting. Roots have dried out before planting. Roses exposed to very warm temperatures at planting.

REMEDY

Always keep soil moist. Soak roots in water before planting. Regularly, once a week, give a slow, deep long watering. Make sure the water penetrates a foot of soil.

SYMPTOM

Leggy growth with no flower buds.

POSSIBLE CAUSES

Inadequate sunlight.

REMEDY

Plant roses where they will receive 6 - 8 hrs of direct sunlight a day.

SYMPTOM

"Blindwood." Canes produce nothing but leaves...no blooms.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Over fertilization with high-nitrogen or inadequate sunlight.

REMEDY

Reduce fertilizer application, especially nitrogen. More harm is done by over fertilizing than by under fertilizing.

SYMPTOM

"Sucker growth" from below the bud union. Sucker growth will be distinctively different from normal growth, and will generally produce no flowers. The canes are small in diameter but exceptionally long. Do not confuse with the basal growth of the variety, which comes from above the bud union.

POSSIBLE CAUSES

Winterkill of the variety top in cold areas. Roses have not been maintained properly.

REMEDY

Using a sharp knife, remove sucker growth where it joins the main portion of the plant. Be certain to remove all of it.

SYMPTOM

Canes begin to turn brown from the ends. Usually noticed in the spring after winter protection has been removed.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Dieback-canecan have been injured by cold

REMEDY

Prune off brown sections in the spring, cut well below the discoloured area. Provide adequate winter protection.

INSECT PROBLEMS

SYMPTOM

Curled leaves and/or malformed flowers.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Aphids- tiny red or green insects, found mostly on new growth near developing buds. They prefer cool weather.

REMEDY

Spray during cool weather with Insecticidal Soap. Coat all leaf, bud and flower surfaces.

SYMPTOM

Blooms are discoloured with white spots and/or blooms fail to open.

POSSIBLE CAUSES

Thrips-light brown insects, very slender and less than 1/8" long. Move very quickly.

REMEDY

Spray with insecticidal Soap. Thrips hide within the petals. Fold back the petals, exposing the flower base.

SYMPTOM

The bottom leaves on the plant appear to be covered with fine grains of sand on the under surfaces. Leaves turn yellow and fall off.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Red Spider--Microscopic, reddish specks. They can spread very quickly, and favour the hot days

REMEDY

Spray with Insecticidal Soap. Direct spray upward, to the undersides of the bottom leaves.

SYMPTOM

Tissue of the leaves has been eaten, leaving only the skeleton of the leaf. Unopened flower buds have been devoured.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Japanese Beetle-metallic brown insects with green heads. Grubs of the beetle feed on lawns and grassy areas till late spring, then feed on roses in late spring or early summer.

REMEDY

Hand pick beetles in the cool, early morning with they are slower moving. Hang hormone beetle traps.

SYMPTOM

Green or red moss-like balls in rose canes or surrounding unopened blooms.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Mossy Gall Wasp-The moss-like balls contain eggs.

REMEDY

Cut off and destroy the infested canes.

SYMPTOM

Holes in pruned cane ends. Circular pieces eaten from the leaf margins.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Leaf Cutter Bee-The circular leaf pieces are used for egg partitions inside the burrowed cane.

REMEDY

Remove and destroy that portion of the cane containing the eggs.

SYMPTOM

Drooping, unopened buds, accompanied by a small, slightly discoloured entrance hole just below the flower bud.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Raspberry Cane Borer

REMEDY

Prune well below the entrance hole.

DISEASE PROBLEMS**SYMPTOM**

White powdery material on buds, leaves and flowers. Blooms fail to open, or only partially open.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Powdery Mildew-cool nights, warm days and high humidity. Water on the foliage of the plant.

REMEDY

Keep plant dry. Water only the ground, not the foliage. Dust plant with a fungicide. Prune for good air circulation.

SYMPTOM

Dark black spots on the leaves. They can be as small as a pinhead, but are not really noticed until the smaller spots run together forming larger spots, which may cover half of the leaf surface. Leaves will turn yellow and fall off. Affected leaves are always near the bottom of the plant.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Blackspot- a fungus that is favoured by periods of rain.

REMEDY

Keep leaves dry. Dust with a fungicide. Prune for good air circulation

SYMPTOM

Brown spots on the petals. In severe cases, random areas of the blooms will also become brown as the fungi spread. Blooms may not open, or only partially open. The disease is more pronounced on varieties with 40 or more petals.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Botrytis Blight-occurs during rainy, cold, wet weather.

REMEDY

Sprays for mildew or blackspot will help.

SYMPTOM

Canes begin to turn brown from the ends. Usually noticed in the spring after winter protection has been removed.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Dieback-caness have been injured by cold

REMEDY

Prune off brown sections in the spring, cut well below the discoloured area. Provide adequate winter protection.

SYMPTOM

Canes turn brown for reasons other than winter injury. Similar to dieback, but more likely to occur in late spring or fall.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Canker-one of several types of fungi. Infection is allowed by poor cultural practices, which impair plant vigour. Improper pruning cuts allow infection to start.

REMEDY

Remove cankered canes by cutting well below the afflicted areas. Provide optimum growing conditions and air circulation. Sterilize pruning shears after each cut to prevent spreading fungus.

SYMPTOM

Tumour-like growth on canes or roots, but most frequently at the bud union.

POSSIBLE CAUSE

Gall (crown, root or aerial)--A bacteria has entered the plant via a cut or other wound.

REMEDY

Prune out the affected sections. In the case of crown gall, destroy the entire plant. Sterilize shears after each cut to prevent the spread of disease. If roots and soil are infected, professional fumigation of the soil is recommended.