

# Xanthomonas Leaf Spot on Rose

Bacterial leaf spot on rose was discovered in the Southern states including Texas and Florida in the early 2000's. It is caused by a species of *Xanthomonas* that has not been fully identified but has been placed in the *X. axonopodis* subgroup. Strains from rose were found to affect another member of the Rosaceae family - *Raphiolepis* (Indian hawthorne). A number of *Xanthomonas* spp. pathogenic on members of



the family Rosaceae have been reported, including *Xanthomonas fragariae* on strawberry (very common throughout the US), *X. pruni* on peach (also very common), and a *Xanthomonas* sp. on *Photinia* seen frequently in Texas.



## SYMPTOMS

Spots form between leaf veins mostly giving rise to angular or square-shaped dead spots bordered by leaf veins. Lesions are usually dark brown and often merge to kill large sections of the leaves. Chlorosis of leaves occurs when many spots form and leaflet drop can be common.

## CULTURAL CONTROL

Examine all liners and other rose materials with leaves for any signs of leaf spots or other damage. Never accept cuttings or plants with symptoms of this bacterial leaf spot because it is very hard to control. Avoid overhead irrigation since this spreads the bacteria as well as creates ideal conditions for infection.

## BACTERICIDES FOR CONTROL

Both copper and mancozeb products have been helpful in controlling this disease in Florida. Other products that should work based on trials on other crops are biocontrol agents (like Cease and Triathlon BA) and DDAC (Kleengrow - a quaternary ammonium compound).