

Rose Black Spot

Black spot on rose is probably the second most common disease on this crop and is relatively easy to recognize. The pathogen is *Diplocarpon rosae* (imperfect state *Marsonina rosae*). This disease appears every year throughout the US and is the most continually damaging disease of roses. Many agree it is the most serious disease of rose worldwide. The pathogen can also infect other rosaceae plants including pear, apple and loquat.

SYMPTOMS

The spots appear black circular areas that have irregular borders that appear indistinct or ragged. Severe yellowing around the spots may occur but not always. One of the most common aspects of black spot is severe defoliation of infected leaves.



CULTURAL CONTROL

Spores of the fungus are spread to immature leaves by splashing rain or irrigation water. Spore germination and infection takes place only when water remains on the leaves for periods of 6 hours or longer and typical leaf spots develop within 5 to 10 days. Try to irrigate at the time of day that allows the most rapid leaf drying. Remove all infected leaves that have dropped as much as possible. New infections often originate



from fallen infected leaves with overhead irrigation or rainfall. Scout all plants for symptoms once a week.

The cultural steps that should be taken when growing garden roses are:

- Destroy rose debris from previous crops—spores live on fallen leaves and are the source of new infections each season.
- Space plants to allow rapid drying of leaves. As the canopy closes in, the humidity increases, making rust more severe. Crowded plants also make effective spraying almost impossible.
- Water at a time of day that will promote the fastest possible drying.
- Apply fungicides as soon as the first sign of black spot is noted.

FUNGICIDES FOR CONTROL

Nearly all trials included Daconil Ultrex at 1.4 lb/100 gal. It is almost always the best in the trial and that is usually excellent. It is pretty good on a 14 day interval but always better on a weekly interval. Under severe disease pressure it should be used on a weekly interval.

The next best standard is Eagle 40W (Hoist) used at 6 oz/100 gal. It is good on a 14 day interval but better on a 7 day interval. Pageant Intrinsic is also very good to excellent on a 14 day interval when used at 12.5 oz/100 gal. Heritage was also very good when used at 4 oz/100 gal on a 7 day interval.