

Rose Viruses

The most common virus disease on roses across the United States and Canada is rose mosaic virus. Specific virus diseases have been described since the 1960s as technical methods to identify and differentiate the viruses improved.

The viruses referred to as rose mosaic virus are found throughout the United States and Canada. Many different viruses are found in roses but the two most common are prunus necrotic ring spot virus (PNRSV), which is worldwide in distribution, and apple mosaic virus (ApMV), which has been found in Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

SYMPTOMS

Rose mosaic virus can have many symptoms, including ring spots, yellow wavy patterns or mosaics that can be faint or dramatic variations of dark green and bright yellow. Yellow wavy lines (sometimes called chevron patterns) and netting also occur. The specific viruses involved, as well as cultivar response determine the symptoms expressed.

CULTURAL CONTROL

The only real control is to remove and discard any rose with virus-like symptoms. Some infected plants only show leaves with symptoms when they first emerge in the spring. If new leaves form without symptoms, that does not mean that the rose is cured.

Various research trials have demonstrated that one or more of these viruses can be transmitted with contaminated pruning tools, while others have indicated this does not occur. To be safe, never prune infected stems from a rose showing symptoms and then prune another plant without symptoms. An entire rose plant should be considered infected even if only a small portion shows signs of virus infection.

