

Spot Anthracnose

There are a number of fungi that cause similar looking leaf spots on rose. One of the most common is spot anthracnose caused by *Sphaceloma rosarum*. Anthracnose on rose was first described from Italy in 1881. In the US it was reported on wild roses as early as 1898. In the US it is most common in the midwest on landscape roses.

SYMPTOMS

The initial symptoms of this disease are red spots that vary in color from brown to dark purple on the upper leaf surfaces. Round spots up to 1/4 inch in diameter are observed scattered across the leaves or they can coalesce (merge) to create blighted areas. Sometimes yellowing of the affected leaves occurs. When the spots age, their centers become white and sometimes fall away (shot-hole affect).



CULTURAL CONTROL

In the US, the spores of the fungus form and infection occurs. This would be one of the best times for a preventative fungicide spray. Since the spores are spread by splashing water including rainfall and overhead irrigation, it would be wise to limit or even eliminate sprinkler use on roses that are especially susceptible to spot anthracnose. Plant spacing that promotes rapid drying of leaves after irrigation and optimal fungicide spray coverage are also recommended.

FUNGICIDES FOR CONTROL

No trials on control of spot anthracnose on rose have been published. The following are suggested based on fungicide control of scab of poinsettia (caused by another species of *Sphaceloma*). Rotate between FRAC groups to limit the change of resistance development.

| Fungicide | FRAC | Scab Control |
|------------|----------|------------------------|
| Eagle 20EW | 3 | very good to excellent |
| Compass | 11 | excellent |
| Heritage | 11 | very good to excellent |
| Protect DF | M3 | excellent |
| Spectro 90 | 1 and M5 | very good to excellent |

These poinsettia scab trials are not current so other products like FRAC 7 and 11 premixes (Mural, Pageant Intrinsic and Orkestra Intrinsic) are also good choices for a rose leaf spot rotation. Be sure to read fungicide labels carefully and follow directions.

