



ARE YOU SEEING SPOTS

Black Spot is a fungal disease that affects only roses. It appears as a black spot on the leaves surrounded by yellow, and eventually the leaves turn yellow and fall off. The infection begins on leaves low to the ground.

The fungus lives on canes and fallen dead leaves over the winter and then spreads to living leaves in the spring when the air temperature rises to 65 F and the moisture through rain or humidity is high.

To control this disease clean up all dead and infected leaves. Spray with a solution of 1 Tbsp. Baking soda mixed in 1 litre Water (add 1 tsp. vegetable oil as a sticker). In the spring apply a spray of lime sulphur fungicide.

Give your roses good air circulation, avoid crowding them and keep the center of the plant pruned so there is open circulation. Water your roses before noon and avoid wetting the foliage. Use a mulch around your plants to cover infected soil. Disinfect your tools with alcohol or bleach after working on your roses.

Powdery mildew appears as a white or ash gray powdery mold on the leaves and stems of many plants. Badly infected leaves become discoloured and fall off.

Unlike most fungal diseases, which thrive in moist conditions, the powdery mildew spores thrive when soil conditions are dry. The spores live on the surface of leaves, flowers and stems, and are spread with wind or water.

Remove all infected leaves as soon as they appear. Improve the air circulation around the plants. Increase the soil moisture. I have found with Phlox that if you begin early in the spring and keep them well watered so they don't become dry and stressed the problem is greatly reduced. A spray of baking soda solution can be used on infected plants.

Leaf spot begins with tiny spots on the leaves, which soon grow larger with yellow halos around them. The spots then form a papery area.

This bacteria can live in plant debris for up to six months, and spreads through tools and splashing water.

Leaf spot thrives in mild, moist conditions in the spring and then spreads rapidly during periods of fast plant growth.

Avoid overhead watering, which can splash the bacteria up onto the plant.



Do not handle or work around your plants when they are wet. Inspect your plants regularly and remove any infected leaves or plants immediately. Destroy the infected plant material do not compost it. Avoid planting susceptible plants in the same area next year.