



# REFERENCE:

## Rose Rosette Disease

While Rose Rosette Disease has been documented for more than fifty years, it has become more commonplace and is spreading rapidly in North Texas. Caused by a virus, there are actually multiple symptoms, and they may vary in their number and with the rose variety:



- Excessively thorned shoots or canes, or malformed leaves
- A 'Witch's broom' effect, where numerous small shoots form a cluster like a broom
- Unusually red or purplish colored new growth
- Overall stunted or abnormal growth
- Flowers that don't open in clusters, causing a 'rosette' form, and a general lack of vitality

We now know that a tiny *Eriophyid* mite definitely causes the spread of a virus that produces the symptoms above. Note that many roses naturally have new red growth, and a rose must have *more than one symptom* to be considered infected. While additional research and breeding is being undertaken and there is some hope, as of **yet there is no cure**.

### NHG recommends the following to help us all stop the SPREAD of this disease:

- **Carefully observe your roses at least once weekly.** Early detection is key since rose rosette spreads and can affect other nearby roses quickly. **This is the most important step you can take to help stop the spread** of the disease to other gardens.
- For help with diagnosis, **you may bring in photos for help** (*please do NOT bring in samples to NHG*), email them to [feedback@nhg.com](mailto:feedback@nhg.com), or seek help from the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Agency.
- **Remove infected roses immediately.** On a windless day, bag the plant *first*, and then **remove the plant roots and all**. Be sure to remove the entirety of the root system along with any leaf and stem debris, and dispose of it without composting in the bag.
- **You can replant** with another rose in the same location, *if* the area has been cleared and you wait at the very least two weeks before planting. For help with rose alternatives, see one of our Garden Advisors.
- When planting roses, **mix varieties with other plants**. Do not use leaf blowers around them.
- **You may wish to treat any other roses with a miticide** to help kill the mite or spray dormant or all-season oils during cooler weather to reduce their numbers.

Speak to a Garden Advisor for further diagnosis help and rose culture tips.