



What You Need to Know about 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, these symptoms may vary in their number and with rose variety:

- Excessively thorned shoots or canes, or malformed leaves
- '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.** 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. Bring in photos, or SEALED samples to us at NHG, or seek help from the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Agency.
- **Remove infected roses immediately.** Bag the plant first, and then **remove the plant roots and all.** Be sure to remove the entirety of the root system, disposing of it without composting.
- **You can replant** with another rose in the same location, IF you wait at the very least two weeks before planting.
- **You may wish to treat any other roses with a miticide** to help kill the mite or spray dormant or all-seasons oils during cooler weather to reduce their numbers.

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