

DIAGNOSTIC KEY TO SOME COMMON ROSE PROBLEMS

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Problems affecting leaves go to A; buds or blossoms, B; stems or canes, C; roots, D.

A. PROBLEMS AFFECTING LEAVES

1. Spots on leaves.
 - a. Spots are 2-12 mm diameter, black or dark brown and roundish, may have a yellowish border, may coalesce into large black areas, generally on older leaves; edges of spots are poorly defined or feathery when viewed with a hand lens; occur on upper surface only; all seasons **Black spot**
 - b. Spots appear as dark purplish angular smudges with uneven borders, tending to end at leaf veins or to cluster around leaf veins; rapid leaf drop beginning at the bottom of the plant; often occurs during cool, wet spring or late fall weather..... **Downy mildew.**
2. Holes in leaves.
 - a. Holes appear on leaf edges only; are semi-circular in shape and 10-15 mm in diameter.....**Leaf cutter bee**
 - b. Holes may be on upper or lower surface, may be large or small, exposing uneaten leaf veins; holes give a “window pane” appearance; caterpillar-like insects, if present, are 5-10 mm long and greenish yellow; often occurring in groups..... **Rose slug**
3. Yellowish or whitish mottling on leaves; may show intricate patterns, venation, or large blotches; blossoms and stems normal..... **Rose mosaic**
4. Lower leaves turning yellowish and often falling from the plant; yellowing begins at leaf margins and works inward leaving green veins; undersides of leaves with a fine granular material; generally occurs in late summer or during periods of high temperature and little rain..... **Spider mites**
5. Young leaves puckered; may be covered with a whitish powdery material; often appearing in late summer..... **Powdery mildew**

B. PROBLEMS AFFECTING BUDS OR BLOSSOMS

1. Young buds and/or peduncles covered with clusters of small (3-5 mm) green, red or black insects; **Aphids**
2. Young buds, and/or peduncles, covered with a whitish material; may also extend to newly opening leaves or young canes; new leaves may appear curled; occurs in late summer..... **Powdery mildew**
3. Petals show small brownish spots and blemishes; tiny gray insects may appear on petals; particularly noticeable on white or light-colored varieties**Flower thrips**
4. Blossoms or buds absent from tips of canes..... **Blind shoots**
 - a. As above, but tiny brown remnants of flower buds are visible at tip of canes; flowers that do form may be disfigured; buds may have bent peduncles..... **Rose midge**
5. Blossoms eventually form on lax, abnormally long canes, but are different from the cultivar..... **Root suckers**
6. Mature flower buds begin to open, then rot and turn into soggy mass; buds are often covered with dark, fuzzy mold**Botrytis**
7. Petals covered with pink spots, often on light colored roses following rain.....**Ghost spots**
8. Strange, green, leaf-like structures emerging from flowers **Phyllody**

C. PROBLEMS AFFECTING STEMS OR CANES

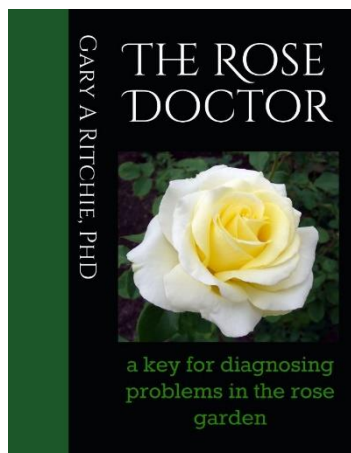
1. Problems normally affecting upper stems or canes.
 - a. Tips of stems, including buds, young flowers and leaves disappear; appear to be torn off **Deer damage**
 - b. Tip of new cane suddenly wilts and dies back forming a “U” shaped bend; transition between living and dead shoot is abrupt; occurs in spring ... **Raspberry horntail**
 - c. Canes are strangely flattened and distorted; may have an overabundance of buds, leaves and flowers **Fasciation**
2. Problems normally affecting lower stems or canes.
 - a. Canes show a spiral thickening below the surface; surface becomes dark in color and attains a cracked appearance; cane ultimately breaks above the damaged area....**Rose stem girdler**
 - b. Stems and leaves at base of plant suddenly disappear; damage normally confined to lower 30 cm of plant **Rabbit damage**
 - c. Brown, corky or flesh colored roundish mass develops on canes often at or near the bud union; may also occur farther up the cane beneath pruning cuts**Crown gall**
 - d. Canes develop that are much longer than other canes; canes are generally lax, and not branched; may not have blossoms or, if blossoms form, they are of a different cultivar and are either white or dark red..... **Root suckers**

D. PROBLEMS AFFECTING ROOTS

1. Masses of hair-like roots in clumps along root system... **Hairy root disease**
2. Roots black, tissue under bark dark brown, bark falls off easily..... **Root rot**
3. Roots are chewed off at or below ground level **Rodent damage**
4. Roots, when extracted from the ground, contain numerous small nodules, plant vigor declines, plant may be chlorotic (yellow).....**Root knot nematode**

Adapted from:

“The Rose Doctor: A Key for Diagnosing Problems in the Rose Garden”
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