

A Comparison of Foliar Diseases of Roses

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Powdery Mildew

White, powdery appearance to leaves

Favored by warm, humid weather

Starts on juvenile foliage

Does not defoliate plant

Control: good air movement between bushes, fungicides, resistance



Black Spot

Black to brown spots with diffuse borders; leaves may turn yellow

Favored by hot, wet weather

Often starts at bottom of bush and spreads up the plant

Defoliation in 7-10 days after infection

Control: good air movement between bushes, avoid overhead irrigation where possible, do not water just before or after dew periods, fungicides, resistance



Downy Mildew

Angular spots that are red/purple/black on top of leaves; on bottom of leaves, sparse, white fungal like growths

Favored by cool, wet weather

Often starts at top of bush

Defoliation in 3-4 days after infection; defoliation may be first symptom

Control: inspect new bushes for symptoms, avoid overhead irrigation; pick up defoliated leaves and strip bush of symptomatic leaves; fungicides



Cercospora Leaf Spot

Purple to reddish spots with defined borders; older spots have gray centers; spots seldom larger than pencil eraser

Favored by hot, humid weather

New spots are scattered through out the bush

Defoliation may occur when spotting is severe

Control is similar to that for black spot; resistance is available but resistance to black spot is not an indicator for resistance to Cercospora leaf spot



Anthracnose

Purple bordered spots with defined edges; center of spots often gray (necrotic)

Favored by cool, wet weather

Spots initially scattered, but spread through bush

Defoliation is seldom but may occur if spotting is severe

Control similar to black spot; resistance, but resistance to black spot is not an indicator for resistance to anthracnose



Rust

Yellow spots on leaf tops; yellowish, powdery spores on leaf bottoms; on new plants in the east, but spreads to older plants

Favored by warm, humid weather

Starts on older leaves but spreads rapidly throughout bush

Defoliation will occur when foliar symptoms are severe

Inspect new bushes for rust. If suspected, rub bottom of leaves with a tissue. If yellow/orange powder is observed on tissue, it's rust. Control is same as for powdery mildew