

Gardening Basics

Black Spot on Roses

According to Drs. Karl Steddom (Overton) and Kevin Ong (Dallas) of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, there are several methods to help in controlling black spot (*Diplocarpon rosae*) in roses:

- Reducing the length of time the leaves of roses are wet can reduce the severity of the fungal disease.
- Avoid watering your roses from overhead to avoid getting the leaves wet. If you're using one, this may mean you need to adjust your automated irrigation system, not spray water on your roses. Rather, water the roses with drip irrigation (preferred) or a soaker hose at the base of the plants.
- Water in the mornings, so the plant's leaves have time to dry during the day.
- Space out your rose plants to allow good air circulation. Prune out dead canes and remove dead leaves to reduce the overwintering of the fungus.
- Choose to plant rose varieties that show resistance to black spot. This link from the Pacific Northwest Extension lists rose cultivars that are resistant to common rose diseases: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/cultivar-tables/rose-cultivar-resistance>



Black spot (*Diplocarpon rosae*), Ward Upham, Kansas State University, Bugwood.org

According to Drs. Steddom and Ong, products containing neem oil or potassium bicarbonate provide decent control of black spot and are considered organic. In addition, they also say that fungicides containing active ingredients cyproconazole, triforine, or chlorothalonil can provide good control. These are not considered “organic.”

According to the University of Kentucky Plant Pathology Fact Sheet, “Homeowner's Guide to Fungicides”:

- Horticultural oils may be approved for organic use, including neem oil, plant-based oil products (garlic, rosemary, soybean), and petroleum-based or mineral oil products.
- Fungicide products containing the active ingredient tebuconazole or itraconazole can be used to control black spot in roses, although they are not considered “organic.”

As with the use of any chemical, read the label and follow the usage, rate, and safety instructions carefully.

Sources & Resources

Steddom, Karl and Ong, Kevin. "Black spot – common disease of roses in TX." plantclinic.tamu.edu, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 12 May 2008, plantclinic.tamu.edu/factsheets/black-spot-of-roses/.

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Gauthier, Nicole and Pfeufer, Emily. "Homeowner's Guide to Fungicides." plantpathology.ca.uky.edu, University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Cooperative Extension Service, 1 Apr. 2019, plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-07.pdf.