

PREVENTING BLACK SPOT: FOUR NATURAL WAYS

Troublesooter



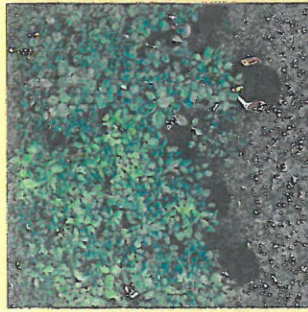
If black spot has become a recurrent problem with a particular Rose or Roses in your garden, prune them low in winter to remove wood that might be carrying the fungal spores.

Tip

Good watering options for Roses with black spot include soaker hoses and watering 'wands'. Soaker hoses are placed around the plant's base, while the wand is a hose-end device that prevents splashing and softens the water stream.



1 Healthy plants. Purchase Roses from a reputable nursery. Roses from a friend's garden or a market are more likely to carry black spot.



2 Positioning. Effective air circulation is one of the best ways to limit black spot infections. Place Roses where air will flow around them.



3 Careful watering. Overhead watering can spread the black spot fungus. Water your Roses at their roots early in the day.

4 Ground level defence. Remove and destroy Rose leaves as soon as they fall from the plant to prevent spores from settling in your soil.

PREVENTING BLACK SPOT: USING CHEMICALS

Black spot is most prevalent in humid summer climates; select Rose varieties known to be resistant. After pruning in winter, spray bushes with lime sulphur, and spray with a systemic fungicide every ten days or two weeks when the new growth begins.

Systemic fungicides such as Benomyl or Triflorine are



available either premixed, often with an insecticide included, or as concentrates to be diluted with water.

If the disease appears, remove and destroy affected leaves and spray weekly until symptoms disappear. Make sure the spray reaches the undersides of the leaves, where the fungus germinates.

A Guide to Treating Black Spot on Roses



A little watchfulness and simple, early treatment can go a long way toward keeping your roses healthy.

Banishing Black Spot from Roses

This fungus is easy to detect and takes just a little time to defeat.

WHAT IS BLACK SPOT?

Black spot is one of the three major diseases that affects Roses. Fortunately, it is easy to treat. It appears in the form of black patches on leaves and thrives in humid climates.

The first signs of this fungus are pinhead-sized black dots on Rose leaves. As the dots grow, they are surrounded by a yellow halo of dying leaf tissue. You can easily detect the fungus by checking Roses once a week. As the fungus progresses, leaves turn yellow and fall off, weakening the bush. Fortunately, treatment works even in advanced cases.

HOW IT SPREADS

Black spot spores travel in the air or on surfaces that brush infected leaves. Spores can also spread via water

Tip

To ensure effectiveness, always apply fungicides to your Roses according to the directions on their labels. Labels will also advise you about plants that might be sensitive to overspray from some fungicides. Although fungicides are considered to be safe, always wash hands after use. Store all chemicals in a safe, secure place.



Advanced stages of black spot on an 'Iceberg' Rose

spray, and through dead leaves that have fallen off the plant. Fungal spores can survive the winter in soil.

HOW TO TREAT IT

Treating black spot is an easy, ongoing process. There are three stages of defence: early prevention, quick treatment of small outbreaks, and regular treatments for larger or recurrent infections of black spot.

Prevention involves spraying your Roses with Triflorine, Benomyl or lime sulphur, and monitoring your Roses as soon as they show signs of new growth.



Signs of black spot on leaves

Remove infected leaves and throw them out as soon as possible.

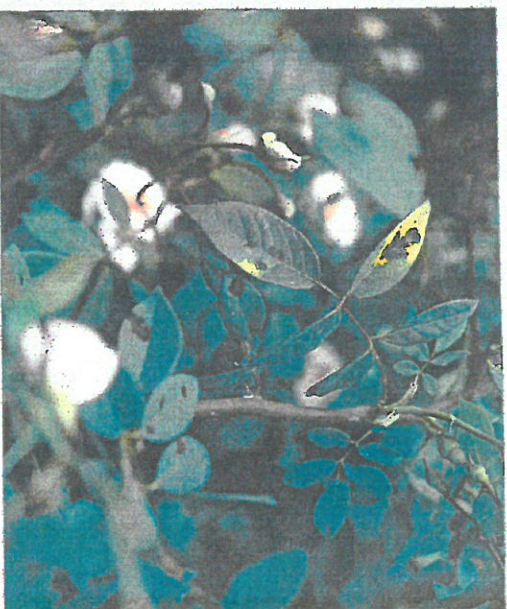
If a black spot infection sets in, begin regular weekly applications of a fungicide. Triflorine and Benomyl are two of the most effective types.

A Guide to Treating Black Spot on Roses

GROUP 6



Seasonal Tips



EARLY SPRING

Apply a fungicide spray as soon as growth begins.

SPRING

Inspect Rose bushes for signs of black spot. Remove any infected leaves and quickly destroy them. Begin a regular fungicide program if black spot was a problem last year.

SUMMER

Spray regularly with fungicide. If encountering a serious black spot outbreak, apply fungicide on a weekly basis until autumn.

AUTUMN

Continue spraying program and removal of diseased leaves until Roses stop growing.

WINTER

Clean up and spray after pruning.

AFTERCARE

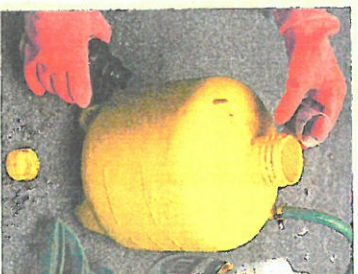
Since black spot spores can survive the winter in the soil as well as on the Rose branches, it is wise to spray the soil as well as the bush immediately after pruning. Lime sulphur or the systemic fungicide you use in summer are both suitable. Remove a



prunings and ensure no leaves remain on the bushes. If black spot was a problem last year, give the Roses extra fertiliser in early spring to ensure strong, disease-resistant growth.

Clean all tools that may have come in contact with your infected Roses, and always wash your gloves after handling any diseased leaves or stems. This will prevent the spread of black spot to healthy Roses.

Weather Watch



You can spray fungicides even if there is a chance of rain. Mix the fungicide with a solution of warm water and a few drops of soft soap. If you spray the Roses with this mixture at least 15 minutes before it begins to drizzle, the fungicide will not wash off the leaves.

