

Problem: Rose Rosette



Host: Wild and domestic roses. (*Rosa spp.*)

Description: Rose rosette is a more destructive disease than rose mosaic virus. It is a serious problem in Kansas on wild roses (*Rosa multiflora*) in pastures and hedges. It is also found in domestic rose plantings.

Infection is thought to start with rapid elongation of a new shoot. The rapid shoot growth may continue for several weeks to a length of two to three feet. Following shoot elongation, a witches' broom or clustering of small branches often occurs. The stems usually develop excessive thorniness and produce small, deformed leaves with a reddish-purple pigmentation. Stems and petioles of *Rosa multiflora* plants may have reddish blotches or streaks. Rose plants infected with the rose rosette virus die rapidly, usually within one to two years.

Rose rosette is caused by a Emaravirus species. Transmission of the disease has been shown experimentally through grafting and is also thought to be spread by mites. Though KnockOut roses are resistant to many diseases, they are susceptible to this one. The disease can also be transmitted by pruning shears. Therefore, disinfect the shears when moving from one plant to another by using rubbing alcohol or a disinfectant such as Lysol.

Recommendations: There is no effective control measure for roses infected with rose-rosette. In garden settings, infected plants including the root ball should be removed and destroyed. Wait two weeks before replanting to be sure no suckers resprout from any remaining roots.

References:

1. [Rose Rosette Disease](#), K-State Research and Extension, Plant Pathology MF-2974
2. Horst, Kenneth, ed. 1983. Compendium of Rose Diseases. pg. 28. APS Press.

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