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PROGRAM FOR THE CONTROL OF ROSE DISEASES

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

The control of rose diseases should have started last fall, by picking the diseased leaves from the bushes and raking up the fallen diseased leaves from the ground and burning. This practice will destroy the overwintering stages of the fungi that cause leaf diseases, such as blackspot, anthracnose, and rust.

Dormant Season Spray: Before growth starts in the spring, prune out and burn all diseased wood. This measure stops the spread of disease cankers to healthy wood and destroys the overwintering stages of fungi that cause such diseases as black spot, brown canker, brand canker, anthracnose, stem canker, and cane blight. Spray your rose bushes with winter strength lime-sulfur (1 pint per gallon of water) before growth starts. If this spray is thoroughly applied it will kill scale insects and destroy the spores of any fungi that are present on the canes.

Growing Season Sprays: Begin summer sprays soon after the first leaves appear. Repeat applications at about 10-day intervals, or more often during rainy, cloudy weather. A mixture of 1 level tablespoonful of zineb and 1/2 tablespoonful of maneb to each gallon of water will make an excellent spray for the control of most leafspot diseases. If mildew is a problem, 1/2 teaspoonful of Karathane should be added. For the control of insects, the entomologists recommend 2 level tablespoonfuls of 50% WP DDT and 2 level tablespoonfuls of 25% WP malathion to each gallon of spray. These insecticides can be added to the fungicide spray and applied in the same operation.

If you prefer dusting, you can buy a ready-prepared dust mixture that will contain 1 or 2 fungicides and 1 or 2 insecticides such as those mentioned above (for the spray mixture). Dusting usually is not as effective as spraying; however, it is more convenient. Dust applications must be made more frequently than sprays. Dust every 7 days, or more frequently during rainy, humid weather. All leaves and stems must be covered by each application. It is especially important that regular spray or dust applications be made. Otherwise, leafspot diseases will become established, after which it will be much more difficult to prevent serious infection.

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