

Rose Rosette

Rose rosette, commonly referred to as witches'-broom, is caused by a virus spread by the eriophyid mite. This disease is fatal to the rose once infected. Newly infected roses often show the first sign of the disease in mid-July.

Signs & Symptoms

- Abnormal red color in the foliage and shoots
- Shoots that rise above the rest of the plant
- An abundance of soft thorns on the stems
- Thicker stems
- Deformed and/or yellowed leaves
- New growth that has a mass of branches on the top - also known as "witches broom"

Life Cycle

- Disease that is transmitted by the eriophyid mite
- The mite can travel passively in the wind and on clothing
- Females overwinter under bark or on bud scales of living roses.
- Females lay one egg per day for about 30 days.
- Eggs hatch in 3-4 days and can reach adulthood in about a week if temperatures are favorable
- Virus transmission occurs between the months of May through mid-July
- Small plants are usually killed in about 2 years, mature plants in about 5 years

Management

- Carefully remove and destroy infected roses
- Preventative horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps are recommended weekly during the months of June and July
- Avoid planting susceptible roses after removing infected roses



Photos Missouri Botanical Garden