



## Understanding Rose Rosette Disease

Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) is a viral infection that affects rose plants, first identified in the 1940s in the western United States. It became a major issue in the 1990s as the popularity of Knock Out roses increased. RRD is caused by the Rose Rosette Virus (RRV) and is spread by a microscopic windborne mite called *Phyllocoptes fructiphilus*. Once a plant is infected, there is no cure, and the virus will eventually kill the rose.

### How It's Spread and How to Mitigate

- Spread by: Windborne eriophyid mites
- Not spread by pruning tools or human touch
- More common when roses are crowded

Mitigation steps:

- \* Space roses for airflow
- \* Avoid leaf blowers
- \* Monitor for early symptoms
- \* Remove infected plants entirely, including roots
- \* Dispose in trash-not compost
- \* Pause replanting roses in that spot temporarily

### Normal New Growth vs. Rose Rosette

| Characteristic    | I Normal New Growth     | I Rose Rosette Growth        |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| ----- ----- ----- |                         |                              |
| Leaf Color        | I Red, turns green      | I Intense red, stays twisted |
| Stem Appearance   | I Thin, straight        | I Thickened, distorted       |
| Thorn Density     | I Typical               | I Excessive, soft thorns     |
| Leaf Shape        | I Smooth, even-edged    | I Crinkled, curled           |
| Growth Pattern    | I Balanced shoot growth | I Witch's broom clusters     |
| Bloom Behavior    | I Normal buds/blooms    | I Deformed or no blooms      |

### If You Discover RRD

- \* Remove the entire rose, including roots
- \* Bag and discard-do NOT compost
- \* Clean tools after removal
- \* Watch nearby plants carefully
- \* Avoid replanting roses in the same location immediately