

Easy ways to fight the 'big four' foes of roses

Charmingly warm weather coaxed roses into bloom early this year, which means dealing with the usual diseases and pests earlier, too.

When it comes to one of the county's most popular perennial plants, the "big four" vexations are powdery mildew, black spot, rust and aphids, according to Jay W. Pscheidt, a plant pathology specialist with Oregon State University's Extension Service. More recently, downy mildew, which looks strikingly similar to black spot, has become an increasing problem.

"People are confusing them," he said. "It's difficult to tell the two apart."

However, the black spots made by downy mildew spores are not as dark and can have an angular appearance. Under moist conditions, you might see a gray, downy-looking growth on the undersides of the leaves.

After the relatively dry weather this year, black spot will be less of an issue, Pscheidt said, while the incidence of rust may be greater than normal. Rust, which begins in spring and peaks in early summer, appears as orange pustules that can blanket the foliage in worst-case scenarios.



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

As the name suggests, powdery mildew shows up as a white powder covering the leaves, but without the black blotches typical of downy mildew and black spot, he said. It usually hits roses during the transition into summer's driest time, particularly when dry days are followed by nights with high humidity.

Insects are less of an issue with roses. Aphids are about all gardeners have to worry about in Oregon and are fairly easy to control, according to Gail Langellotto, Master Gardener coordinator for Oregon State University's Extension Service. Her first line of defense would be to squish some with her fingers to release a chemical signal that attracts natural enemies like lacewings, ladybird beetles and parasitoid wasps. Follow that with a strong spray of water from the hose to wash the remaining aphids to the ground.

Tips to Prevent Disease

In addition to careful selection, prevention is the next best strategy and Pscheidt has some recommendations:

- **Don't crowd plants.** Space adequately so sun will penetrate and air will circulate to dry foliage quickly after rain or watering.
- When pruning roses in late winter, **clean up foliage thoroughly** with a rake or leaf blower and remove diseased stems.
- **Use soaker hoses** to water when possible. If using an overhead sprinkler, irrigate so that foliage has time to dry out before evening.
- If desired, **spray early with an organic or chemical fungicide or pesticide.** Always follow label instructions.
- **For more information,** refer to the OSU Extension publication *Controlling Diseases and Aphids on Your Roses* or get help from a Master Gardener in your area.

"Aphids are poor climbers," she said, "and are less likely to reestablish because they run a high risk of getting eaten by ground-roving predators, such as spiders and beetles."

Since aphid numbers can explode on nitrogen-rich plants, it's a good idea to use an organic fertilizer, or a slow-release synthetic fertilizer that will give them less readily available nitrogen.

As for diseases, the best strategy is to start with disease-resistant cultivars.

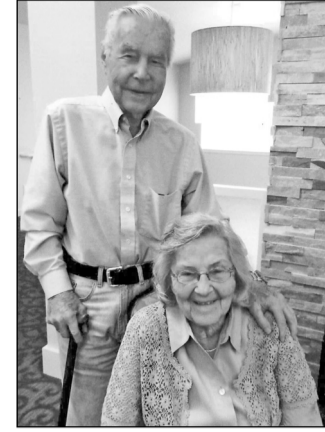
"Buy fisherman roses," Pscheidt said. "The types that you can plant and then go fishing. Breeders are always coming up with new plants

that resist pests. Local retail nurseries will generally have a good list for you."

But just because a rose is an older variety doesn't mean they don't fight off disease. OSU Extension's Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Control Handbook offers a list of classics that fight the good fight against black spot, rust and powdery mildew. Longtime favorite hybrid teas "Just Joey," "Chicago Peace" and "Mr. Lincoln" are on the roster. "Gold Medal" and "Queen Elizabeth" grandifloras made the cut, as did the well-known floribunda roses "Playboy," "Sexy Rexy" and "Iceberg."

ANNIVERSARIES

Vesper — 75th



Warren and Virginia Vesper of Dallas celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary with family and friends at the Dallas Retirement Village.

Warren Buell Vesper and Virginia Mae Scooley were married May 4, 1940, in Yuma, Ariz. The justice of the peace in Yuma performed the ceremony.

The couple has lived in California, Nevada and Oregon throughout their lives and the last year in

Polk County.

Warren retired in 1974 as an electrical engineer from Locke Aircraft in Burbank, Calif. Virginia is a homemaker.

Warren and Virginia enjoy living at Dallas Retirement Village and visiting with friends and family.

Their family includes Linda and George Potsic of Woodland Hills, Calif., and Karen and Paul Box of Salem. The couple has 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Graham — 65th



Albert and Wanda Graham of Monmouth will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary with their family at home.

Albert Graham and Wanda Quiring were married June 9, 1950, in

Dallas at Grace Mennonite Church. Rev. Regier performed the ceremony.

The couple has lived in Polk County throughout their marriage.

Albert retired in 1984 as the powerhouse operator at the mill in Valsetz. Wanda is a homemaker.

Albert and Wanda enjoy gardening, genealogy, bird watching, family gatherings, watercolor painting and quilting.

Their family includes Cheryl Black of Corvallis, Audrey and Ron Warkentin of Monmouth, Linda and Mickey Taylor of Monmouth, Floyd Graham of Monmouth, and Laura Iwanaga of Los Gatos, Calif. The couple has seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

MI TOWN

A brand spanking-new month brings us closer to summertime in MI Town, where we can almost taste the buttery corn on the cob, and look forward to baked beans and potato salad as we wait for the burgers or hot dogs or ribs to finish grilling. It's time to think about concerts in Main Street Park and movies by the river, to put away the coats and jackets and to bring out beach blankets and swim suits.

Summer programs for readers of all ages are beginning at both Independence and Monmouth libraries, and everyone is invited to participate. Be sure to stop



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

by your nearest library to get all the information you need to begin a great summer adventure.

A library card can take you to faraway places and even back in time. You don't need to make a reservation or pack a bag, you don't have to pay fees for travel or fill the car with gas. Pick out a country to visit and learn about the people, weather, cities and towns, and you'll

discover so many fun and interesting things you never knew before.

Summer is a great time to begin such a journey, and all you need is a library card.

Another sure sign of summer is the sights and sounds of trucks, trailers and automobiles as many of our WOU students will be returning to their home towns, heading off for summer travel and seeking new opportunities after graduation.

There's a definite change in our communities when so many students leave for the summer, but with summer classes going on, we

have the presence of youth — which keeps us from becoming old and stodgy and set in our ways. Come September, it'll be fun to welcome new students and faculty members for a new academic year.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this Saturday so you won't forget the monthly community breakfast at the Monmouth Senior Center. Bring the entire family to start the day off right with pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy. Portions are generous and prices are reasonable (\$6 for adults, \$3 for children younger than 12). See you there.

PEDEE NEWS

Pedee Church is going to publish a new community cookbook in time for Christmas and wants, not only recipes from community members and friends, but any Pedee history you might know, to add to the book.

Send both to me, Arlene, at kovasha@gmail.com, or drop your contributions in the mail to me. I know we all get most of our recipes online, but there's nothing



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

like having a collection of favorite recipes from friends and neighbors. The goal is to help fund a new kitchen for the church since the current one is the original, built

in 1959. Let's see, selling 30,000 copies ought to do it.

Playing catchup here, since there was no column last week: on the morning of May 15, Rob Zarfes, husband of church secretary Lyndsey Zarfes, delivered his son, Derek Solomon, after Lyndsey woke up in labor. A home delivery was planned, but Rob hadn't signed up to be doing it, especially with no help or

preparation. He thought it was a very exciting thing to do, though.

Allison Barnhart is substituting as church secretary for Lyndsey, but as she was driving to work on her second day on the job, on May 15, she slid off the road and rolled her car several times, coming away with only a scratch on the palm of her hand. The car wasn't so lucky, as it was totaled.

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6	9	3	5	4	2	1	8	7
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