

GARDEN

Less-Toxic Pest Control Methods
for Your Home & Garden

ROSE DISEASES



ROSE
DISEASES
include powdery
mildew, shown
above, rust, and
black spot.



PREVENTION

- **Plant varieties that are resistant** to diseases. Some rose varieties are very susceptible to disease. Unhealthy plants are also more likely to get diseases. Learn how and when to fertilize and water your plants.
- **Keep water off** of foliage if black spot or rust is a problem. Water early in the day on warm days.
- **Wash leaves** every three days for powdery mildew, which needs dry foliage. If black spot and powdery mildew are also a problem, rinse leaves off when there is enough sun to dry them quickly.
- **Prune roses** so that the middle is free of stems and there is lots of space between stems so there will be plenty of air movement.
- **Use compost or slow-release fertilizers.** Too much nitrogen produces lots of new tender growth that is weak and more susceptible to disease. Ask nursery staff or Master Gardeners for the best choices.

LESS-TOXIC CONTROLS

- **Prune out diseased canes.** If you have severe damage, prune to 4 inches of the ground. If your roses do not go dormant due to warm winters, remove all leaves and infected canes in mid-January.
- **Remove all fallen leaves** that are a source of disease. Mulch about 3 inches to form a barrier.
- Surfactants will eliminate powdery mildew and rust. It will prevent black spot, but not kill it once it has begun. Purchase at a nursery and follow label directions.
- Antitranspirants are waxes that work as a barrier. They are effective on mildew and rust. Purchase at a nursery and follow label directions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the Central Coast Environmental Health Project (CCEHP) at (805) 963-1622 ext. 111, or the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner at (805) 681-5600. Information compiled by the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO) and the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's office on behalf of the CCEHP.