

PEST: Rose Rosette Disease

BASIC PROFILE: RRD is thought to be a viral disease that affects most hybrid roses. It can be found in wild, native multiflora roses and is spread to hybrid varieties by a windblown eriophyid mite vector, *Phyllocoptes fructiphilus*. Early RRD symptoms include red leaf veins, the growth of long, red-colored shoots with excessive thorns and unopened flower buds. Later the plants exhibit dense “witches broom” foliage clusters with short, red lateral thickened shoots and deformed flowers. Symptoms may resemble herbicide damage, although excessive thorns usually are not seen with herbicide damage. Plants may live 1-5 years in poor condition but will die from RRD.

LDAF ACTIVITY: Currently, RRD has not been found in Louisiana, although roses with suspect symptoms have been reported. There is no effective treatment for RRD, but chemical applications to control the mite vector may be helpful. RRD-infected roses should be removed when found by digging/cutting and bagging plant debris. LDAF personnel inspect for RRD during routine nursery grower and dealer inspections. If found, RRD-infected roses will be removed from sale and their source determined. There is no federal quarantine. LDAF does not plan to impose a quarantine. LSU will be asked to provide best management practice information to growers/homeowners.

