

Rosemania

Rosemania Recommends:

Successful Spray Programs

by: Logan Shillinglaw

Our goal is to make growing beautiful roses as easy as possible. Last month, we talked about following the basics to get your roses off to a good start. Choosing a successful spray program can keep a good thing going. The last thing you want to do is take what appear to be short cuts in the care of your roses, because to tell you the truth (the voice of experience here), trying to shortcut the basics will actually make it harder to have gorgeous flowers for everyone to enjoy.

Disease Prevention and Cure

With any good spray program, the key is "Prevention". You don't want to be spending all your time fighting blackspot and powdery mildew. By waiting until you get the disease, you'll waste a whole lotta time fixing something that could have been easily prevented.

When you do your spring pruning, immediately start your preventative spray program. Spray the canes and bed with a blackspot contact killer such as *Mancozeb* or *Manzate*. This will eliminate any blackspot spores that "wintered" over. One week later, start your preventative program and continue until your roses go dormant from cold weather (late fall or early winter). Rosarians in Florida and California need to continue their spray program year round.

PROVEN PERFORMER Do you want to cut out weekly spray routines? By using *Banner Maxx* you only have to spray every 14 days - what a time savings!! You're not taking a shortcut. *Banner Maxx* is designed to be sprayed every two weeks. More often is not better. I HIGHLY recommend this product because it works on preventing both blackspot and powdery mildew. Add *Mancozeb* or *Manzate* to the *Banner Maxx* every other

spraying to kill any blackspot spores that might be building up a resistance to *Banner Maxx*. Remember - when you combine products, always use them at full strength.

TOP OF THE LINE PROGRAM If you have a large garden (150+ bushes) or if money is no object when it comes to protecting your prized roses, I recommend alternating *Banner Maxx* with *Compass* every two weeks. *Compass* uses a different active ingredient than *Banner Maxx* so blackspot has less of a chance to develop chemical resistance.

I also use *Indicate 5* in my regular spray program. This enables the spray to easily coat the entire surface of the leaf while adjusting the water's pH to the level where the chemicals have their greatest impact.

If blackspot or powdery mildew is already active in your garden, you need a contact killer. For blackspot, spray *Mancozeb* or *Manzate* every three days for three intervals. Example: Spray on Monday, Thursday and Sunday. Be sure to spray the entire plant and the soil in the bed. This will kill all the active spores and give you a fresh start. Once completed, go back to your regular preventative program.

Getting rid of powdery mildew is even easier. I started using *E-RASE* a few years ago and it has made powdery mildew control a snap. Derived from the natural jojoba seed oil, it works by simply smothering the spores. If needed, repeat in four days. This is a curative so you only need to use it when you have powdery mildew. What could be easier?!

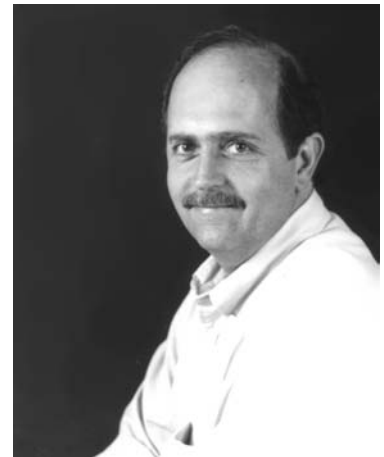
Insects and Mites

Like most rosarians, I do not recommend spraying insecticides or miticides preventively. Spray them only when you have a pest problem. Products like *Orthene* work great on most common insects like aphids and thrips. However, they also kill the beneficial insects that keep spider mites under control. For best protection

against aphids, I use *Merit*. For thrips, you cannot beat *Conserve SC*.

Spray for spider mites when you first start to see evidence of them - not preventively. While *Avid* is an excellent miticide, remember it only kills the adults so you will need to repeat after three or four days to kill the newly hatched mites. *Floramite SC* will eliminate both the adult mites AND the eggs so it is rare to have to repeat more often than 21 days.

A last few points. Always follow the directions on the manufacturer's label. More is not better so don't over mix or over apply. Spray your roses to lightly cover the leaves. Be sure to safely dispose of all spray material when you are finished. The mixture will lose its strength and storage is not a safe practice. I also strongly recommend wearing a respirator, goggles and chemical resistant gloves. It is important to cover your arms and legs with both long pants and long sleeves or with a chemical resistant suit such as Tyvek.



Logan Shillinglaw is a past President of the Nashville Rose Society as well as a Consulting Rosarian. He wrote the Beginners Column in the *American Rose* magazine in 2001. He is Co-Owner of *Rosemania* and enjoys giving presentations to local groups on the ease of growing beautiful roses. He and his wife Joan are accomplished exhibitors and balance their time between work, their two children and tending to their 125+ roses. Feel free to contact him by e-mail at questions@rosemania.com.