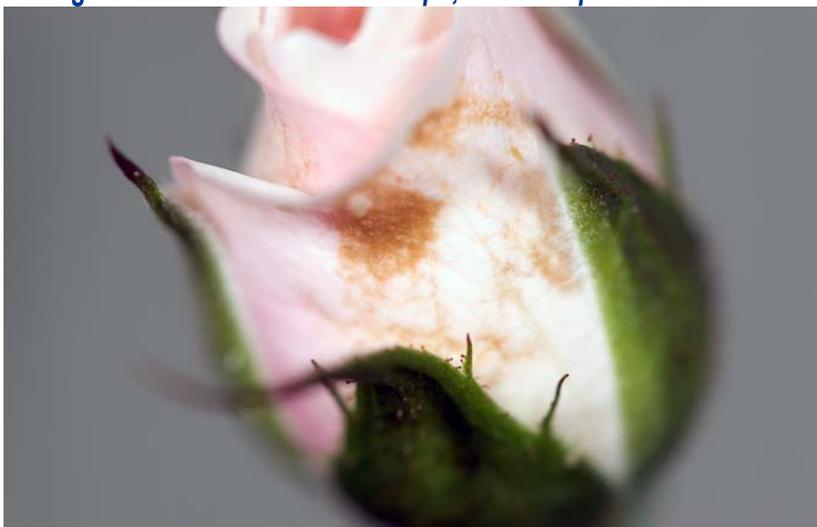


# ROSE PESTS AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM - PART II

Well, as we have seen when they were passing out pests, roses were first in line! While black spot and nematodes are bad enough, there are other rose pests that can wreak havoc on your prized plants. However all is not lost, and there are options to manage these pests. This is the second article on battling common rose pests.

**Chili thrips** are a relatively new insect pest in our area. These tiny insects feed on leaves and buds causing discolored and curled leaves. Chili thrips work quickly and may even defoliate roses. Control options may include the application of horticultural oil or insecticidal soap as per label instructions and

## *Damage attributed to the Chili Thrips, **Scirtothrips dorsalis**:*



*An infested rose bud (above) and heavily damaged foliage (below) found in the Winter Park, Florida, municipal rose garden.*

<http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/lso/thripslinks.htm>



not in the heat of the day. There are other species of thrips that also affect roses. The **Florida flower thrips** and the **Western flower thrips** are larger than the Chili thrips, but are still relatively tiny. These flower feeders often leave telltale droppings that appear as dark spots.

On occasion you may see one-half-inch wide circular holes cut from the edge of a leaf. There may be several of these holes per leaf, but the culprit is not often observed. The insect guilty of this damage is known as the **leafcutter bee**. While the missing leaf tissue may look bad, the damaged foliage is not detrimental to the rose, just an eyesore to you. Also, keep in mind that these solitary bees are important pollinators.

The **aphid**, in particular the **yellow rose aphid**, is another insect pest that is familiar to most gardeners. While most common in the fall and spring, these tiny pear-shaped insects can feed on the underside of leaves all year long. Aphids excrete honeydew, a sticky sugary substance that drops down on leaves below. Sooty mold, a relatively harmless, but messy mold, grows on the honeydew turning leaves black. This is a good indicator of the presence of aphids. Beyond numerous natural enemies such as lady beetles, lacewing larvae and syrphid flies, horticultural oil or insecticidal soap will work making sure to

*(Continued on page 2)*

---

*The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. UF/IFAS does not guarantee or warranty the products named, and references to them in this publication do not signify our approval to the exclusion of other products of suitable composition.*

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For more information on obtaining other extension publications, please contact Charlotte County Extension Service at 941.764.4340, or visit us online at <http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu>. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

---

December 22, 2008

apply it where the aphids are - under the leaves.

One pest that often builds up in hot, dry weather is the **two-spotted spider mite**. These are non-insect pests which feed on the underside of leaves and leave a bleached out look to the foliage. There is also fine webbing associated with these mites. While commercially available insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils can be used as a least toxic control option as per label directions and making sure that both the host and the plant are on the label, there are a number of natural predators that also may be present to reduce spider mite populations. For instance, predatory mites are commonly found feeding on two-spotted spider mites.

There are other insects to watch out for as well. **Rose scales** may occasionally become a problem. This scale insect will align itself on the bark protected with shield-like oval armor. The adult scale insects do not move, but their babies called "crawlers" move about in search of new feeding sites. Scales in the crawler stage are easier to control.

The next article in this series will deal with some final rose pests with a focus on rose diseases involving fungal and viral problems.

#### Resources:

- Knox, G.W. & Mizell III, R.F. (2008) *Pests of Roses in Florida*. UF/IFAS Extension Service.
- Serrano, D. (2008) *Leaf-cutting Bees*. Featured Creatures. UF/IFAS Extension Service.
- Chilli Thrips Photos and Research - University of Florida > MREC (2008) UF/IFAS Extension Service.

Ralph Mitchell is the Extension Director/ Horticulture Agent for Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension Service. Ralph can be reached at 941.764.4344 or by email: [Ralph.Mitchell@CharlotteFL.com](mailto:Ralph.Mitchell@CharlotteFL.com).

For more information about our Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program, please contact our FYN Horticulture Program Assistant, Allison Turner, at 764.4351 or email [Allison.Turner@CharlotteFL.com](mailto:Allison.Turner@CharlotteFL.com). Allison can help educate you about the FYN Program so you can create a beautiful, Florida-Friendly landscape that saves you time and money while conserving precious water resources and reducing pollution.

contact a  
**MASTER GARDENER**  
on the Plant Lifeline from 1:00pm-4:00pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 764.4340 or by email [Master.Gardener@charlottefl.com](mailto:Master.Gardener@charlottefl.com).

You can also visit them at one of our many **Plant Clinics** around the county:  
<http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu/PlantClinics.pdf>



**RALPH MITCHELL**  
Extension Director/Horticulture Agent  
[Ralph.Mitchell@CharlotteFL.com](mailto:Ralph.Mitchell@CharlotteFL.com)



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY UF/IFAS EXTENSION SERVICE**  
25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 3 - Port Charlotte, Florida 33980  
941.764.4340 - 941.764.4343 (fax) - <http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu>