

Growing Roses Requires Dedication

Dear Plant Doctor: I read your column each week in the newspaper but never see any information on roses. I need to find out how to rid my plants of the fungus that puts round brown spots on the leaves. Also, I would like to know what kind of insect eats round holes in just one side of the bud? I will be looking forward to finding the answers in your next column.

Answer: Growing beautiful roses in the southeast requires dedication and attention to detail. I love roses but hate the spraying and constant care that many of the hybrid roses require. Growing beautiful roses requires that you employ cultural practices that include spraying for disease, insect and mite control. Our heat and humidity create an ideal climate and environment for these pests.

The most common disease on roses in North Carolina are black spot and powdery mildew. Black spot is a fungus disease that produces circular black spots with a frayed margin on the upper leaf surface.

THE PLANT DOCTOR

C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Extension Area Turf Specialist

face. As spots enlarge or increase in number, the infected leaves turn yellow and drop off the plant. If this disease is not controlled, most of the leaves will fall off the plant. Plants become weakened, flower production is greatly reduced and the plant becomes susceptible to other diseases and winter injury.

Black spot control requires that you select varieties of roses that have genetic resistance to the disease and institute a regular fungicide spray program. Spray applications must begin as the new growth starts in the spring and continue at seven to 10 day intervals throughout

the growing season. In your case, the disease has already infected your roses. You should immediately remove all infected leaves from the plants and from the ground beneath the plants.

Powdery mildew is a fungus disease that initially causes a white mold on the leaves, stems or newly developing shoots. Later stages of the disease show up as irregular brown or black blotches on the infected tissue. Powdery mildew causes leaf distortion and results in less leaf drop than black spot. The disease is usually more severe in shady areas and during cool weather. Remove and destroy diseased plant parts as soon as you see an outbreak.

Excellent control of black spot and powdery mildew can be obtained with the fungicides tridemorph (Funginex) and benomyl (Banalite). Best control is achieved by alternating the use of these two fungicides. Remember that fungicides work by protecting the plant tissue, so make sure that the spray covers all plant

surfaces. Follow all directions and precautions stated by the manufacturer on the label.

The insect damage you describe is probably the result of Japanese beetles. Numerous insecticides are approved for roses that will eliminate this pest, but the secret to control requires that apply the insecticide as soon as damage is observed. I believe that this summer will be especially bad season for Japanese beetles (due to our mild winter). Control this year could be extraordinarily difficult.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension has several excellent publications on rose insect and disease problems. Ask your local extension agent about Rose Diseases and Their Control in the Home Garden (Plant Pathology Information Note 129) and Roses (Folder 104). Don't forget to smell the roses along the way.

Send your gardening questions to the Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.



To Wed July 27

Mr. and Mrs. James David Gray of Shallotte have announced the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Jill D. Gray, to Kim L. Clemons, son of Russell Clemons and Clydie L. Clemons, both of Tabor City. The wedding will be held Saturday, July 27, at 3 p.m. at Shallotte First Baptist Church. Friends and relatives are invited. No invitations will be sent.

Oyster Festival Recognized

The 11th North Carolina Oyster Festival has been recognized by Celebration North Carolina as one of the state's outstanding festivals.

It is one of 100 festivals awarded the official Celebration North Carolina designation for 1991 as an event "that inspires community pride and contributes to North Carolina's unique cultural heritage."

Celebration North Carolina is a not-for-profit foundation created by Gov. James G. Martin to inspire citizen pride and involvement in community activities that improve quality of life.

"Each year, hundreds of festivals occur throughout our state that bring people together to celebrate a meaningful tradition or commemo-

rate a festival occasion," said Martin in a news release encouraging attendance at the event. "We wanted to create a way to bring attention to some of these events which are enjoyed by many and

make a special contribution to the North Carolina experience."

Sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, this year's N.C. Oyster Festival will be held Oct. 18 and 19 at Seaside.

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Carpenters Win Yard Honors

The Holden Beach Beautification Committee has chosen the yard of Ben and Lib Carpenter of 118 Lions Paw Drive as yard of the month for July. Pictured with Mrs. Carpenter (right) is committee zone captain "Hap" Hart. Janie Steorts, chairperson of the yard of the month committee, said selection was difficult this month because so many yards have plants in bloom.

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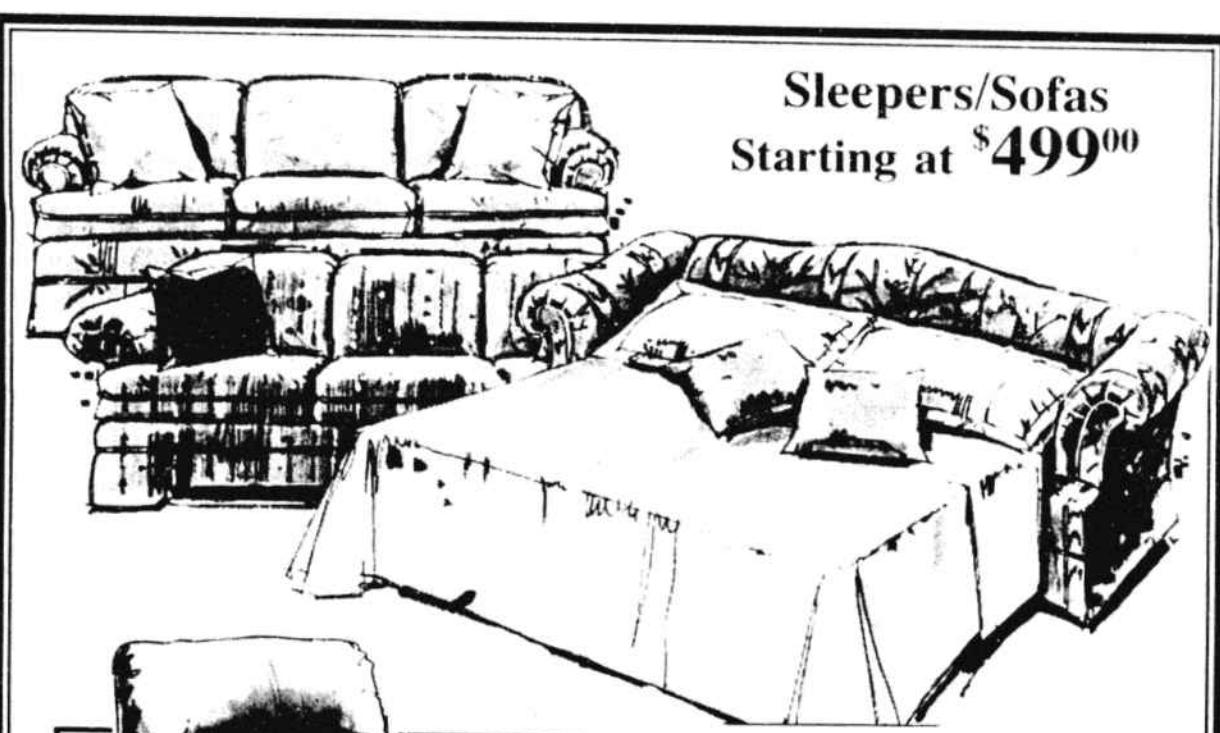
Sale

Thursday, July 11
6 pm until...

Be here early! You don't want to miss this one!

(The store will be closed Thursday, July 11 from 4 pm 'til 6 pm to get ready for this super sale!)

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