

Pest-Free Roses

Here are some of the more common pests that enjoy munching on your flowers, as well as my handy tips to eliminate them:

Do your roses appear healthy, but don't produce flowers? Are there holes throughout the leaves? Have your flowers turned brown? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, chances are an unwanted pest is plaguing your roses.



- Aphids attack rose buds, stems, and leaves. Knock these pests off with a jet of water from your hose to stop 'em.



- Cucumber beetles can also have a taste for rose blossoms. An application of Total Pest Control (*Item #1620*) or Liquid Fruit Tree Spray (*Item #1621*), will eliminate them.
- Japanese beetles destroy flowers and foliage. A skeletonized leaf is their calling card. Pick them off, place netting over the plants, or use Total Pest Control to take care of 'em.
- Rose midges tunnel through rose buds, causing them to shrivel up and turn brown. Plants that appear healthy, but do not produce flowers are often infected. Remove and destroy all buds that have been attacked.
- Rose slugs feed on rose leaves. Look for a brown epidermis and holes in the leaves. Ashes, diatomaceous earth, or hand-picking the pale green slugs off are all effective means of control.