

SOUTH DOWN GARDEN CLUB
August 4, 2014

***ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE* FOUND IN SOUTH DOWN ROSES**

Earlier this spring, this disease was brought to our attention by Ginger Wells-Kay of Garden Artisans who maintain our flower gardens. Information was distributed to Garden Club members. The disease originated in the western US and gradually migrated to the mid-west, and recently was discovered in CT. Even the popular Knock Out roses, with their reputation for superior pest and disease resistance, have succumbed to this virus, although other varieties of rose are also affected by RRD. We had identified a couple of sickly looking roses and samples were sent to the UNH Cooperative Extension Service who made the positive identification of the disease. Those roses have now been removed and we are monitoring our other roses. Our South Down rose is the first confirmed case in NH, but there are surely more to follow. We ask all to be aware of the symptoms.



On the right, healthy Knock Out roses, compared to a sick plant hit by Rose Rosette Disease. (Photo: submitted)

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Ginger recommends “...all that is to be done is to remove the roses with symptoms and leave those that are healthy. Diseased roses should be placed in trash bags and put out for trash pickup, and not composted or thrown in the woods, left in a brush pile, etc. Any other shrub or perennial can then be planted where the diseased roses were removed- but new roses cannot. Wipe off your shovel with paper towels and then spray with Lysol, or douse with rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide. Wipe dry. Rinse your shovel. Dispose of paper towels in garbage bag with rose. That’s what I am doing for now. “

To find out more about rose rosette disease, contact your county cooperative extension office or visit www.roserosettedisease.com.

There is also an excellent article in USA Today that may be informative :
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/10/rose-rosette-disease/7566221/>

Again, it is a time for education and awareness, not alarm. More information may be forthcoming and we will keep all our owners advised through the SD Shores website and Shorelines articles.