



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

INFORMATION NOTE

Rose Rosette Virus

Rose Rosette Virus is a very damaging disease of Rose in the USA and Canada. It is spread by a microscopic mite, which is absent from the UK, but both the mite and virus have the potential to be inadvertently imported on dormant rose propagating material from North America. Recently infected plants may not develop symptoms until later on in the season. The mites, carrying the virus, can be wind-blown to nearby plants. Because roses are found throughout the UK, this means the disease could spread readily, and have devastating impacts on the appearance and value of roses.

Rose Rosette Virus causes proliferation of branches and leaves (which may appear bright red in colour), excessive thorn production, deformed buds and flowers and a lack of winter hardiness, which can lead to the death of the plants. There are no effective control measures, other than to destroy the plants to help limit the spread.

To help prevent introduction of this damaging virus, please source any propagating material carefully. Additional information on the *Rose Rosette Virus* can be found on the EPPO website: https://www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/Alert_List/viruses/RRV000.htm



A rose (*Rosa* spp. cv. 'Colorific') with RRV showing increased thorn production. © Jennifer Olson, Oklahoma State University, Bugwood.org



Plant infested for several years (*Rosa* spp. cv. 'Carefree marvel') and now severely stunted. © Jennifer Olson, Oklahoma State University, Bugwood.org



Symptoms of RRV on *Rosa* spp. © Molly Giesbrecht, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Bugwood.org