

SPRAYING

By Kent Campbell

Once you have pruned all your bushes “down to the white”, and mixed up a great concoction of “food” to give them to aid in their first burst of energy, it’s time to turn your mind to another chore - spraying! We realize that there is a large and very vocal group of anti-spray rose growers out there. However, I’m here to tell you that if you want to grow and SHOW prize-winning roses, you must reconcile yourself to doing a certain amount of spraying.

Our first and most persistent rose enemy in this area is black spot. Black spot is a fungus and thus calls for a fungicide spray. The brand of choice for many of us is **Banner-max**, usually alternated with **Manzate** or **Mancozeb**. There are others, of course, but don’t try to save money without first checking the dosage. The two mentioned here are very expensive, but call for one-half teaspoon per gallon of water. The cheap one you might notice on the shelf at the garden shop will probably call for ten tablespoons per gallon, or about one-third to one-half of the bottle.

We, of course, face a number of “bugs” during the year. Early in the season, aphids will be the first to appear. **Malathion** or **Orthene** mixes well with the fungicides and will handle the aphids. I also recommend one of the insecticidal soaps such as **Safer** as a non-poisonous but effective aphid fighter. It must be sprayed separately - not mixed with other spray materials. As time passes, and the time for other bugs approaches, we will discuss them on these pages or at meetings.

For those of you with a small number of roses, a small pump-up sprayer will suffice. And, I suggest a combination fungicide/insecticide as your weapon. **Orthonex** is probably the best choice.

Finally, in the early weeks in the season it is best to mix your spray lightly to avoid plant burn. (Your plants are also susceptible to burn during dry times unless they are watered well before spraying.) Start with one-half the recommended dose and work your way to a full dose over a three or four week period. Until the temperature gets to 75 degrees, or hotter, you can spray any time during the day. In fact, 60 to 70 degree temperatures are best for the spray to be effective. Above all, read the labels carefully and wear protective clothing as you spray.