

PRAIRIE COUNTY HORTICULTURE



**PRAIRIE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
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PRAIRIE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

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Black Spot of Rose

Black spot is caused by a fungus (*Diplocarpon rosae*) and is the most important disease of roses in Arkansas. Each year, rose growers need to take steps to battle this serious disease that affects most rose varieties. Leaf spots are the most characteristic symptoms. The black spots are round with feathered edges and are up to 1/2 inch across. Spots are mostly on the upper surface of the leaf and often have a yellow halo around them.

When many spots are present on the leaves, they cause the leaves to turn yellow and fall off. Lower leaves usually become infected first. Excessive leaf drop from this disease weakens the plant, resulting in other problems. New spots can appear in as little as five days when conditions are favorable for infection.

Planting resistant varieties is the most effective way to prevent black spot. Some of these varieties may develop a low level of black spot but will require less maintenance than those that are susceptible.

For those growers who have to deal with the disease on a regular basis, fungicide applications will be required in combination with good sanitation. Homeowner fungicides labeled for black spot include Spectracide Immunox, Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide, Ortho Funginex and Greenlight FungAway.



May Garden To Do Checklist!

- Warm season vegetables – tomatoes, pepper, squash, okra and corn can be planted. As you plant, broadcast a complete fertilizer in the soil, then repeat in about 6 weeks. Mulch and water as needed. Watch for insects, diseases and weeds.
- To prevent early blight on tomatoes, start spraying with chlorothalonil or mancozeb when first bloom clusters are noticed. This disease causing fungus can stay in the soil for several years. Mulching will help some, which prevents the splashing of soil onto the lower leaves. Planting tomatoes in a new spot will help, but contaminating your new garden site can happen so quickly. This disease is transferred to a new garden by wind-blown spores, contaminated tools and shoes, buying diseased plants, or chewing insects.
- Keep a clean garden. Mulch around plants with 3-4 inches of mulch to help maintain moisture and discourage weeds. Organic mulches also break down slowly, releasing nutrients into the soil. Mulch also cuts down on soil borne diseases such as tomato blight.
- Herb gardens are an easy way to have an ample supply of fresh herbs for cooking. Most nurseries carry herb plants. Many are perennials and some are evergreen and can be used in the landscape as well as to eat. Rosemary is a semi-shrub and thyme makes an attractive evergreen groundcover in full sun. Be careful with pesticides around herbs – remember you are going to eat them!
- Prune spring flowering shrubs as soon as the flowers fade. If you prune in the fall or winter, you will remove next season's flower buds.
- Check azaleas for lacebugs. This small sucking insect prefers to feed on azaleas or pyracantha but can spill over onto any kind of adjacent plants. The leaves of infested plants are yellowed and stippled on top. Black deposits from the lacebug are left on the underside of the leaves. To control, apply acephate, imidacloprid, bifenthrin, or permethrin according to label directions.
- Fertilize warm-season lawns – zoysia and bermuda – as soon as they are totally greened up. Use a high nitrogen fertilizer. Most of the weeds that have been blooming are winter weeds and should be on their way out. Start watching for summer weeds – crabgrass and nutgrass – and catch them as they emerge and try to stop their spread.
- Spring flowering bulb foliage needs to remain as long as possible (minimum of 6-8 weeks after blooming). Foliage can be removed at first signs of yellowing. As foliage begins to yellow it's a good time to dig and divide clumps of overcrowded or unwanted bulbs while foliage is still visible.
- Dogwood, flowering plum, ornamental cherry, crabapple and related plants are prone to borers. Borers usually enter the trunks of these trees at soil line and can cause death in one or two seasons. A preventative control for borers is an application of insecticide applied to the trunk of trees in early May and repeated at six week intervals 2-3 times. Permethrin or bifenthrin work well in protecting these valuable ornamental specimen trees. Also, applying a 2-3 inch mulch around these ornamentals helps prevent damage to the trunk from lawnmowers and string line trimmers which helps prevent borers too.
- Houseplants can safely be moved outside if you haven't already done so. Expose plants to sunlight gradually.
- When pansies and violas start to fade, replace them with summer annuals for summer color. There are lots of excellent annuals to choose from. Some to consider are the penta which likes the sun, attracts hummingbirds and butterflies and comes in pink, red, white and purple and Dragonwing Begonia is another one for partial shade.

Hummingbirds



Hummingbirds begin migrating to and through Arkansas usually in late March and early April. A few birds will show up early before the largest part of the migration hits during the last couple of weeks in April and into May. They expend a lot of energy during their migration flights and will be looking to replenish themselves. You may want to help them along by providing food sources in your landscapes. Hummingbirds enjoy nectar producing flowers but also consume a large portion of insects as part of their diets. Also you can feed hummingbirds with 1 part sugar and 3 or 4 parts water. There is no need in using red food coloring. Replace sugar water mix at least once a week if it is not emptied sooner. If you have questions about which plants to add to attract hummingbirds contact me!

2021 County Horticulture Demonstrations

Pecan Production Demo

Tomato Production Trial Demo

Turf Grass (Glyphosate Spray Timing)

Turf Grass (Glyphosate + Residual)

Christopher Home Community Garden

Fire Ant Demonstration

If I can help you any way with problems in your lawn or garden please contact me at 870.998.2614! I'll be happy to help!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Army H. Pallant". The signature is fluid and cursive.