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Tips to keep your flowers healthy

We know how much you love your flowers, and we've got taking care of them down to a science. Learn how to select, plant and nurture gorgeous roses, annuals and perennials, as well as how to protect them from insects and diseases. With articles, videos and guides, Flower Care 101 is your one-stop rose and flower care resource.

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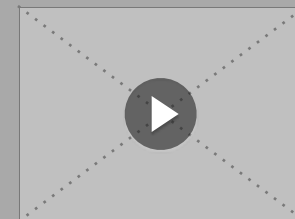
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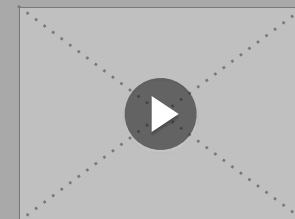
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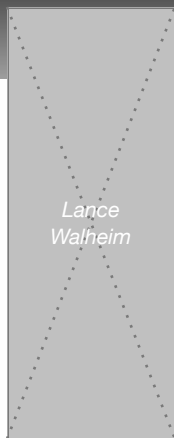
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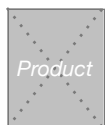
Common Flower Pests and Diseases



Aphids

Oval-shaped and small, typically less than 1/8 inch long; range in color from bright orange or red to dull gray, may or may not have wings. • Attack almost all types of roses and flowers, sucking juices from shoots, buds or leaves, causing them to curl. Other signs include misshapen blooms with streaked petals. Large infestations reduce plant growth and vigor. • Most aphids excrete large quantities of honeydew, a sweet, sticky substance that attracts wasps, ants and bees and can serve as a medium on which black fungus can grow. Related: [Scales](#), [Whiteflies](#)

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Rose & Flower Facts

- University studies from both Virginia Tech and Michigan State University show that landscape plants, including flowers and shrubs, can increase home value up to nearly 13 percent.
- The rose was named the official flower of the United States by President Ronald Reagan in 1986.
- There are three types of roses and 35 categories, ranging from species roses and old garden roses to hybrid tea roses and floribunda.
- There are more than 250,000 species of flowering plants in the world, according to the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory.
- Flowers immediately impact happiness and have a long-term positive effect on moods, according to a study by Rutgers University.
- Plants help remove pollutants from the air. During photosynthesis, a flower's leaves absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.
- Planting flowers can help hold soil together, reducing erosion and flooding.

Additional sources: American Rose Society and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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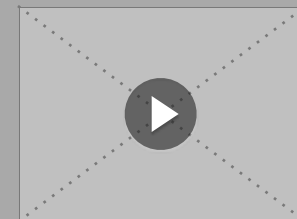
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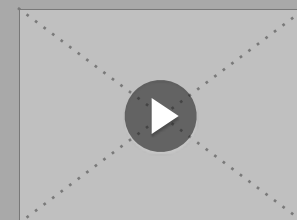
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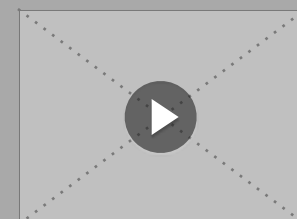
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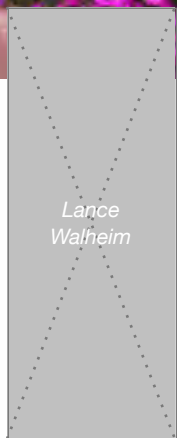
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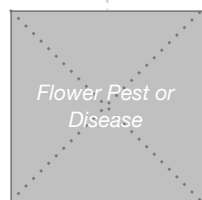
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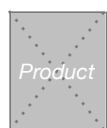
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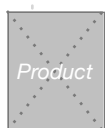
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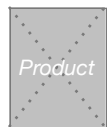
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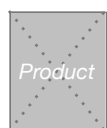
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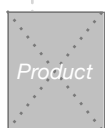
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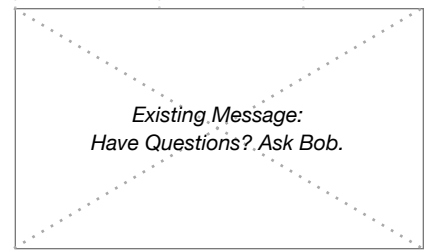
Scales

Divided into three groups: armored, soft and mealybugs. • Armored scales are less than 1/8 in diameter and have a waxy covering that is separate from the insect body. Soft scales are less than 1/4 inch in diameter and have a waxy layer that is part of the insect body. Both types suck the juices from plants. • Feeding may reduce growth and cause yellow spots to appear on leaves prior to premature leaf drop. • Soft scales excrete honeydew, a sweet, sticky substance that attracts wasps, ants and bees and can serve as a medium on which black fungus can grow.

Related: **Aphids, Whiteflies, Mealybugs**

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Notes:



Rose Slugs

Larvae are yellow-green and translucent, exposing a dark-green digestive track, with yellow to orange heads. Mature larvae are 1/2 inch long. • Feed on upper and lower surfaces of rose leaves, skeletonizing leaves. Mature larvae chew holes in leaves.

Related: **Sawflies**

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Japanese Beetles, Adult

Oval, 1/2 inch long; metallic green with copper-colored wings. • Feed on leaves of hundreds of plants, including roses. Feeding results in skeletonizing of leaves, making them appear lacelike.

Related: **Beetles**

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Caterpillars

Larvae of moths or butterflies. • Feed on the foliage or flowers of roses, leaving oblong holes in leaves and buds.

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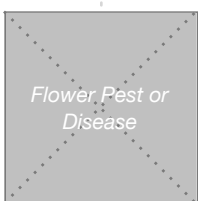


Root Rot

Root decay usually caused by fungi favored by overwatering, root damage, drought stress or poor soil conditions. • Affected plants often wilt, even with ample soil moisture, and display dieback and leaf discoloration.

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Rose Stem Canker

Dead areas on rose stems that are a secondary effect of fungal diseases. • Can also result from insect infestation or environmental or mechanical damage.

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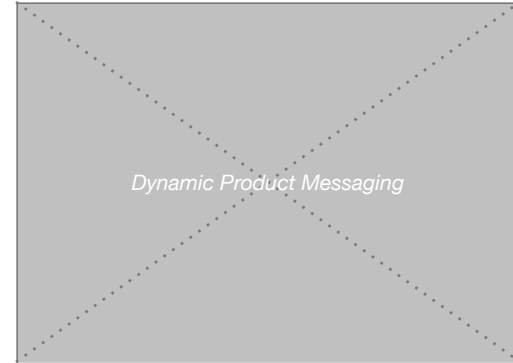
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Rose & Flower Care FAQ

- Q: How should I care for flowering annuals and perennials?
- Q: What are the best disease-resistant roses?
- Q: What is deadheading?
- Q: When should I plant flowers?
- Q: When should I prune my roses?
- Q: How can I use flowers to increase the curb appeal of my home?
- Q: How do you prune landscape roses like Knockout?
- Q: Do I need to chill bulbs like tulips and hyacinths?
- Q: How can I control weeds in my roses?
- Q: How much should I prune an Incrediball hydrangea? Does it flower on new wood or old?



Q: How should I care for flowering annuals and perennials?

A: Start by planting in the right exposure to light – full sun, partial shade or full shade. The nursery labels that come with the plant will usually give you all the information you need, or you can consult a good gardening book. Then amend the soil with plenty of organic matter, such as compost, and work in a high-nitrogen fertilizer according to the labeled rates. Space the plants properly (again the nursery label should help) and plant at the same depth that the plants were at in the containers. When mixing different types of flowers, you'll get the best show with the taller types in back and the lower growing ones in front.

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Q: How much should I prune an Incrediball hydrangea? Does it flower on new wood or old?

A: Most hydrangeas bloom on old wood, so pruning in winter or cold weather removes blooms. However, newer varieties, like Incrediball, bloom on new wood so they can be pruned anytime and still bloom. Prune in winter to control size. The rest of the year, prune as needed to remove spent blooms.

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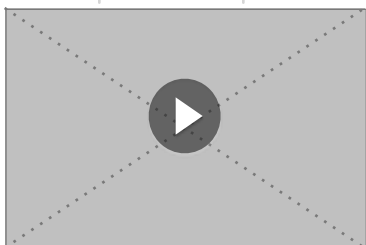
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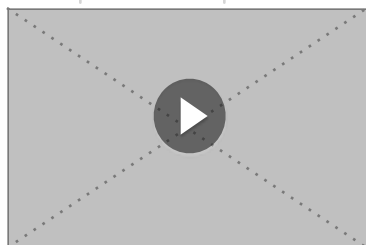
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