

Dear neighbor,

As a garden lover I thought I would write to inform you that the rose in your [front garden] has the virus which causes Rose Rosette Disease (RRD). You will notice the unusual short leafy sprouts on the bush, a telltale a sign this disease. Unfortunately, there is no treatment for RRD. **The rose should be removed as soon as possible.**

Infected roses spread RRD to neighboring healthy roses in both your garden and others in the area. Thank you for taking this request seriously.

The disease is spread by a mite that travels on the prevailing winds. For more information about RRD, please conduct a Web search. Texas A&M University, Star Roses, and other institutions have good information about this disease, including pictures.

To remove your rose bush, place a large plastic trash bag over it, cut the canes into the bag, and discard them. This method helps to ensure that any of the microscopic mites that are on the bush go into the bag. Then dig out the root of the rose and add it to the trash bag. Discard the entire bush—canes and roots. Do not add it to your compost pile if you keep one.

The good news is that once the diseased rose bush is completely removed, the disease is eliminated. It will not live in the soil without the plant. That means in the fall or thereafter, you can plant a new rose bush in the same spot. The new bush will not “inherit” RRD.

As a general practice, you should inspect any rose bush in your garden for signs of RRD periodically and remove diseased bushes immediately. Scientists have been working on an effective treatment for RRD, and hopefully they will develop one soon. Meanwhile it is only this drastic measure that will save our neighborhood’s healthy roses. People like me who love roses are trying to spread the word about RRD, since most people are unaware that it exists.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Potomac Rose Society. Their website is www.PotomacRose.org.

Sincerely,

Your Name