

**SPRAYING ROSES**  
**By Jimmy Moser**  
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The one chore that rosarians seem to dread the most is spraying roses for diseases and insects. This is a task that can be made easier if the right spray equipment is used. The size of your yard can help determine the right sprayer to purchase. A yard containing up to 50 bushes can get by using the standard two to three gallon pump-up style sprayer. For a larger garden containing 100+ bushes, you need to consider investing in a battery operated sprayer on wheels.

The products used when spraying and the pathogens needed for controlling are the next consideration.

Now that the bushes are leafing out, I have started my **spray program** using Banner Maxx mixed with Manzate (Formac 80.) I will follow in two weeks with a combination of Compass and Manzate. These are good preventatives for powdery mildew and black spot.

Banner Maxx and Compass are advertised to give 14 days protection, but it is wise to closely observe your bushes to make sure the protection holds for 14 days. If not, you should go back to spraying every week.

Thrips first appear and start doing their damage when the rose buds start to show color. At this time you need to start misting just the buds every 3 or 4 days with Orthene, Cygon 2E, Malathion, Merit or Talstar. I prefer Talstar (which can be purchased at Southern States.) These products will also take care of cucumber beetles (the green ladybug look-alikes.)

Around Mother's Day, I begin using Floramite for the prevention of spider mites. This is usually the time spider mites start showing up — when the roses are in full foliage and the weather is warming.

When mixing spray chemicals, I always use a product called Indicate 5. Indicate 5 changes the pH of the water to allow the products being sprayed to stick and spread on the surface of the foliage. If you do not have Indicate 5, use 1 Tablespoon of vinegar and 1 teaspoon of dishwashing liquid for each gallon of spray mixture.

Remember, it is extremely important to always read and follow directions on the labels of all chemicals.

Try these fertilizing and spraying programs. They have worked for me and hopefully they will work for you too. Let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached by email at [mrmosesroses@aol.com](mailto:mrmosesroses@aol.com) or by telephone at (901) 386-9892.