

DID YOU KNOW?

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(Editor's Note: This article was copied from the January 2008 "The Diablo Rose", Lori Duffy, Editor, via *The Dixie Rose Club News*, Dale Ericson, Editor.)

During the dormant season you often hear the term "**Spreader/Sticker.**" But what is a spreader/sticker and what does it do?

There are several products available on the market. The formulations may differ, but when used in accordance with label directions, they perform similar functions.

First, the **spreader** functions as a wetting agent that insures complete coverage and increases the efficacy of the product used.

Second, the **sticker** provides adherence properties that can tolerate the effects of rain.

Technically, a "spreader" is a surface active agent that alters the surface tension of a rose's leaf, both top and bottom, ensuring complete coverage by the spray being applied.

All leaves have a waxing coating called **cutin**. The amount of cutin on the leaves varies from one rose to another.

To better picture how a "spreader" works, think how water will bead on the surface of a waxed car. Therefore, when washing your car, soap is used to enable the lifting of the dirt so it is removed when rinsing with water. In a similar way with a plant, a "spreader" is included with the spray to alter the surface tension of the leaf, thus permitting the spray material to completely cover the leaf or canes.

Editor's Note: INDICATE 5 is a good spreader/sticker that works well in the Bowling Green area. It can be obtained from Rosemania.