

ROSE (*Rosa* sp. 'Pink Simplicity')  
Rust; *Phragmidium* sp.  
Black Spot; *Diplocarpon rosae*

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### **Effect of aspirin and fungicides on rose diseases, 2005.**

The manufacturers of Messenger (active ingredient harpin) made a push into the home owner product market over the last 2 years. Undoubtedly they must have talked about how harpin stimulates the salicylic acid pathway of plants to make defense mechanisms. An article by Mike Darcy (June 2004 Digger, 44, 46) implied that 3 aspirin tablets per 4 gallons water might be used for rose disease control. The goal of this trial was to evaluate aspirin for control of rose diseases.

Fungicide treatments were arranged in a randomized complete block design in a block of 'Pink Simplicity' roses on 'Dr. Huey' rootstock planted in 1999 on 6 x 6 ft spacing. Each treatment consisted of 4 single bush replicates. Bushes were either nontreated, treated with Daconil at 0.3 fl oz/gal alternated with Immunox at 1 fl oz/gal, treated with Messenger at 0.13 oz/gal or treated with buffered aspirin at 0.50 g/gal (3 to 4 tablets). Treatments were applied using a pump-style backpack sprayer at a rate of 76 to 151 gal water/A. Approximately 0.25 to 0.50 gal of a spray suspension were applied per 4 bushes depending on plant growth. Treatments were applied on 3 Mar (bud break), 17 Mar, 30 Mar, 15 Apr, 28 Apr and 13 May (1<sup>st</sup> flowering). Weeds were controlled using Roundup ULTRAMAX (2 qt/A) applied on 31 Mar. No fertilizer or irrigation was applied to this trial.

The spring season was characterized as wet with above average rainfall after 15 Mar. Rust and blackspot were observed on 21 Mar as small spots on a few widely scattered plants. Defoliation was evident by 9 May. Due to a lack of funding for this trial, detailed data measurements were not taken. We can only offer qualitative observations that bushes treated with either Messenger or Aspirin looked similar with respect to disease levels and defoliation to nontreated bushes. Bushes treated with Daconil/Immunox had visually less disease or defoliation than all other bushes.