Avoid problems

- Do not buy plants that are sick – even with powdery mildew.
- You don’t just buy tops - look at the roots! Roses do present an unusual challenge here.
- Do not choose plants that always get sick – choose cultivars that resist disease.
- Do not use overhead irrigation. You can make black spot a problem simply by using overhead irrigation.

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Cultural controls

- Do not wound stems-this can lead to diseases.
- Do not plant in low spots – improve drainage.
- Do not plant at the wrong depth.
- Do not create wet areas surrounding stems.

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Find problems early

- Scout plants regularly.
- Once or twice a week. Which plants or cultivars show problems first?
- Time of day (Can you see clearly?). Use a hand lens.
- Turn leaves over.

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Leaf symptoms don’t always mean leaf disease. Check the stems and roots.

Leaf drop can mean a blight or root rot.

Start at the top and work down.

Keep a rose calendar.
Disease or ???

- Is this a disease, fertilizer, cold or an insect?
- Do not assume everything is a disease.
- Do not guess what is wrong – get a diagnosis if you don’t recognize the problem.

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Recent environmental conditions (cold, drought, wind, rain).

Recent treatments (pruning, fertilization, pesticide application, irrigation).

Where are the symptomatic plants? (near water, near new construction, near a road).

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Common problems of your plants.
What happened last year at this time? (Rose calendar).
Time of year (Does the problem occur in the summer or winter?).
Powdery mildew (white all over leaves, flowers and stems).
Downy mildew (purple or white on leaf undersides).
Common fungal diseases

- Gray mold (Botrytis blight – gray to brown spores).
Rust (tan, brown, orange or yellow usually undersides of leaves).
Bacteria

- Galls can be the result of Agrobacterium (crown gall) infection
Viruses

- Mosaic
- Distortion
- Ring spots
- Chlorosis
- Stunting

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References
The Rose Bush Story

The picture of the "World’s Largest Rose Bush", that has been given you, was taken during the blooming in the month of April. The rose is a white Lady Banksia and the root was sent from Scotland in 1885. The bush was planted to climb over the woodshed. Mr. Macia tore down the shed and built the trellis.

The bush does not require feeding or spraying, but it does require pruning and watering. Several truck loads of brush are pruned from the bush each January. The blossom is a small white rose growing in clusters.

When Robert Ripley first called this bush “the world’s largest” it was one-fourth its present size. It now covers more than 8,000 square feet. Walk under the bush out into the backyard, this is the best view. You are welcome to take pictures.