

HOW TO MANAGE APHID MENACE IN ROSE?

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Aphids are the most common insect pest on roses. Among aphids, Rose aphid, *Macrosiphum rosae*, peach aphid, *Myzus persicae*, the potato aphid, *Macrosiphum euphorbiae* and the cotton aphid, *Aphis gossypii* are the most devastating. Aphids favour rapidly growing tissue such as buds and shoots. Low to moderate levels of aphids do little damage to plants. Moderate to high populations can secrete copious amounts of honeydew, resulting in the growth of sooty mold, which blackens leaves. Very high numbers may distort or kill buds or reduce flower size. Aphids are normally a problem for only about 4 to 6 weeks in spring and early summer before high summer temperatures reduce their numbers.



capture winged adults. However, aphids produce winged individuals in response to crowding so monitoring plants for infestation is an essential component of managing and detecting these pests before populations get too high. Be sure to examine lower leaf surfaces, stems, and buds. Look for white, cast skins (molts) and honeydew on upper leaf surfaces.

– In some cases, high aphid mortality can be inflicted using a gentle stream of water to dislodge aphids from exposed plant surfaces

– Keep ants out of bushes with sticky barriers, baits or traps to improve biological control

– Aphids have many natural enemies including lady bird beetles and syrphid flies which may rapidly reduce increasing populations. Ants will protect aphid populations for their honeydew against natural enemies

– Field release of parasitic wasp *Aphidius colemani* 5/m² per week.

– Spraying of systemic insecticides containing dimethoate / malathion/ phosphomidan at 2 ml / l of water effectively controls the population

Control measures:

- Production area should be free of weeds, which serve as hosts
- Yellow sticky cards placed in green houses

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**ANNALS OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**

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