Problem: Rose mosaic virus

Host: Rose

Description: Rose mosaic virus is fairly common in Kansas rose gardens. It has a wide range of symptoms, including ringspots, wavy lines, chlorotic vein banding, an oakleaf pattern, a mosaic pattern, and a yellow net pattern. Symptoms start showing up late spring and are present throughout the growing season. Symptom expression varies with the cultivar and the time of year. Some plants infected with rose mosaic virus remain symptomless.

Transmission of the virus is through vegetative propagation of infected plant material. Infected grafting material can include buds, scions, or root stocks. It is also suspected that the disease can be spread through virus-infected pollen, although this is not considered a very important or successful avenue of transmission. An important point to remember about virus-infected plants is that once they become infected, they remain infected for the life of the plant.

Rose plants with rose mosaic virus tend to be more susceptible to winter injury. Although the virus produces unsightly foliage and tends to reduce plant vigor, it will not kill the plant.

Recommendations: There are no practical control measures for virus-infected plants. Infected plants should be removed and destroyed if they do not meet expectations. However, diseased plants do not infect nearby healthy plants. Certified disease-free roses should be purchased whenever possible.

References:
1. Rose Mosaic Virus, University of Illinois Extension, Home, Yard & Garden Pest Newsletter, June 18, 2012
2. Horst, Kenneth, ed. 1983.Compendium of Rose Diseases. pg. 26-27. APS Press.

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