

You could have Leaf Scorch!

By Jay Goode

Consulting Rosarian

It's hot! In fact, it is hotter than it has been in several summers.

I am seeing a considerable amount of Leaf Scorch in my garden and in the All-America Rose Selection Garden in Farmers Branch.

Temperatures have been ranging between 85 degrees and 109 degrees for several weeks (perhaps months) now.

The symptom of Leaf Scorch is dry, brown margins on the leaves. Sometimes leaves show spots, according to a Colorado State University agriculture extension flyer. [Click here to read the CSU flyer.](#) The leaves can turn brown and eventually drop to the ground. The leaves will not re-generate after the onset of cooler weather.

The reason is that water is being evaporated from the leaves faster than the roots and plant stems can supply that leaf. I noticed that that some fungus similar to **powdery mildew** is associated with Leaf Scorch. I personally do not spray when the temperature is above 80

degrees. **Bill Cashin** and **Pam Smith**, Farmers Branch horticulturalist, have continued their spraying program.



This is an example of classic early stage leaf scorch. Click the image at left to see a larger view. As the scorch conditions continue, the leaf drops and dies. Click image on the right to see the dead leaf as the result of Leaf Scorch.



Sometime the "scorched" leaf is not suffering leaf scorch. When I examined the leaf in the image on the left, I suspected Leaf Scorch. Closer examination revealed tiny webbing between the leaves. This is

the tell-tale sign of **Spider Mites**. Click on the image to see signs of spider mites. In fact, my camera may have caught a tiny spider mite traversing between the leaves.

I sometimes apply a fine spray of water on my roses during the hottest part of the day. This may alleviate Leaf Scorch.