

# Rose Garden Renovation Coming Soon

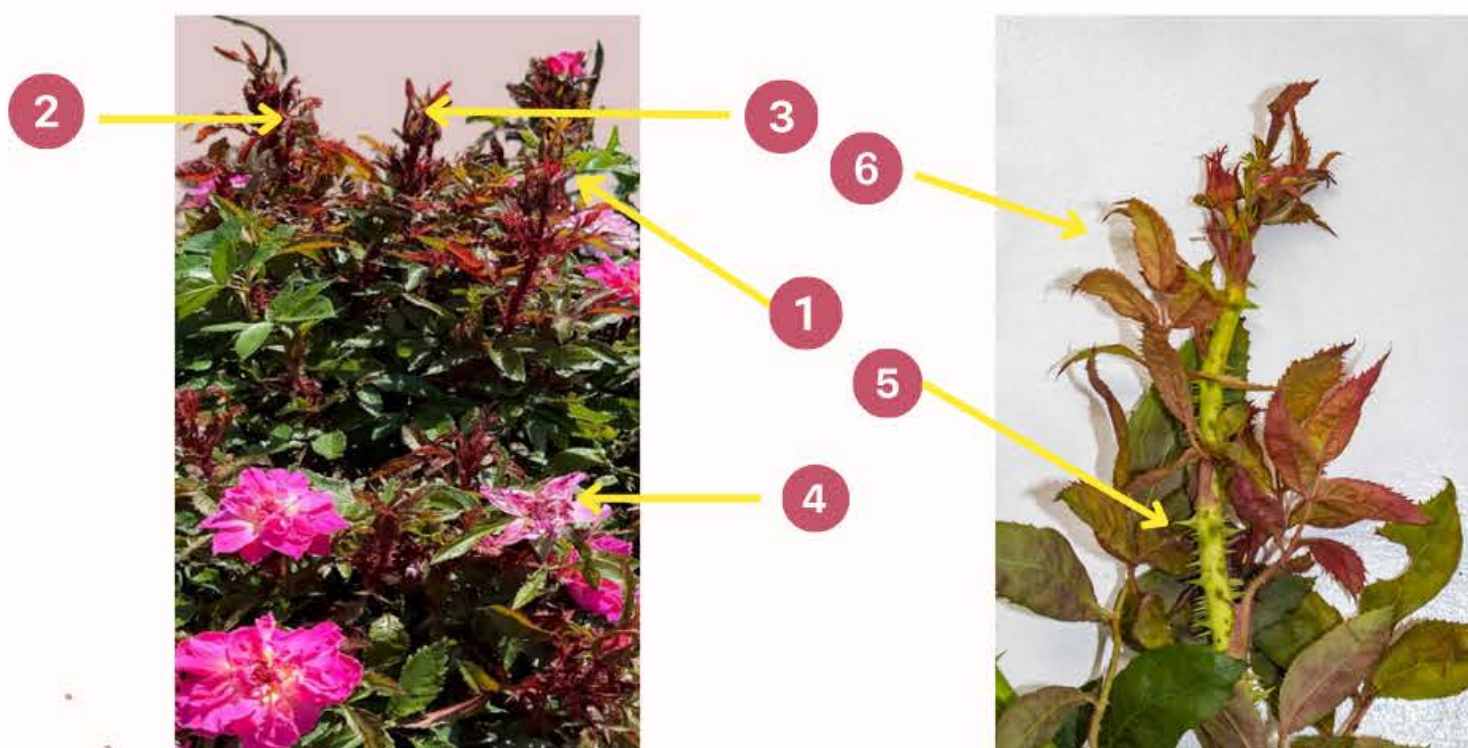
Our beloved Rose Garden is heavily infested with Rose Rosette Disease and is forcing the City to plan a total renovation of the garden. Unfortunately, the disease has spread across most of North America and first appeared in the 1940s in western Canada, California, and in the Rocky Mountain states. While we've known about the disease and what the symptoms looked like since the 1940s, we didn't know what caused it until 2011 when researchers figured out it was caused by a virus (Emaravirus sp.).

Rose rosette disease, also known as "Witches'-broom of rose, is a condition that causes roses to grow strangely deformed stems, leaves, and flowers. The virus is spread from plant to plant by tiny little mites called Eriophyid mites. Eriophyid mites are microscopic mites that are 3 to 4 times smaller than the average spider mite. These mites cannot fly but are easily dispersed by wind. The mites are also transferred to nearby roses simply by walking from plant to plant and will hitchhike on pets, birds, gardens tools and even our clothing to new plants in previously unaffected areas.

Our landscape department has tried to slow the spread of the disease by pruning the infected portions of the plants and also removing plants and their roots but, unfortunately, these efforts have not been successful. Currently there is no cure and there are no known roses to be 100% resistant to the disease. The virus does not survive in the soil nor infect other plants.

Symptoms to look for include: (see pictures below)

1. Elongation and thickening of shoots and stems
2. Bright red new growth that never turns green
3. Flower buds emerge in tiny tight clusters (called rosettes or witches brooms)
4. Flowers that do open but are deformed and stunted looking
5. Excessive thorns
6. Foliage is contorted and stunted looking and may also be yellow



With the notable decline of rose species in the garden, and no known cure for the disease, the City has decided to renovate the entire garden into a species diverse, stunning blooming garden for all to enjoy. While the loss of the rose garden brings us great sadness, we hope you will excuse its condition during this time of transition, and join us in welcoming a new blooming garden, tentatively scheduled for construction in 2025.