

## Dr. Peter Baye on Rust Control.

Nothing will make existing infection disappear. Leaves already infected have to come off. Sprays are used to prevent the spread of fungi to young, uninfected leaves, not cure infected ones. To minimize risk of injuring foliage, spray only in cool, moist, shaded conditions never in sun or high temperatures.

Baking soda. Baking soda has been tested as an effective inhibitor of rust fungi on hybrid tea roses. It is quite non-toxic, and has limited potential to burn foliage. For fuchsia, adjust the concentrations to your local conditions and plants, starting with about 1/2 teaspoon per quart of water, with a drop or two of soap to act as a spreader. Increase the concentration if repeated sprays don't slow the spread. Watch for leaf tip burn -a sign that injury occurs from concentrations of baking soda too high for your temperatures.

'Simple Green'. Dilute solutions of the nontoxic household cleaner appear to have some ability to inhibit rust fungi, as well as insects. For fuchsias, adjust the concentrations to your local conditions and plants, starting with about 1/2 teaspoon per quart of water, with a drop or two of soap to act as a spreader. Increase the concentration if repeated sprays don't slow the spread. Watch for leaf tip burn - a sign that injury occurs from concentrations of Simple Green too high for your temperatures.

(There is also a Lime-sulfur spray. I didn't include that one as it needs to be very diluted and will smell of rotten eggs. Not everyone will enjoy this one.....)-