Fast Facts - Leafhoppers
By Nanette Londeree

Signs
- Stippled, pale or brown leaves generally early in the season
- New shoots that curl and die
- Chalky residue on leaves
- Honeydew and sooty mold on leaves
- Pimple-like swellings on rose canes

Symptoms
- Stippled, pale or brown leaves generally early in the season
- New shoots that curl and die
- Chalky residue on leaves
- Honeydew and sooty mold on leaves
- Pimple-like swellings on rose canes

Cause
- Plant-juice sucking leafhopper from the family Cicadellidae; rose leafhopper (Edwardsiana rosae)

Optimal Conditions
- Overwinters as eggs on or in leaves or twigs, or as adults in protected places like bark crevices in roses and raspberries, blackberries and dewberries
- Dogwood, oak, elm, hawthorn, apple, poplar and maple are among summer hosts
- Lays eggs in tender, young plant tissues; can produce two or more generations a year

Treatment

Prevention:
- Maintain good garden sanitation; remove fallen rose leaves and discard
- Dormant spray with horticultural oil

Elimination:
- Tolerate damage; rarely causes significant harm to plants
- Apply an insecticidal soap for possible control of nymphs; difficult to control adults effectively because of their mobility

Good Guy / Bad Guy?
- Mostly a nuisance unless the level of damage is not tolerable, then they are a bad guy

Photos courtesy of UC IPM website