

# Ramblin' Rose "Outtakes"

The Charleston Rose Society

A Member of the Colonial District



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*Ramblin' Rose Outtakes* is an abbreviated version of the Charleston Rose Society's newsletter. Published monthly from March to June and September to December, *Outtakes* appears on the Colonial District's website.

([www.colonialdistrictroses.org](http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org))

The Charleston Rose Society, a member of the American Rose Society and part of the Colonial District, was founded in 1923. Its membership is dedicated to the growth of roses, the education of the public in rose culture, and fellowship with rose growers locally and across the country.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from March to June and September to November at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Charleston and begin at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about roses and their culture, we would like to invite you to join us at any of our meetings. If you are interested in joining the Charleston Rose Society, please contact:

Dick Hanlon, Treasurer  
Charleston Rose Society  
Route 10, Box 101  
Charleston, WV 25312.

Membership dues for the Charleston Rose Society are \$8 for an individual and \$12 for a family. This includes the newsletter.

## ROSE OF THE MONTH

### *Abby's Angel*

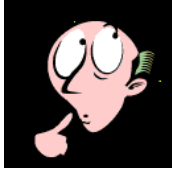


This beautiful Whit Wells' miniflora is a deep yellow with a red edge and a deep yellow reverse on its petals. *Abby's Angel* has mostly solitary blooms that are about three inches across and the form is total exhibition. This rose was introduced in 2007 and is not yet rated, but her upright growing habit, three to four feet height, and semi-glossy, dark green leaves should make for a good rating.



My *Abby's Angel* has given me some breathtaking blooms. She is a child of a seedling and *Bees' Knees*. *Bees' Knees* is where that wonderful form comes from but it's the color that makes her special. This rose has won Queens from Florida to Arizona and I think she will be around for a long time. *Abby's Angel* is available from Almost Heaven Roses or Two Sisters Roses. This rose is a real winner and I highly recommend it to you.

*Donna Smoot*



## **THINGS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND**

*Dick Hanlon*



It is tax day; the weather has been wet, damp and cold. I have not done much work in my roses. I have pruned and fertilized the miniatures and pruned about a dozen Old Garden roses. I hope to finish pruning and fertilizing by the end of the week.

Due to my Master Gardener class, I missed John Fleek’s talk at the last meeting concerning the local availability of roses. I have talked to John a couple of times about his talk. It appears that “traditional” roses are becoming harder to find; this is probably a national trend. One of the local garden centers ordered 1,640 roses, 1,095 of these were “Knockout” type, 200 were “drift” roses (I believe these are ground cover/low growing roses) and 345 “traditional” roses. This means that 21% of the roses are traditional and 79% are nontraditional.

Why would I say this is probably a national trend? The local garden center ordered their roses from Conrad-Pyle, one of the largest wholesale suppliers in the world. It would appear that Conrad-Pyle made a marketing decision to stress easy care roses. This type of decision had to be made a few years ago in order to get the massive number of roses planted, grown and prepared for market. My uneducated guess is that all the other large wholesalers have made the same decision. We know the American Rose Society has been losing membership for a number of years. I am not sure the ARS has come to the realization that the rose industry is pushing nontraditional roses.

John and I went to North Carolina for a golf weekend in early April. On the drive home we stopped for lunch and a driving break at a gardening center. The center was a combination of a farmers’ market and a commercial garden center. We walked through the garden center to see what roses they had available. We could not find any roses, so on the way out John asked an employee where their roses were located. The employee said, “Follow me”; we ended up in the Camellia section of the center. John said these are not roses; the reply was, “They sort of look like roses!” The employee then led us to some roses; these were “Knockout” type at \$29 each.



A few words about Earth-Kind® roses. I have managed to kill my fourth *Climbing Pinkie*; so much for easy to grow. The 2009 ARS calendar which features Earth-Kind® roses has unfortunately the ugliest set of photographs for each month that I have seen in a calendar. It is as if the editor of the calendar tried to put Earth-Kind® roses in a bad light!



## **Fertilizing Roses**

Fertilization is synonymous with production in roses. Plants must be fed if they are to remain healthy and produce good blooms. You replenish the nutrients consumed by the plant.

Strictly speaking, there is no such thing as an organic fertilizer. Organic materials feed the soil bacteria, which, in turn, break it down into inert mineral salts, the only form in which the plant is capable of absorbing them. Chemical fertilizers are generally faster acting than organic materials, since they require only dissolution in water to become available to the plant. However, organic materials are essential for a well-conditioned soil.

All products labeled as fertilizer must, by law, have the percentages of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium listed in that order (N-P-K) on the container. Nitrogen produces vegetative growth; phosphorus promotes the root system and the bloom; potassium or potash stimulates the general health of the plant. If a granular commercial fertilizer is used, choose one with a general balance between the three main chemical ingredients and, if possible, one that also contains trace elements.

Soil bacteria are dormant until the soil warms up in the spring; therefore, too-early applications of fertilizer in the soil are wasted. However, some benefit can be obtained by foliar feeding plants with a water-soluble plant food during cool springs. 1-2 handfuls (use gloves, or a 1-cup measure) of granular fertilizer applied in April, June and August will suffice. Do not apply any fertilizer containing nitrogen after mid-September. Always water before and after applying granular fertilizer. If dry fertilizer gets on the leaves, rinse it off immediately.

Osmocote® and other time-released fertilizers can be applied to the soil at pruning time and will adequately feed the plant for the entire growing season. However, most rosarians will supplement this with occasional granular or water-soluble fertilizers.

Alfalfa pellets contain a valuable growth hormone and make an excellent feeding supplement--about one cup per plant worked lightly into the soil in the spring.

Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) is also useful to the plant. Approximately 3 oz. per plant in the spring is recommended at least every other year.

Gypsum is another supplement that will curb salt buildup, provide calcium, and prevent soil compaction and improve drainage. Two cups per plant per year is adequate.

Fertilizers are of little value if your soil is out of pH balance. A pH range of 6.0 to 6.8 is best for roses. Test your soil occasionally and correct if necessary.

*Reprinted from the website of the Seattle Rose Society. [www.seattlerosesociety.org](http://www.seattlerosesociety.org). Webmaster: Lori White*



## GENERALLY SPEAKING with GEORGE HARTLEY



### PROTECTING ROSES

#### A. WHY SPRAY?

1. Generally, we spray to control insects and to prevent fungus disease.
2. For proper control of most insects it is necessary to spray an insecticide only when insects are actually visible.

A major exception is for prevention of SPIDER MITES. Because they cannot be seen easily with the naked eye and because the damage they inflict can so quickly be devastating to the plant, they should be prevented from nesting in the garden. In place of an insecticide, a heavy spraying of water directed upward from the base of the bush will drown the mites. This control method may be performed every three (3) days about three or four times to break their reproductive cycle. A WATER-WAND is very effective.

3. A fungicide should be used on a regular basis (every 7 to 10 days) throughout the growing season (**from spring pruning until the first fall frost**).

A common problem with roses is BLACKSPOT, a fungus disease causing circular black spots on leaves which cause the leaves to turn yellow and drop off. If left unsprayed, most roses will have a serious blackspot infection by mid-summer. **Blackspot cannot be cured, only prevented.** Therefore it is important to promptly remove and discard any infected leaves that either remain on the plant or have fallen onto the ground, and spray with a fungicide on a weekly schedule to protect uninfected foliage.

## **B. WHEN TO SPRAY**

1. Begin the spray program early in the growing season and repeat applications following the label instructions.
2. TEMPERATURE considerations--avoid spraying when the forecast high temperature of the day is above 85°. **Never spray in full sun or when it is hot.**
3. MOISTURE of the plant--spray only after plants have been adequately watered or after a soaking rain.
4. WIND conditions--check to make sure that no more than a gentle breeze is blowing (5-7 m.p.h.). **Complete calm is best for spraying.**
5. TIME intervals--generally every 7 to 10 days for prevention of fungus diseases (**Exceptions will be noted on spray-material container**).
6. The BEST TIME of day to spray is either in the early morning (before 8 a.m.) or late evening (about one hour before dusk).

## **C. ABOUT SPRAYING**

### 1. MIXING CHEMICALS

- a. Fill spray container with approximately one quart of tap water.
- b. Add 1 Tbs. plain vinegar per gallon of water to lower the water PH, and swirl mixture for a few seconds.
- c. Add spray material--**Follow the instructions on label. Do not use more than recommended amount.**
- d. For **wettable powders** (WP), use procedure as outlined in steps a through c, but use warm water.
- e. Add a spreader if suggested on the label. One drop of soap per gallon of water as a spreader should get uniform coverage (liquid soap like Joy or Ivory works well). You may need additional drops if the entire leaf surface is not covered uniformly. This rule generally applies when spraying material is a chemical fungicide.

### 2. SPRAYING

Spray the bush starting at the base of each bush and work upward with a side-to-side rolling movement of the spray nozzle. Thoroughly cover both sides of the leaves. Repeat this motion as many times as necessary to cover the entire bush. Our main objective is to cover the underside of the leaves for this is the area most susceptible to insect and disease attack. **A word of caution**--take care not to apply spray material too heavily. The foliage or leaves should not be dripping when spraying is finished, but **should be** covered with a film of moisture. Over spraying will generally cause leaf burn. When

spraying, continue to shake sprayer periodically to be certain chemicals are evenly distributed in the spray material. **Reminder:** never spray on a hot or windy day or when the bush needs water.

### 3. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- a. To protect yourself, others and the environment, read the label before applying a pesticide or fungicide.
- b. Avoid careless preparation of mixture. **Do not make the mixture stronger than recommended.**
- c. In hot weather, use a **Wettable Powder** (WP) spray material.
- d. Always protect yourself when dusting or spraying. **Be careful of eyes.** Use anti-fog goggles, and wear protective clothing listed on the label.
- e. Keep area clear of other people and animals, including **toys, pet dishes, etc.**
- f. Do not allow entry to the sprayed area until the spray has dried or dust settled.

### D. AFTER YOU HAVE FINISHED SPRAYING

1. Wash equipment thoroughly after each spraying. (Occasionally it is advisable to rinse the equipment with one cup of ammonia per gallon of water to neutralize any spray residue left in the sprayer). Wash your hands and face if the label tells you to do so.
2. Do not keep the spray mixture--dispose of it as suggested on the label. It is advisable to go back and repeat your spraying if you have an excess of your spray material mixture. Always make up a fresh batch of spray material each time you spray your roses. **Do not dump any spray material or unused chemicals down any drains. Always protect the environment.**
3. **Store chemicals in a safe place.** Never transfer chemicals into a container other than the one provided by the manufacturer. Keep chemicals labeled properly. **Never** keep empty bottles or containers.

One should never become discouraged when dealing with various rose problems.  
It's part of the challenge with nature and the reward is always a beautiful rose!



*Golden Wings*, winner of the Modern Shrub Rose class at the Charleston Rose Society's 2008 show

Exhibited by Donna Smoot