



THE NOVUS NEWSLETTER
OF THE
THE TIDEWATER ROSE SOCIETY
MAY 2009



CONTROLLING ROSE FUNGUS DISEASES

The fourth meeting of the Tidewater Rose Society's Seventy-fourth year will be held at the Norfolk Botanical Garden Sunday at 2:30 p.m. May 17, 2009, in the Holly Room of Baker Hall. Rosarian Howard Jones will give a presentation on "Controlling Rose Fungus Diseases". A brief executive board meeting will be held.

Tidewater Rose Society 2009 Officers

President:

Peggy Scott

First Vice President:

Michael Price

Second Vice President:

Happy Anderson

Treasurer:

Patricia Wilson

Recording Secretary:

Eveline Price

Corresponding Secretary:

Claudia Green

Executive Board

*Continuing for 2nd year

Gayle Chene

Cathy Daley*

Donald Snipes

George Sutcliffe*

Diana Tase

Stephen Tase

George Wilson*

Tony Wirtz*

Immediate Past President

Howard E. Jones

COUNTRY STORE NEWS: We still have a few bags of Mills Magic, Easy Feed, Fish Emulsion and 20-20-20. We will also have Messenger, Felco pruners, saws and name tags. We will have some door prizes. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting. Thanks.

George

ANNUAL PICNIC

On June 14, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. we will hold our annual picnic at the Norfolk Botanical Garden picnic area. The picnic area will be to the left after you pass through the admittance gate. Please bring two covered dishes: meat, vegetable, salad and or dessert. Beverages, plates, napkins, cups and eating utensils will be furnished. In case of rain the picnic will be held in the Holly Room. There will be a train ride through the gardens at 3:45 p.m.

From the President's Desk

It was Earth Day and John wanted to celebrate by working on our Earth. I jumped at the chance to have a second pair of hands to help me on the roses. We spread Mills Magic, Rich Earth and 14-14-14 granular fertilizer on the rose beds and scratched it in. Having someone measure and dump really speeds up the process. The roses John likes the best seem to have gotten a little more applied to them but he claims they were all treated equal. Children lie. But I did get a third of my beds done which is better than last year. Last year I tossed four bags of Mills Magic that laid by some beds for over a month and after many rains and water soakings, it smelled so bad when I opened the bags that I rebagged the Mills Magic and tossed it in the trash. I will try to get the other beds done ASAP.

(From the President's Desk continued)

Really! It's the beginning of May and I have a terrible outbreak of spider mites already. The 90 degree plus temps brought out the critters early this year. I will be spraying Forbid this morning which not only kills the mites but also their eggs. They will be sorry they chose my yard for their playground picnic.

One item that a rose gardener might want to add to their inventory of tools and gadgets is a 32 gallon trash can. I have mine marked so I can make 8, 16, 24 or 32 gallons of liquid fertilizer. Two tablespoons equal an ounce, so I measure 1 cup for 16 gallons or 2 cups for 32 gallons. Sure makes life a little easier.

John just admitted that Butter Cream, Roxie and Conundrum got extra helpings. I'm just glad he has favorites.

See ya there,
Peggy

THE NOVICE ROSE SHOW "IT'S A FUN THING"

By Pat Wilson, Chairman

For members that have not won a blue ribbon in an A.R.S. accredited Rose show. There will be experienced people on hand to help you groom your roses and fill out the entry cards.

So take a bucket of water into your garden and cut your roses early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Be sure to cut a nice long stem and leave all of the leaves on.

You will need to bring your shears, paper towel to polish the leaves, aluminum foil for wedging the stem into the vase and a pen to fill out the entry card. The Society will provide the vases and entry cards.

You may enter Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas, Miniatures and Mini-floras. Entries are open at 1:30 p.m. Judging will began at 2:15. A trophy will be given to the best large rose and the best miniature – mini-flora rose.

See you May 17, 2009

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome back to returning member:

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DIRECT INQUIRIES TO
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

Happy Anderson
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Please add below members to your roster:

Mrs. Joyce Dickens
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Mrs. Pauline Landrum
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Phone: 757-481-0720

CONTROLLING ROSE FUNGUS DISEASE

By Howard E. Jones, ARS Consulting Rosarian

If you ask any rose grower in Virginia what is the biggest problem in growing roses, they will probably reply "Black Spot". There are other fungus diseases that can be a problem such as Powdery Mildew, Downy Mildew and Botrytis, but I will not attempt to cover them in this article. Also, insects such as thrips, aphids and Japanese Beetles can cause us some anguish, but ultimately do not do any lasting damage to our bushes. In my opinion, the critters that can really do the most damage to our rose bushes are spider mites, which become active with hot, dry weather. Because they are too small to be readily seen with the naked eye, they can begin to defoliate a bush before we realize we have a problem. I will leave insects and spider mites and their control for another article and only say that one of the best controls for Spider Mites is washing them off the underside of the leaves, where they live, with a high pressure stream of water.

Black Spot (*Diplocarpon rosae*) is not only the most important disease of roses all over the world but also in the state of Virginia. In climates that have high amounts of rainfall and high humidity it is difficult to control and, normally, a major problem of rose growing. The pathogen has been widely distributed with cultivated roses.

Well, what does Black Spot look like? Black circles or irregular blotches of 1/8 to 1/2 inch with yellow margins form on the upper side of leaves and may blend to form blotches on leaves and canes. In severe cases the entire leaf will turn yellow and fall from the plant (abscission). The lower foliage is attacked first and then it may spread over the entire bush. Bushes will generally put on new leaves, but, each time this happens it stresses and weakens the plant. Eventually you may lose the bush unless you get the Black Spot under control.

So what can we do to control this fungus disease? Good sanitation is extremely important. All infected leaves, both those on the bush and on the ground, should be disposed of to keep the disease from spreading. When you do your major pruning at the beginning of the new season, never leave last year leaves on the bush. Black Spot gets started in the spring from the spores on old leaves and canes. Good air circulation around bushes hastens drying and reduces Black Spot.

In addition to good sanitation, where Black Spot is a serious problem, a regular program of spraying with fungicides is necessary for maximum control. Leaves have to be wet continuously for 7 hours for the spores to germinate. Most fungicides are not irritants and work by coating the foliage to keep the spores from germinating. They, therefore, must be used every 7-14 days on a regular basis to prevent fungus diseases, since new foliage continues to develop throughout the growing season. Your spraying program should begin immediately after the spring pruning, even though there may be very little foliage, and continue into the fall until the weather is consistently cold.

Fortunately there are a number of good fungicides to control Black Spot and most of them control other fungus diseases also. Some of the most effective ones are Funginex, Banner Max, Mancozeb and Daconil. Be careful with Daconil as it will burn your foliage in hot weather. Never spray in the middle of the day, but in early mornings or late evenings. Funginex and Banner Max are systemic, meaning they penetrate the surface of the foliage and will not wash off as easily as contact type fungicides. Mancozeb and Daconil 2787 are contact fungicides and do not penetrate the leaf surface, but are very effective because they attack the fungus from several different directions. It is always a good idea to either alternate or use together a systemic and a contact type fungicide. This helps prevent the build-up of resistance to the particular fungicides that you are using. I prefer using a systemic type and a contact type together.

If in spite of regular spraying with fungicides you still get a serious attack of Black Spot because of continuous rainy weather, do not get discouraged. Increase the frequency of your spraying, using Mancozeb and Banner Max or Funginex together every three days for 3 or 4 times and you will be able to get the Black

Spot under control. After you get it under control, go back to spraying every 7-14 days. If the weather is wet, spray every 7 days. If you are having dry weather you can stretch it to 14 days. Make sure you water your roses before spraying if there is not plenty of moisture in the ground. This will help prevent spray burn (phototoxicity) of your leaves. The leaves should be turgid (internally full of water) before spraying.

If you do not choose to use chemical based fungicides, then sanitation becomes even more important. There are several non-chemical materials that will give some control. Rose Defense is made from Neem Oil and is fairly effective. A tablespoon of baking soda and a tablespoon of light agricultural oil in a gallon of water sprayed on the foliage will also give you some control. A new product on the market called Messenger, which is based on a natural occurring protein called Harpin, is reported to help with fungus diseases in roses by stimulating growth and making healthier, stronger plants which can better resist disease. In addition, choose rose varieties to grow that are naturally more resistant to Black Spot.

In conclusion, you can control Black Spot on roses, but you need to be proactive with a program and not let the Black Spot control you and your roses. Fungicides that are left on the shelf will not be of much help. Make your roses a priority in your life and they will reward you with many beautiful blooms.

REFRESHMENTS FOR THE APRIL MEETING PROVIDED BY:

Liz Mangino
Don Snipes
Cathy Daley
Missy Green

Nancy Sutcliffe
Bo Saks
Peggy Scott
Eve Price

TIDBITS: Our show will be October 10-11, 2009. The name of the show will be "Rainbow of Roses". Other Rose Show Dates: May 16, Virginia Peninsula Rose Society; May 30, Arlington Rose Foundation; June 6, Maryland Rose Society; June 7, Charleston Rose Society; September 20, Hunting Rose Society, September 25-27 Colonial District Fall Meeting and Rose Show held by Richmond Rose Society; September 30, Garden Club of Virginia; October 3, Potomac Rose Society Rose Show.

POETRY & PROSE

Selected by Pat Wilson

'COLD DECEMBER FLIES AWAY'

Cold December flies away at the
rose red splendor.
April's crowning glory breaks
while the whole world wonders
at the holy unseen power of the
tree which bears the flower.
On the blessed tree blooms the
reddest flower, on the tree
blooms the rose here in love's
own garden, full and strong in
glory.

CONSULTING ROSARIANS

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George E. Wilson	757-853-0621
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(This article courtesy of American Rose Society Magazine, "American Rose")

10 stupid things...
... gardeners do to mess up their rose garden
by Carolyn Elgar
Rose Gazette -June 2008
jwmson1@cox.net

Everyone makes mistakes. To err is human... So as much as any gardener refuses to admit it, you can bet they have done something stupid in their rose garden. Comfort yourself with the knowledge that everyone, even the most conscientious rose lover, has made one of these mistakes at some point in their history with roses.

1. Buy too many.

If you truly love roses, you have definitely done this. You read about a new variety or see an incredibly healthy rose at a nursery. "I can find a place," you say. Oops! When you get home and look around, you have to face the realization that, unless you tear up more of your lawn, there is no more room for one, not even a little one, rose bush in your garden. If you persist and sneak the newbie into the ground between two established roses or in front of a large bush you will pay the price. Mildews and rust will enjoy the increased humidity of all that foliage. Plus the young, new rose will have to fight for its share of water and fertilizer.

2. Throw away the label.

This can happen in a number of ways. The label may fall off in the car. You may cut off a wired label that seems to be adversely affecting a cane's health. And finally the name of the rose may be printed on the pot it came in and that pot disappears after you plant or repot the rose. However it happens, if you collect a number of rose varieties, there is a very good chance you will forget what they are. At the very least, you will have to be available in the garden whenever you entertain, because someone will want to know the name of that mystery rose.

3. Forget to check for dryness.

Whether it's in a pot or the ground, a dry rose is not a happy rose. Unfortunately, you may not get the message until it is too late. Sprinkler heads can break and rabbits love to chew through drip hoses. Before you know it, you've got a rose that is yellow, wilted, and on its way to the great rose garden in the sky.

4. Forget to deadhead.

If you want a bush to bloom again, the best way to ensure this is to cut off the flowers when they have dropped their petals or look blown out, before seeds form. If you do, the bush will once again attempt to create seed by producing a bloom. We may love our rose blooms, but the fact is, their primary purpose is to make new roses from the seed they produce. Don't let them and they will bloom again.

5. Plant a big rose in a small space.

In all fairness, you may not realize that the charming little *Graham Thomas* or *Eureka* rose bush you brought home from the nursery will grow to dwarf its neighbors. Or you may try to convince yourself that it won't get that big in your yard. But time is a cruel mistress. In two or three years that rose will be crossing the boundaries you set for it, creating a menacing shadow for the roses around it.

6. Plant a rose in the shade.

"How many hours of sunshine do my roses need?" asks little Miss Rose Lover. At least six hours for optimum bloom is the correct answer. Oh, but you don't have a sunny place left in your garden? Plant it in the shade and it will bloom, but the flowers will be small and the stems spindly. Lack of heat will encourage mildew and other rose diseases. Sure, some roses will do ok in the shade – but just ok.

7. Starve your roses.

The first flush of bloom can be an exhausting experience for your roses. To bloom as well again, they will need

some help in building up food sugars that give them the energy they need. No matter what kind of roses you have, they will greatly appreciate a little fertilizer. At the very least, put down some time-release granules every four weeks during the blooming season. Once again, unfertilized roses will produce blooms that are ok – but nowhere near as hearty as they were at the beginning of the season.

8. Use your above ground sprinkler system at night or early in the morning.

The longer a rose's leaves stay wet, the more susceptible it is to invading fungi and bacteria. Warm sun will speed drying of the foliage. Run your sprinklers just before the sun comes up or afterwards.

9. Buy a rose you don't understand.

Different rose varieties have different characteristics. It's best for you and the bush if you know something about rose classifications and their growth habit. For example, if you want roses primarily for cutting, you may be happier with a hybrid tea than a floribunda. Many old garden roses only bloom once during the season; if you want repeat flowering, these will disappoint you. A climbing rose will put out long canes that need support, a frustrating situation for the gardener who wants a tidy bush. Also, it's good to know something about a plant's growth habit when it's time for pruning.

10. Leave things a mess.

No one likes to clean up a garden bed when it's hot outside or when there's something more pleasant to do. But insects and disease love the dark, humid covering of fallen leaves. Plus, dead leaves can be infected with fungi that will spread to other plants. Remove all dead foliage, canes, and flowers and put them in the green waste for disposal, not in your compost pile. Spores can live a long time on plant tissue, dead or alive.

There you have it. If you haven't done at least one of these things at some point in your gardening experience, then you aren't a true rose lover. The more you love roses, the more roses you want. The more roses you have, the higher the odds are that you will slip and commit one of these crimes. The good news is, roses are pretty forgiving if you can make things right again for them quickly.

An Award of Merit Article - 2008



Pinnacle

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