



Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

Chartered by the American Rose Society

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Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond

On the web www.shenandoahrosesociety.org



April Meeting

The April meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday April 19, 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. Please use the back entrance where the handicap ramp is.

Our speaker will be Howard Jones from Virginia Beach. Howard is a Consulting Rosarian, Judge and top exhibitor in the District. He has written many articles on rose care especially on growing roses in containers. Plan to be with us for Howard's presentation and bring a friend.

A Good Feeding Program is Necessary

By Meredith Yeago

In order to have pretty roses, it is necessary to have a good feeding program. Farmers fertilize food crops such as corn, wheat, etc., but rose growers feed their roses. The reason--roses provide four or five bloom cycles per season and to obtain the best results and prettiest blooms, regular feeding is a necessity.

Howard Jones, one of Virginia's leading rosarian, has a very popular and successful program. The following is an adaptation of his program for the valley:

- April 15--Peters 20-20-20 or Miracle-Gro (soluble) 1 TBS/gal--1 gal per plant
- April 30--Peters 20-20-20 or Miracle-Gro (soluble) 1 TBS/gal--1 gal per plant--Fish emulsion--1 TBS/gal--1 gal/plant
- May 15, May 31, June 15, June 30, July 15, July 31--repeat soluble program
- August 1--2 ½ cups Mills Magic Rose Mix per plant--½ cup 10-10-10 Vegetable Grower--½ cup Epsom salts
- August 15, August 21, September 15 repeat the soluble program.

After September 15 no more feeding for the season. The closer you follow this program, the better your roses will produce this year. This is a proven program. Don't forget your good watering program.

From the Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

It is now time to start your rose and yard work. I have already mowed my lawn and part of it more than once. I can't ever remember mowing in March but this year was an exception.

My roses are showing new growth earlier than ever and are crying for attention. It is the time to get the weeds out and yes, my beds are full of weeds that seem to grow in the winter. Pruning will soon follow. We will still have some cold nights but the hard freezes should be over. Frost will still be a problem until about the 15th of May. Do not set out any plants or flowers that might be damaged by frost until after that date. Roses can stand a little more and just a frost should not harm that new growth. However, if the temperature gets to 28 degrees or below for more than an hour, you may have a problem with young tender growth on your roses.

Time to feed your roses is upon us also. If you feed organics, you may do that at anytime. If you are using chemical fertilizers, you may want to wait until after April 15. Organics take some time to break down and go to work, where the chemicals are instant.

It has been a dry winter but we seem to be getting some much-needed rain at present. Keep a watch on your rose beds and the rainfall. If we are not getting ample rainfall, then you need to start watering.

April is also time to plant those new roses or move some old ones. If you are moving old bushes to a new location, you should prepare for your move ahead of time. Select the new location (should be one with ample sunlight and well drained soil). Prepare the soil. Dig the hole and amend the soil as needed. Remember, for both new plantings and moving an existing bush, it is better to plant a \$2 rose in a \$20 hole than to plant a \$20 rose in a \$2 hole.

If you are moving a rose, there are two ways you can do it. One would be to get as large a ball of soil with the roots as possible and place that in your

new hole. The other would be to get a good-sized ball of soil, shake all the soil off the roots, trim the roots and plant it as a bare root rose. Both methods will work but if your existing location has poor soil conditions, you may want to use the latter method.

By moving roses in April, you can prune them back as you would for your spring pruning and the new growth will develop along with a new root system. It also gives the plant more time to develop a good root system before the heavy growth emerges. Remember to water your new planting well to give the soil a natural compaction. The initial watering should be about three gallons. After that, water as normal. Do not feed a new planting or a rose you have moved for about 6 weeks. This will give your rose time to adjust and develop the necessary root system to take it up.

ARS Rose of the Month *Jeanne Lajoie* The Little Mini That Could



Whether you pronounce the name 'Jeanie La Joy' or can twist your tongue around the French pronunciation of 'Jay nay laj Waugh', it all comes down to a plucky little pink climbing mini hybridized by E. P. Sima in 1975. He used (*Casa Blanca* x *Independence*) x *Midget* in breeding this little beauty and in 1977, the ARS recognized it with the coveted Award of Excellence for Miniatures (AOE award).

The 1" slightly fragrant, high-centered flowers with close to 40 petals are borne in clusters as well as singly and the plant can repeat throughout the growing season. The canes can gain a height of over 7' and in warmer areas of the country; I've seen it completely engulfing a garage. Here in Zone 5 of upstate New York, it happily climbs to well over 8' with very little winter



protection and a moderate amount of support from a chain link fence.

The glossy dark foliage is disease resistant and it appears to tolerate slightly shady conditions as well.

Be sure to give this little climber plenty of room and she will reward you with tons of bloom.

Photos courtesy of Mary Peterson

Making Your Own Fish Emulsion By Charles Shaner

It doesn't take a PhD in soil conservation to realize the benefits of fish as a soil conditioner and fertilizer. If you remember your elementary school history, the Indians taught the settlers in Jamestown to catch fish and bury them in the ground to use as fertilizer. I once went to a feed store and asked for a bag of fish meal. The man wanted to know what I was going to use it for and I replied, "I am going to feed my roses". He got to laughing and said, "That is the way the Indians did it".

Fish emulsion is mainly used for its quick high organic nitrogen and available soluble P and K benefits as a foliar feed. Fish emulsion is also used as a drench for root feeding. Most fish emulsions have N-P-K value of 4-1-1 with some having an N value of 5 or 6. **Fish meal** is mainly a great soil conditioner and great bacterial food to help feed the soil microorganisms. Most commercially-made fish emulsions come from trash products of the menhaden fish. This group of fish includes herring, sardine, and anchovy fishes. Commercially-produced fish emulsion also contains 5% sulfuric acid in order to preserve the fertilizer on the shelf, but also it supplies needed sulfur to the plant and soil. Most commercially-produced fish products do not contain fish oil which supplies beneficial soil fungi, or fish bone which provides needed calcium.

The benefits of homemade fish emulsion are many. For one, it is cheaper to make in large quantities. There are nutrients in homemade varieties which are not available in commercially-produced products. Commercially-produced emulsions are made from trash fish which have less protein, less bone and less oil than fresh fish or canned fish in a home brew. Aerobic bacteria and fungi are essential to hot composting, disease

control, and soil health. In commercial fish emulsions there are little to no aerobic bacteria in the containers. If the bottled product had living organisms, the container would expand and blow apart on the shelf. The homemade versions will always contain more bacterial microorganisms than the commercially-produced products.

Making your own is easy and requires a few items you can pick up at the local store or around the garden. The items you will need are:

- A closable, 5-gallon bucket
- Fresh fish
- Extra browns like sawdust, leaves or straw
- Molasses (Note: use unsulfured molasses or dry molasses for faster microbial growth)
- Water
- Epsom salts

If you are using fresh fish, you need to compost it separately in a 5-gallon closeable bucket. Fill bucket 1/2 full with extra browns like sawdust, leaves, or straw. You can add molasses to the fishy mixture in order to build up microbes to speed up decomposition. A couple of tablespoons of Epsom salts will add needed magnesium and sulfur. The sugars will also help control odors. Open the bucket and stir the fishy paste daily or every other day in order to get air in the mix for better decomposition and better aerobic microbial growth in the emulsion. Let this paste rot for at least 1-2 weeks. The browns help control offensive odors and absorb organic nitrogen from the fish so that it is not leached out or evaporated.

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Robert (Bob) Holsinger, Staunton 540-886-8783

Welcome New Member!

We would like to welcome Michael Ann Courtney to our Society. Michael lives in Weyers

Cave. We gained Michael's membership from the website.

District Website

www.colonialdistrictroses.org

Each year the Colonial District website is entered into a website contest with the ARS. This is mainly for the feedback received from the committee of ways to make it better. Awards are issued according to how good they feel the website is. In 2005, the District site won Princess (3rd place), and King in 2006 and 2007 (2nd place).



For 2008, the District site took the top prize--Queen of websites (1st place). I try to keep the site up-to-date with good information on rose culture, information on schools and meetings. You will also find a list of all the CRs in the District along with all the Judges and contact information.

Much thanks goes to my assistant, Lynda Grass. Lynda checks over the website to make sure my spelling is correct and everything is where it is supposed to be. The site is viewed by people all over the world and promotes the rose.

Many thanks to all the people who have submitted articles and information to the site. It would not have been possible without that.

Charles L. Shaner
Webmaster