
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

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Dates to Remember

May 18, 2010 The regular monthly meeting for the Huntington Rose Society will be **Tuesday, May 18th**, starting at 7:30 PM. The meeting will take place in the **choir room** at Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Ave. The program for the evening will be a panel discussion on **Starting Roses from Cuttings**. Hospitality for the evening will be provided by Monica and Gary.

June 6, 2010 The Charleston Rose Society Annual Rose Show will take place at the University of Charleston. This is the same day as Symphony Sunday and is a great event to participate in and bring your roses. Rose Show Chair is Lynda Grass (lyndagrass@wvdhf.com) at 304-345-3634.

September 5, 2010 The Huntington Rose Society Rose Show will be held on Sunday, September 5, 2010 at the Huntington Mall, Barboursville, WV. Set up will be held on Saturday evening starting at 9:00 pm. For more information contact Rose Show Co-Chairs, Gary Rankin & Monica Valentovic TEL: 304-697-0321: e-mail Gary at rankin@marshall.edu or Monica at valentov@marshall.edu.

September 24-26, 2010 The Colonial District Fall Meeting and Rose Show will be held at the Airport Hilton in Norfolk, Virginia. More details will be available soon.

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In This Issue

President's Message..... Pg 1-2
Thank you to Lynda Grass..... Pg 2
May in the Garden.....Pg 2-3
Tips for the Garden.....Pg 3-4
JAZ Rose Spray.....Pg 4
Food for Roses.....Pg 5
Membership renewal form.....Pg 6

President's Message

Beverly Delidow

Greetings to all on a fine spring morning. May is a wonderful month in the garden. Flowering trees have just ended their bloom cycle, the wild berry canes are just flowering now, and bowers of multiflora roses cover the roadsides. In my yard all the mini's are getting out their finery for the first time. Minifloras Edisto and Soroptomist International are competing to see who can pop the biggest spray. Carrot Top, my quiet little redhead, came up with the first bloom of the year. Even tiny Fairhope, down in front, has stood up as tall as she gets and started to show off a couple fat white buds. I think they're all reminding me it's time to get at those weeds! With more light in the mornings and evenings, that's easier to do now, and a good thing! I think most of the cast of characters Diana introduced us to back in March have tried to get a toehold somewhere in my yard. Bu I have a garden claw and I'm not afraid to use it!

Now that the roses are coming on strong, you may be thinking about the spots in the garden left bare after the winter. I know I have a spot where my Isabel Renaissance finally succumbed to too many rounds of freezing and thawing. For many of us, filling

the gap means a trip to the garden store, or a couple hours with catalogs, deciding what to get next. But there is another option – growing your own. For our program this month, a panel of experience growers will provide us with their thoughts on budding roses. It's sure to be fascinating and informative! Hope to see many of you there.

Happy roses, happy spring!

Beverly

THANK YOU TO LYNDA GRASS

The 2010 Huntington Rose Society Yearbooks were distributed at the April meeting. Our Society owes a big thank you to Lynda Grass for putting together our Yearbook. It looks great and I hope you will use it often this year to review our society events. THANK YOU LYNDA!!!

UPDATE YOUR YEARBOOK

GEORGE AND ARLENE ANDRICK

Please change your information in the yearbook for the address of **George and Arlene Andrick**. It is 183 Bradley Foster Drive; Huntington, WV25701. The phone number is the same, 304-697-7195. They have a beautiful place with some very nice roses on their back patio.

MAY IN THE GARDEN

Monica Valentovic

May is the time we give a sigh of relief about the end of hard freezes and frosts. However, temperature flux is still a problem with nights in the upper 30's, or low 40's and days in the 60-80-'s. We can have over a 40 degree flux in temperature within 24 h in May.

During this month you should be spraying your roses every 7-10 days using a regular preventative fungicide program. I rotate between systemic and contact agents to minimize resistance in our yard. This is a good time to use copper and sulfur as

contact agents. Sulfur and copper should be used when daytime high temperatures are below 85 degrees in order to minimize spray burn. Sulfur will burn your leaves if sprayed on plants that are not well hydrated or if the air temperature is too warm. I use copper at this time of the year as it is very effective for blackspot, powdery mildew and anthracnose. Another excellent contact agent is Manzate, which is a good fungicide for black spot and powdery mildew.

What is the difference between contact and systemic fungicides?

Contact agents must be **in contact** with the fungus in order to be effective. Contact fungicides must be applied thoroughly to the top and bottom of all leaves as well as the canes as the spray must cover the entire plant in order to be effective. Many contact sprays are also washed off the plant quickly in rainy conditions. The exception is manzate which takes quite a significant rain in order to remove it from the plants. Contact sprays are only effective on the plant components that are sprayed so in the Spring when we have rapid new growth, you need to spray every 7 days as new growth is not protected. Systemic fungicides are taken up by either the entire plant or within the leaf tissue. Systemic fungicides allow for long term protection to your plant. Once a systemic dries on the plant, rain will not reduce its effects. The problem with using only systemic pesticides is the likelihood to increase resistance in your garden microclimate.

Remember to only use an insecticide if insects are present. The most common insects at this time of the year are aphids and cane borers. Aphids can be removed with a strong spray of water, insecticidal soap, ultrafine oil, Bayer Rose and Flower Insect Killer, Malathion, Pyrethrin/Rotenone, Isotox or dish detergent. The best method for preventing cane borers is to seal the large canes with NuBark or Elmers Glue.

If midge has been a problem in your garden then apply **Grubex** to the soil **now**. It is

important to apply **Grubex** (cyfluthrin/imidacloprid or a permethrin derivative/imidacloprid) early to help reduce the hatch of midge from the soil. Some rose growers are using talstar. We have not used it on our roses but it did an amazing job this Fall for our asian beetle problem on the outside of our house.

Routinely go through your yard and begin disbudding your hybrid teas and miniatures/minifloras. Disbudding will get the energy of the plant to the main bud and make it larger. If you want sprays, then remove the center bud prior to its opening.

If you have not yet done so, it is a good time to add an organic supplement such as Mills Magic Mix, alfalfa meal, Rosetone, Posy Power or mushroom compost. The organics will provide slow release of nutrients, will provide humic acid to the soil and will be slowly degraded. We have already added mushroom compost at a rate of 1 shovel full per large bush and worked it into the soil. Mushroom compost provides fiber to reduce compaction of soil. If you use horse manure, be sure to add Preen to reduce the number of weed seeds that sprout.

Watch the weather, and if you have strong wind, then you should stake your new strong canes. During the recent windy days we have had some new canes break which is disheartening. You can tie the cane to a stake with twine or panty hose. You can also intertwine a tomato stake near the cane to support it without tying it to the stake.

If we do not get an inch of rain per week, you should water your roses. Roses may also need to be watered if we have a sunny but windy day which can dehydrate those tender new shoots. Water the roses if you notice any drooping of the ends of your new canes.

Remember that in a few days to a few weeks, you should begin to have rose blooms. Your work will pay off with some beautiful bloom for your enjoyment and the

enjoyment of your friends that you share your roses with. May you have an enjoyable rose season.

RECESSION BUSTER TIPS TO LESSEN DISEASE AND PESTS IN THE GARDEN

Monica Valentovic

We all know the price of everything is increasing at a very fast pace and our money just does not go as far as it use to. Rose growers are generally concerned about preventing diseases in their rose beds. However, many people do not want to spend a lot of **time and money** to take care of their roses. Consulting rosarians are often asked "*What to use to control disease in a garden with just a couple roses*"? Below are a few tips to help the casual gardener enjoy their garden.

First, fungus is difficult to eradicate once it develops in the garden. The best treatment is prevention. Although many people do not enjoy it, a regular spray program can greatly reduce the spread of disease in a garden. There are also several precautionary steps that can be done to reduce the onset of diseases in your garden.

Roses need a regular spray program to control the spread of fungal infections. It is recommended that you spray every 7-10 days throughout the growing season. This is necessary in order to control fungal infections.

There are some common household items that can be used to reduce pests in the garden. One common recipe requires liquid dish detergent, cooking oil and baking soda. I prefer lemon or orange scented liquid dish detergents as they leave a clean smell in the garden after application. Any brand of dish detergent works but it should not have ammonia as this may burn the leaves. The cooking oil can be corn, canola or safflower and again there is not much difference

between brands that are used as part of this recipe. Finally, you want to use baking soda and it does not matter what brand you use as part of the recipe. The recipe is to mix 1 TBSP each of cooking oil, baking soda and dish detergent to 1 gallon of water. Shake thoroughly as the oil will not mix with the water similar to Italian dressing. Spray the entire bush with this mixture using your regular sprayer. Be sure to spray the top and underside of the leaves.

It is thought that the oil acts to control insects, such as aphids or spider mites, by smothering them. The soap also is beneficial in controlling insects. The baking soda changes the pH of mixture and is beneficial in controlling powdery mildew. The cooking oil also acts as a fungicide since the oil layer prevents the fungal mycelium from penetrating into the leaf tissue.

Another inexpensive method to control aphids is a jet of water. Spray the tips of affected plants with a strong jet of water to dislodge the aphids. This also helps remove the sugary residue left on the plants from the aphids.

How many people have problems with deer? Some people have had success using human hair scattered on the mulch. A great source of clipped hair is the local barber shops and hair styling establishments. Before you start laughing out loud at this idea the ARS testing this exact procedure in some of their rose beds that have had severe deer pruning damage. Another inexpensive method to reduce deer damage is to hang bars of soap about 3 feet above the ground. Attach blocks of scented soap bars with fishing line. Some detergents that may work are Irish Spring or Zest, which have a strong fragrance. Soap has been reported to have some success in deterring deer. We have not had much success with soap but try it in your yard. Some people have had success spraying milk with garlic on their rose leaves. It is thought to give off a scent unpleasant to the

deer and acts as a repellent to deer grazing on your roses. One thing I have learned is that deer quickly adapt to deterrents and you need to keep changing your method of deer repellants.

These are just a few suggestions of inexpensive ways to control pests in your yard. If you want something different and economical, you might want to consider the use of the oil, soap and baking soda mixture or if you are brave, human hair.

NEW PRODUCTS ENDORSED BY THE ARS---JAZ ROSE SPRAY Monica A. Valentovic

Gary and I are Co-Chairs of the ARS Product Evaluation Committee. One of the products that was endorsed by the committee after evaluation last year was JAZ Rose Spray. It really is spelled JAZ. JAZ Rose Spray contains a jasmonate called methyl dihydrojasmonate (MDHJ). Jasmonates are a family of compounds that are made by a plant from fatty acids. Jasmonates help a plant to survive stress. Jasmonates are found in the leaves but also accumulate in the bloom. Under stress conditions, jasmonate levels increase and this helps a plant handle stress. Jasmonates increase antioxidants in the plant and this is thought to reduce plant stress. Jasmonates have some interesting properties including altering photosynthesis.

During the evaluation process in 2009, ARS Product evaluation committee members found that roses seemed to be less stressed when roses were treated with JAZ Rose Spray every 2 weeks. The greatest benefits came from gardens in hot climates. These individuals observed that their roses needed less water and had less wilting in the heat of the summer. JAZ Rose Spray is the first product of its kind and has a unique mechanism of action. JAZ Rose spray may help reduce your watering needs during the summer.

Food for Roses: Macronutrients

Gary O. Rankin

Just like us, roses need food to grow and develop properly. We feed our roses with a variety of products including organics (e.g. Mill's Magic Mix, Espoma Rose Tone, alfalfa meal), water soluble fertilizers (Miracle Gro, Peter's All Purpose Plant Food, Schultz's Rose Plus, Easy Feed, Monty's Joy Juice.) and/or time release fertilizers (Osmocote, Once). Each of these products contains two types of nutrients: macronutrients and micronutrients. The macronutrients are nutrients that roses need in large amounts, while the micronutrients are nutrients that roses need only a small amount for proper growth and development.

In this article, we will focus on the macronutrients; nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) and how they help roses grow. These are the nutrients (N-P-K) that constitute the numbers on a fertilizer package and represent how many pounds of the element would be present in 100 pounds of fertilizer. For example, a fertilizer that shows 19-30-16 on the package would have 19 pounds of nitrogen, 30 pounds of phosphorus and 16 pounds of potassium per 100 pounds of the fertilizer. So how do these macronutrients help roses to grow?

Nitrogen Nitrogen (N) is a major component of our atmosphere and is present in many chemical compounds. Plants contain about 2% nitrogen by weight and nitrogen is important for stimulating growth. Roses get nitrogen mainly from the soil in the form of nitrate and convert the nitrate to the building blocks of DNA, proteins and enzymes that the roses need to stimulate growth. Many fertilizers provide nitrogen in the form of urea or ammonia that must be converted by soil microorganisms such as bacteria to nitrate before it can be taken up by the roses. Availability of nitrate from the soil is also dependent on the soil pH. At pH values below 5.5 and at high pH values, the rate of nitrate formation from urea and ammonia is reduced.

If there is sufficient available nitrogen in the soil, your roses will have tall strong canes, nicely formed blooms and dark green foliage. Too little nitrogen can be seen as lighter green leaves or even a yellowing of the leaves. Too much nitrogen is seen as weak, soft canes, small blooms and increased susceptibility to disease.

Phosphorus Phosphorus (P) constitutes about 0.5% of a rose by weight. It is accumulated by roses from the soil in the form of the phosphate ion. Bone meal is also a good source of phosphorus. Phosphorus is important for stimulating root growth, which in turn increases the ability of the rose to "feed" from the nutrients available in the soil. Phosphorus is also important for growing large blooms, adding in plant maturity and winter hardiness. The energy that is required for so many critical events in rose growth is present as a chemical called ATP, a substance that contains three phosphate groups! Phosphorus is most available at soil pH values around 6.5.

Potassium Potassium (K) is also known as potash and constitutes about 1% of a roses total weight. Potassium is absorbed as potassium ion. Potassium stimulates root growth, plant vigor and bloom color and plays a key role in promoting photosynthesis. Potassium can leach rapidly from the soil and, if allowed to get too low, loss of potassium can lead to harmful effects on growth by other elements such as magnesium. A deficiency of potassium is seen as weak canes, brown leaf margins and increased numbers of blind shoots.

Sulfur, calcium and magnesium are also considered macronutrients. Sulfur is important for amino acid synthesis for proteins and enzymes. Calcium and magnesium aid in a number of enzymes important for overall growth. In addition magnesium is part of the chlorophyll molecule that gives leaves their green color.

