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# THORNY BUSH

*Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV*

*Affiliated with the American Rose Society*

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## Dates to Remember

**June 15, 2010** The regular meeting of the Huntington Rose Society will be held Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 7:30 pm at the Central Christian Church, 1202 Fifth Ave. The program for the evening will be "Hybridizing Roses" presented by Peter Harris. Hospitality will be provided by Bob Hogsett.

**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.

**August 20-22, 2010** The National All Miniature Rose Show and Conference will take place in Milwaukee, WI. Diane Sommers can be contacted for more information at 262-781-7989. Registration information is on the ARS.ORG website. Her Email address is [dianesommers@wi.rr.com](mailto:dianesommers@wi.rr.com).

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## President's Message

**Beverly Delidow**

Greetings to all on a damp June evening. This spring has produced some weather that has a lot of folks scratching their heads. Around Memorial Day my two Soroptomist Internationals didn't so much produce sprays as full-size chandeliers. One of these had SEVENTEEN blooms - Heck of a thing for a mini! I don't recall ever getting sprays this large, and certainly not this early in the growing season. And this is not in plants that were heavily fed. I have been pretty circumspect with the goodies so far this year. I think this early spectacular growth may be in part due to the warmer weather we've been having. Stories I've heard from people all over the state suggest a lot of people are seeing plants and other wildlife take off about three weeks earlier than expected. Is that what you are seeing in your gardens? It would be interesting to know. Informal information from growers and gardeners is some of the best information out there for sharing - we know what's happening "on the ground", so to speak!

Speaking of beautiful grounds - I took a weekday afternoon to do my own photographic tour of the Ritter Park Rose Garden a couple weeks ago. As always, it was gorgeous and marvelously photogenic. Kudo's to Truman Watts for the stellar work he does on our

beautiful public garden. This small example of his handiwork should inspire everyone to go and visit!

I hope to see everyone at our meeting this month - we will have the pleasure of welcoming Peter Harris from Charleston to give a program on hybridizing roses. This is part of a series of great programs Gary put together for us on propagating roses and I'm really looking forward to hearing the presentation. Please join us!

Enjoy your roses, rain or shine!



### **June in the Garden**

**Monica Valentovic**

June is a time that provides that first real flush of bloom in our gardens. You should spend a few minutes and enjoy your roses, their colors, symmetry and fragrance as each bloom is not long lasting. The heat has been quite strong so far this summer. Be sure to water your roses especially when our daily high temperatures are in the upper 80's and low 90's. You know how important a cold drink is to you on those hot days and your roses will appreciate some water as well to help revive them in this heat. Watering is especially important if we do not get 1" of water in a week. We have been getting 1" of rain in our yard but each yard may be different so keep a check on your weekly rainfall. Roses need at least 1-3 gallons for a large rose and about half that amount for a miniature within a week. If watering at night, be sure to water only the ground and not splash the leaves. Wet leaves left throughout the night are more likely to develop black spot. If we do not get rain for a week, you may want to spray the leaves in the early afternoon to allow sufficient time for the

leaves to dry. I usually do this the day before I spray. It helps wash the leaves of any residue, cools the roses and helps hydrate the plants. Besides, our golden retriever thinks this is great use of an overhead sprinkler.

Unfortunately, June is also the beginning of thrips season and the dreaded Japanese beetle. Thrips, same spelling singular and plural, although I must admit I rarely see one thirps in our yard. Thrips were very plentiful this year and many gardens that normally do not experience brown discoloration of their light colored blooms could have misdiagnosed this as heat damage. Thrips are small flying insects that cause damage to light colored petals. The scraping by the mouth of the thrip is revealed as brownish discoloration on the edges and in the center of rose blooms. We experienced some of the worst thrips outbreaks when the first cut of hay and tall grass occurs in our area. The best treatment is to mist the blooms with an effective insecticide such as Bayer Rose and Flower Insect Killer, Pyrethrin/Rotenone or Malathion. The blooms will need to be misted quite often as thrips are continuously moving into new areas.

The first Japanese beetles appeared in our yard by June 1<sup>st</sup>. There are many ways to control these pests and we prefer immersing them in soapy water. After the Japanese beetles fail the swimming test in a 16 oz. cup of soapy water, we discard the beetles in the trash. Do not crush or leave the dead beetles in your yard or rose garden as the eggs would then be available to hatch in your yard later in the season. Bayer rose and flow spray is also an excellent control for Japanese beetles. Some gardeners use Sevin liquid or dust (carbaryl) to control beetle infestations. This will work but Sevin dust or spray degrades in 3-4 days so Sevin must be reapplied at least every 4 days to be effective.

It is also important to maintain your weekly spraying to prevent fungal disease. During the summer the greatest risk for fungal disease is

blackspot. It is important to rotate you spray material, apply your spray to the top and underside of the rosebush and maintain good rose culture. Good rose culture would include pruning to keep the center of the plants open to provide good air circulation and preventing splashing of soil with water onto the leaves. June is a nice time to enjoy your roses. Take some time and enjoy your garden. Take time to cut some bloom and let your friends and family enjoy the beauty of the rose. All your work will pay off in roses with colors and fragrance.

### **What Would You Feed a Queen?**

**Gary O. Rankin**

Most folks know that roses are called the "Queen of Flowers", and certainly anyone who grows roses would agree. When you visit a rose show, you'll see that the top rose of the show is called the Queen. But when it comes to feeding roses what meal is fit for the Queen of Flowers and where do you find just the right food to grow healthy roses?

Rose food or fertilizer can be found at local agricultural suppliers (e.g. Southern States), chain stores (e.g. WalMart, Lowes, Home Depot), and local nurseries, or ordered from catalogs. We buy our fertilizers from all of these sources, depending on what we are looking for. A walk through our garage will inspire one and all as to the many options you have for feeding the Queen of Flowers! I won't say that I'll try anything once, but I come close. So here is a general list of some options that you can use to feed your roses, and there is something for everyone from the novice to the exhibitor.

Rose fertilizers come in several forms. These include water soluble fertilizers, time-release fertilizers, and organic fertilizers. Each type of product has a use in fertilizing roses, but the product(s) used vary depending on how much time and effort you want to put into fertilizing your roses and what they provide as "food" for the rose bush.

Water soluble fertilizers Water soluble fertilizers (e.g. Miracle Gro, Schultz Rose Food, Peters 20-20-20) are the most common fertilizers used. They are composed mainly of inorganic salts (e.g. sodium phosphate, monopotassium phosphate) and contain the major nutrients (e.g. Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium or N-P-K) in various combination (e.g. 10-10-10 or 15-30-15) as well as minors or micronutrients such as boron, manganese, copper, nickel, zinc and cobalt. The three numbers represent the amount of the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in pounds that would be found in 100 pounds of the fertilizer. So a 15-25-12 would contain 15 pounds of nitrogen, 25 pounds of phosphorus and 12 pounds of potassium per 100 pounds of the fertilizer. These fertilizers vary primarily in the combination of N-P-K and the micronutrients included. Fertilizers with higher P numbers (e.g. 10-45-16) are sometimes referred to as "bloom" or "superbloom" fertilizers, because phosphorus helps with bloom development and color.

It is a good idea to check the label of the fertilizer for which micronutrients are included. Rotating fertilizers with different combinations of micronutrients can help you provide a good balance of these nutrients that roses only need in trace amounts. Alternatively, you can use one of the Dyna-Gro products that contain all of the micronutrients. There are several products in this line of fertilizers, but we use primarily the Grow and the Bloom products. The Liquid Grow formula is 7-9-5, while the Liquid Bloom formula is 3-12-6. Both products contain 16 macro and micronutrients. We use these products once in the spring (mid-May) and once in late summer (mid-August) to help supplement the micronutrients missing when we use regular water soluble fertilizers.

Time-release fertilizers - Perhaps the easiest fertilizers to use are the time-release fertilizers. There are several brands on the market including Osmocote, Once and Schultz

Multicote (e.g. 14-14-16 for roses). These products are designed to release a small amount of fertilizer over time with watering or following a rain shower. In some cases, the fertilizers are round, poorly soluble pellets of fertilizer that dissolve very slowly when wet, and in others (e.g. Osmocote), a thin outer shell expands when wet to allow a small amount of the fertilizer inside the shell to dissolve and be released into the soil. These types of fertilizers can be easily applied to the surface of the soil and/or worked into the drip line of a rose to provide a source of food for several weeks. They are an especially easy way to fertilize potted roses. Although most time-release fertilizers can feed roses for several months, in our area, it is best to apply them in late April and again in mid-July for the optimal results. If you use these types of fertilizers as your main form of feeding, it is a good idea to use a balanced water soluble fertilizers a couple of times during the growing season as well. If you use a product like Osmocote, remember that there will be empty shells left after the fertilizer is gone. So don't be fooled in mid-summer when you still see the Osmocote shell in a pot or on the soil surface, because the fertilizer is probably gone. We find time-release fertilizers work well when used for roses grown in pots or for folks who don't want to be bothered with fertilizing more than twice a year.

Organic fertilizers - The organic fertilizers are primarily "meals" or natural products that break down in the soil to release important nutrients for roses (e.g. Mills Magic Mix, alfalfa meal, fish meal, bananas, etc.) or are liquid organic products containing various nutrients or growth products that can be diluted for feeding the roses (e.g. liquid kelp or seaweed extracts such as Response, fish emulsion).

The meals work by slowly leaching or being degraded by soil bacterial to release essential nutrients for rose growth. For example, alfalfa provides N-P-K (5-1-2), minerals such as

calcium, iron, magnesium, and zinc, vitamins (A, D, B1, B6, E, K and U), and triacontanol, a fatty acid growth stimulant. You can apply alfalfa directly to the soil (1-2 cups per bush) or make a tea by allowing 8 cups of alfalfa meal or alfalfa rabbit food pellets "brew" in 30 gallons of water (use a plastic/rubber garbage can and close the lid tight!) for three or four days and applying the liquid extract (orangey color) around the base of the rose bush (1 gal/large bush;  $\frac{1}{2}$  gal/miniature or miniflora).

A favorite commercial organic product of ours is Mill's Magic Rose Mix (MMM). Produced by Beauty Fertilizer Co. in Cleveland, TN, MMM is a blend of several different meals, including alfalfa meal, cotton seed meal, blood meal and fish meal. MMM works best if used twice a year (April and again in July) by working into the soil. We use 2 cups per large rose and 1 cup per miniature rose or miniflora in late April and reduce the amounts by  $\frac{1}{2}$  for the July application. We reduce the amount of MMM in July because I put out alfalfa tea in June.

A key factor in using meals is that bacterial activity is required to digest the meals. As a result, the ground temperature must be greater than 50° F before there is sufficient bacterial activity to properly release all of the nutrients into the soil. So putting the organic meals in the ground too soon will have no benefit. Wait until the soil warms up to use these products.

Liquid organic products are also valuable for feeding "the Queen". These products contain different nutrients and have different purposes. For example, a by-product of making fish meal (normally from menhaden, an oily, non-food fish for humans) is fish emulsion. The menhaden are cooked at 210° F and then pressed to squeeze out the oily liquid. The solid becomes fish meal and the liquid is processed further to make fish emulsion. Fish emulsion is especially valuable for feeding the soil bacteria that breakdown organic as well as nitrogen based, water soluble fertilizers to a form that

the rose can take up and use to grow and develop. We use fish emulsion about three or four time during the growing season and it seems beneficial, especially for the miniature roses.

In contrast to fish emulsions, seaweed products (liquid kelp, Response) contain many of the valuable plant nutrients found in alfalfa meal. For example, Response is a liquid seaweed-based fertilizer made from extracting New Zealand red (*Pterocladia Lucida*) and brown seaweeds. Response contains N-P-K (9-9-7), trace elements (magnesium, iron, copper, zinc, manganese, boron, molybdenum and cobalt), auxins (plant hormones that promote growth and delays aging of leaves) and cytokine growth hormones. Response can be used as a foliar feed or a soil drench following directions

on the bottle. We find that Response added to spray material increases growth and really promotes healthy green foliage. We have also used Response as a soil drench and found similar benefits on growth and greener leaves.

Other seaweed based products such as liquid kelp are also valuable for helping with growth and good health. Neptune's Harvest is a product containing both liquid fish and seaweed extracts that can provide the bacterial feeding advantage of fish emulsion with the growth stimulants and trace elements found in seaweed products. However, remember that using any of the liquid fish based products comes with the aroma of the sea as well. So wear gloves!

<b>"Roses Here Under the Rainbow"</b>		
Sunday, June 6, 2010		
<b>HORTICULTURE DIVISION</b>		
<u>Category</u>	<u>Rose(s)</u>	<u>Winner(s)</u>
Queen of Show	Parole	Lynda & Steven Grass
King of Show	Desperado	Lynda & Steven Grass
Princess of Show	Dublin	Lynda & Steven Grass
Prince of Show	Randy Scott	Phyllis McFadden
White Rose	Moonstone	Lynda & Steven Grass
Yellow Rose	Marilyn Monroe	John & Diana Fleek
Pink Rose	Gemini	Lynda & Steven Grass
Red Rose--NO ENTRY; 2nd Runnerup	Hot Princess	Phyllis McFadden
Orange, Orange-Red, or Orange-Pink Rose	Snuffy	Phyllis McFadden
Single Rose	Snow Cream	Gary & Monica Rankin
Floribunda	Sunsilk	Lynda & Steven Grass
Fully-Open Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora	Helen Naudé	Phyllis McFadden
Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Spray	Reba McEntire	Phyllis McFadden
Floribunda Spray	Eyepaint	John & Diana Fleek
Polyantha Spray	The Fairy	Gary & Monica Rankin
Old Garden--Dowager Queen	Rosa Rugosa	Dick Hanlon
Old Garden Rose--Victorian	Nastarana	John & Diana Fleek
Climbing Rose	American Pillar	Dick Hanlon
Classic Shrub; NO ENTRY; 4th Runnerup	Green Ice	John & Diana Fleek
Modern Shrub Rose	Golden Wings	Gary & Monica Rankin
Three Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Roses	Desperado, Falling in Love, & Moonstone	Lynda & Steven Grass
Two Red or Red-Blend Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Roses	Special Merit	Phyllis McFadden
Cycle of Bloom	Cajun Sunrise	Lynda & Steven Grass

<u>Category</u>	<u>Rose(s)</u>	<u>Winner(s)</u>
English-Style Box	Signature (3), Lynn Anderson, Secret, & Keepsake	Phyllis McFadden
Floating Rose	Keepsake	Phyllis McFadden
Rose in a Frame	Ida	Phyllis McFadden
Floating Old Garden Rose	Rosa Rugosa	Dick Hanlon
Artist's Palette	Stryker, Lynn Anderson, Gemini, Marilyn Monroe, & St. Patrick	Phyllis McFadden
Hi-Lo Combination	Dublin & Dr. Troy Garret	Lynda & Steven Grass
Judges' Class	Sexy REXY	Tom Wood
Club Rose	Veterans' Honor	Phyllis McFadden
Large Rose Novice; NO ENTRY; 5th Runnerup	St. Patrick	Phyllis McFadden
Small Gardener--NO ENTRY--3rd Runnerup	Miss Elvis	Phyllis McFadden
Fragrant Rose	Rose de Rescht	Gary & Monica Rankin
Large Rose Sweepstakes		Phyllis McFadden
Miniature Queen of Show	Dancing Flame	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniature King of Show	Nancy Jean	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniature Princess of Show	Ty	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniature Prince of Show	Glowing Amber	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniature Duchess of Show	Irresistible	John & Diana Fleek
Miniflora Queen of Show	Equinox	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniflora King of Show	Solar Flair	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniflora Princess of Show	Double Take	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniflora Prince of Show	Dr. John Dickman	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniflora Duchess of Show	First Choice	Lynda & Steven Grass
Mini/Miniflora Single Rose	Grace Seward	Gary & Monica Rankin
Mini/Miniflora Fully-Open Rose	Black Jade	Lynda & Steven Grass
Mini/Miniflora Spray	Caledonia	Lynda & Steven Grass
Three Mini/Miniflora Roses (same variety)	Dancing Flame	Lynda & Steven Grass
Three Mini/Miniflora Roses (different varieties)	Arcanum, Miss Flippins, & X-Rated	John & Diana Fleek
Two Mini/Miniflora Sprays	My Valentine	Dick Hanlon
Miniature English Box	Baby Love	Dick Hanlon
Miniflora English Box	Regina Lee (4) and Cachet (2)	Lynda & Steven Grass
Mini/Miniflora Rose in a Frame	Arcanum	John & Diana Fleek
Mini/Miniflora Artist's Palette	Irresistible, Bee's Knees, Glowing Amber, Tabasco Cat, & Black Jade	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniflora Floating Rose	Equinox	Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniature Floating Collection	Hot Tamale & Ruby Baby	Gary & Monica Rankin
Mini/Miniflora Cycle of Bloom	Baby Secret	Donna Smoot
Mini/Miniflora Bouquet		Lynda & Steven Grass
Miniature Club Rose	Irresistible	Lynda & Steven Grass
Mini Novice--NO ENTRY--1st Runnerup	Floating Collection of Sweet Caroline (4) and Irresistible (1)	Lynda & Steven Grass
Mini/Miniflora Sweepstakes		Lynda & Steven Grass

**DESIGN DIVISION**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Class 1--Roses Here Under the Rainbow	Barbara Lantz
Class 2--Dreams That You Dare to Dream	Mary Lou Rader
Class 3--Someday I'll Wish Upon a Star	Mary Lou Hammock
Class 4--Troubles Melt Like Lemon Drops	Linda Boggess
Class 5--Rose Photography	Danny Craft

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