



THE NOVUS NEWSLETTER
OF THE
THE TIDEWATER ROSE SOCIETY
MARCH 2010



CARING FOR ROSES: "THE GREEN WAY"

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The second meeting of the Tidewater Rose Society's Seventy-fifth year will be held at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, Sunday at 2:30 p.m., March 21, 2010, in the Holly Room of Baker Hall. Mr. Joseph Carr, Agronomist, owner of Gardens In A Flowerpot will give a presentation on "CARING FOR ROSES: THE GREEN WAY".

COUNTRY STORE NEWS: We will have Mills Magic, Fish Emulsion, 20-20-20, Easy Feed, pruners, saws, gloves and garden name tags. Members may pick up their orders. See you at the meeting.

George

From the President's Desk

Mother Nature was good to us at the last meeting. The weather was absolutely beautiful for our annual pruning session. I want to thank everyone that participated in the program: The members of the Tidewater Rose Society, the Master Gardeners and a special thank you to Moriah of Norfolk Botanical Garden for her assistance during the meeting. And as always, Howard Jones gave an outstanding presentation and demonstration.

One of the goals this year of our society is to offer alternative ways to grow and care for roses. I realize that there are rose growers that are hesitant to spray synthetic chemicals, so we are going to explore the organic approach to rose gardening. And what better way to start than to have Joe Carr, of Gardens In A Flowerpot, give a presentation on CARING FOR ROSES: "THE GREEN WAY".

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize our newest members. Edgardo and Ofelia Eugenio, and Maribel and Doug Charleville.

See you at the next meeting and bring a friend.

Mike

ROSES IN POTS
Steven Grass - Charleston (WV) Rose Society

Have you run out of room to plant more roses? No room to begin with? Try growing roses in pots. You can move them to anywhere you have a place to set them.

There are many kinds of pots available—clay, wood, plastic, etc. I prefer plastic because they are light and durable. For miniatures, 2-5 gallon size are good. They should be wider rather than deep as their roots go out instead of down. Hybrid teas need a large pot, so I get 18-gallon utility tubs on sale at K-Mart for \$4. They last 3-4 years before they disintegrate from sun exposure. Make certain that whatever you use is clean, because dirty pots can harbor diseases. You can clean them with a solution of bleach and water and a good brush.

Make sure you have lots of drainage holes so that the roots won't drown. I usually drill 9 quarter-inch holes in the bottom of the tubs, which provides plenty of drainage. Do not use rocks or pebbles in the bottom of the pots; they will make your pot too heavy to move, and aren't necessary when you have enough drainage holes. Use a light soil that will drain well but has plenty of organic matter to retain water for the roots. Plant your roses just as you would in the ground, and make sure to cover the surface with mulch to help retain moisture.

Avoid shallow watering; water should come out of the drainage hole each time the plant is watered. Thorough watering is beneficial to the plant and helps carry away salts. During the hottest days of summer you may have to water daily. Use of a watering wand will help clean dust from the leaves and also discourage spider mites.

In fertilizing your potted roses, use the fertilizer at one-half strength twice as often as roses in the ground. Regular watering flushes the fertilizer from the soil more quickly. The use of a time-release fertilizer mixed into the soil will help since they are now controlled by temperature rather than moisture. Maintain the same spray program for potted roses as for those planted in the ground.

You will need to repot every 3-4 years. By that time, the rose will have filled the pot with roots and they will be coming out of the drainage holes. You can move the bush to a larger pot, or you can root prune it. To root prune, pull the rose from the pot and use a sharp knife to shave about 2 inches of material from all sides, including the bottom. Put fresh soil in the bottom of the pot, place the rose back into the pot and refill with fresh soil around the entire root ball.

To protect your potted roses in the winter, put the tubs in an unheated garage, or dig a hole for the pot in the ground and mulch around it.

We have had good success growing roses in pots. Some, like *Rosie O'Donnell* or *Betty Boop*, seem to thrive in the confines of a pot. Try it; you may find that you enjoy the many benefits of container growing.

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Tidewater Rose Society Meeting Dates

- March 21
- April 18
- May 16
- June 13 (picnic)
- August 15
- September 19
- October 17
- November 21

Rose Show Dates

- May 15, Virginia Peninsula Rose Society
- May 29, Richmond Rose Society
- June 5, Arlington Rose Society
- June 6, Maryland Rose Society
- June 7, Charleston Rose Society

FROM BARE ROOT...TO BLOOM!

By: Jill Barnard, jabarnard@cox.net, Consulting Rosarian
(This is a reprint from the American Rose Magazine)

It seems that many people are uneasy about planting bare root roses. The good news is that roses want to grow badly enough to overcome most deficiencies in technique. If you plant them “green side up” and water until the worms wiggle, you’re almost guaranteed success. A little insight into sensible methodology, however, will ensure a more vigorous and healthy bush.

There are various ways to buy bare root roses: through mail order sources, and either bagged or boxed from your nursery or garden center. When ordering by mail, request No. 1 grade plants. When buying locally you have the same choice – plants are marked No. 1, 1 ½, or 2 and priced accordingly. Spend the extra bucks on the No. 1 and save on the anguish. From the #1 grades select one with a large bud union, three or more thumb-sized canes 12-15” long, and preferably with one or more new main canes starting to emerge from the bud union.

When you have your bare root rose home, take the plant out of whatever packing material it might be in. I recommend removing the box from a boxed rose, as well. Submerge the entire plant in a bucket of water to which a few tablespoons of a transplant solution such as Vitamin B-1 have been added. It should soak at least 12 hours to rehydrate the root system after several days or even weeks of exposure to less than perfect moisture conditions. If you are delayed in planting, it can soak for 3-4 days, but change the water daily to discourage bacterial growth. Meanwhile, dig the almighty hole....

THE ALMIGHTY HOLE – 2’x2’ WIDE x 2’ DEEP. The size of the hole seems like “overkill”, but it will pay off in spades in future performance. The hole in which you plant is the most important aspect of growing good roses from bare roots.

Depth is for drainage. Other than anchor roots which aren’t the main nutrient suppliers, most roses grow only about 12 inches deep. However, they require lots of water and won’t tolerate wet feet from lack of drainage. If you are confident you have loose, draining soil to a depth of 2 feet then you may dig to only 18 inches. If you aren’t confident, fill the hole with water. If it takes more than an hour to drain, dig deeper to 24” and add a 4-5” layer of gravel.

Don’t compromise on the width. You need to add organic amendments to lighten and enrich the entire growing area. A healthy bush, properly cared for, will develop feeder roots everywhere in a two foot radius and frequently beyond if the soil is light and friable.

SOIL COMPOSITION. All soil contains minerals and soil organisms which are necessary to break down organic amendments and fertilizers, making them available to the plant roots. What some soil is lacking is “organic” material. You must supply the necessary amendments such as compost, mulch or peat to make the final mixture ½ garden soil and ½ organic material. Well-aged manure may be added as a portion of the organic materials. Rabbit and chicken manures are higher in nitrogen than cow and steer manures. Whichever you choose, “well-aged” is the key. The heat generated by fresh manure in the decomposition process can burn tender roots. When you have thoroughly mixed the amendments into the garden soil, refill the hole half way with the mixture. Then fill the hole with water and let it train to settle the soil.

ORGANICS AND AMENDMENTS. Sprinkle ½ C. superphosphate or bone meal around the bottom of the hole and mix lightly with loose soil. Phosphorus moves very slowly in soil and should be available at the

bottom of the hole. To the remaining soil mix, add another ½ C. superphosphate or bone meal, 1 C. cottonseed meal and ½ C. blood meal. This mixture will fill the top 10-12” of the hole, the area where the feeder roots will develop.

With the amended soil, make a cone-shaped mound tall enough to reach the top of the hole. The cone shape will support the natural downward and outward growth pattern of the roots allowing the plant to anchor itself well enough to support tall top growth.

TRIM THE ROSE PLANT. Now comes the painful part of planting bare roots – trimming the roots and cutting back the canes. Trimming the roots is easy, let’s start there. Cut off any broken roots just above the break, as the damaged tissue is a perfect harbor for disease. Then trim ½ inch off of each root end to stimulate new root development.

Now a look at the plant will tell you why you need to reduce the cane length to about 6-8” maximum. If the plant is to prosper, the roots must be able to gather enough water and nutrients to support the top growth. If the canes are twice the size of the roots, the roots can’t produce adequately, and the top growth will be spindly. Coming out of cold storage equates to coming out of dormancy, and each bud eye will vigorously try to produce foliage and blooms. Therefore, you want to reduce the number of bud eyes, and give the roots a chance to develop along with the top.

Make your cuts ¼” above a bud eye growing away from the center of the bush, at a 45-degree angle sloping away from the bud eye. If there are any new shoots that have already started to grow along the portion of cane that remains, cut them off. They will be replaced. Each bud has 2 or 3 “eyes” as a natural defense against damage or frost. (Amazing, these creatures – they just want to grow.)

READY TO PLANT – FINALLY! As in most aspects of gardening, preparation of the planting site utilizes more than half of the effort expended, but it will produce twice the results.

Place the newly-trimmed plant over the cone of soil, gently spreading the roots out over it. Position it so that the bud union is at the proper height, by pushing the plant down slowly on the cone, taking care not to break the roots.

Much discussion occurs among rose-growers as to the proper height to plant. Where winter temperatures are extreme (below 20 degrees F.) the bud union should be slightly below soil level to protect from freezing. In hot climates, protection from heat and sunburn dictates placing the bud union just at soil level. Moderate climates allow the bud union to be 1-2” above the soil surface. Holding the plant in position, filter loose soil down around the roots. Begin filling in the rest of the hole, pressing the soil down firmly enough to avoid air pockets but not enough to compact the soil and damage the roots. When the hole is half filled, water with half of the soaking solution and let drain. Then fill the hole to soil level and form a water well around the plant of slightly larger diameter than the root system. Fill the water well with the remainder of the soaking solution.

MOUND light solid or mulch over the new plant to at least half its height and water it well, but don’t water it away. This step is essential in keeping the young tissue moist and protecting it from dry, cold winds. For the next month, water the plant every three days. The planting soil should be kept on the wet side of moist, and the mounding soil moist, not soggy. Remember, those tiny roots can’t reach out for water yet – it must be supplied directly to them. Stifle the urge to fertilize with rose food until after the first bloom. If you are overly maternal, you may add Superthrive to the water or even fish emulsion mixed at 1/3 strength, since these are organic products that won’t burn the new roots.

When the top bud eyes have produced 2-inch shoots with leaflets it's time to un mound. With a slow trickle of water or using ONE finger, not your big clumsy hand, carefully remove the mound from around the canes. Leave it slightly above the bud union for a while – weather and watering will do the rest. Some plants come out of dormancy slower than others, so have patience in watching for leaflets to appear. If the canes are still green and firm and not grayish and wrinkled, the plant is okay. Keep watering and wait. A little die-back is normal; if it progresses beyond an inch or so you may need to cut to the next bud eye, and water and wait some more.

While you wait for foliage and blooms to color your garden, place a 2-3" layer of mulch over the entire bed, covering the bud union, too. This protective layer will keep the surface feeder roots cool and moist, conserve moisture in hot weather, and keep weeds from gaining a foothold. Garden aesthetics are greatly enhanced, as well.

Your bare root should bloom in 10-12 weeks, given the TLC above. Some rose books recommend snapping off rose buds to direct the youthful plant's energy to more root and foliage development. **WHEN TURKEYS FLY!** I certainly haven't the fortitude nor do I practice the self-denial that would be a requisite to eliminating the one thing that caused me to buy the plant in the first place!

By the time the new plant blooms, its roots should be developed enough for chemical rose foods. It will benefit more from liquids than granular, because it is readily available to the roots. Feeding twice as often with ½ strength liquids will supply instant food on a steady basis.

On a first-year bush, blooms should be removed by cutting **SHORT** stems, leaving as much foliage as possible. "Cut for the bush" is the rule of thumb – wait 'til next year to cut long stems. The plant needs every leaf it has to manufacture food. And water, water, water. Roses like at least 2" per week – more in hot weather. Think of water as fertilizer . . . Without it, the plant can absorb nothing from the soil. The fertilizer you apply can't break down into a soluble form, and even the invisible soil organisms will be subdued in their all-important tasks.

. . . And since you took the time to prepare the "Almighty Hole", you needn't worry about wet feet!

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members:

Doug & Maribel Charleville
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Norfolk, Va. 23518
Phone: 757-852-3522
E-mail: maridec22@aol.com

Edgardo Eugenio
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Chesapeake, Va. 23321
Phone: 757-483-3781
E-mail: edgardo.eugenio@med.navy.mil

Please direct all applications and other correspondence regarding membership to the Membership Chairman:

Mr. Donald R. Snipes
1300 DeBree Ave.
Norfolk, Va. 23517-2127
757-625-7143
E-mail: drsnipes@cox.net

HOW TO ELIMINATE AND PREVENT BLACKSPOT DISEASE

By George E. Wilson

The question that I am asked the most is how to get rid of blackspot on my roses. I hope that the following information will help.

With any good spray program, the key is "Prevention". You don't want to be spending all of your time fighting blackspot and powdery mildew. You want to prevent it from happening in the first place.

When you prune in the spring, you should immediately start your preventative spray program. The folks at Rosemania recommend that you spray the canes and beds with a blackspot contact-killer such as Mancozeb or Manzate. This will eliminate any blackspot spores that wintered over. One week later, start your preventative program and continue until your roses go dormant (late fall/early winter).

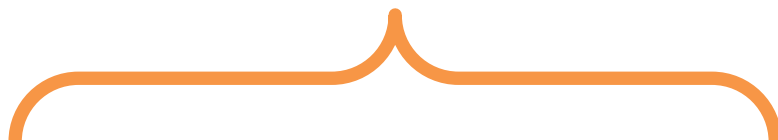
If you already have blackspot active in your rose garden, a preventative is going to do little good. You need a contact killer. Rosemania recommends that you spray Manzate (which is a powder) or Mancozeb (which is a liquid) three times at three day intervals: Example: Spray on Monday, Thursday and Sunday. Be sure to spray the top and bottom side of the leaves and the soil in the bed. This will kill all the active spores and give you a fresh start. Once completed, go back to your regular preventative program.

After you have rid your garden of blackspot, you will want to add either Manzate or Mancozeb at the rate of one tablespoon per gallon to your regular spray every other spraying. Anytime you combine products, always use them at full strength. If you have any questions, please contact a Consulting Rosarian.

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My thanks to Rosemania for the information for this article.

...George



POETRY & PROSE

Selected by Pat Wilson

Nature responds so beautifully,
Roses are only once-wild roses, that
were given an extra chance,
So they bloomed out and filled
themselves with colored fullness

Out of sheer desire to be splendid
and more splendid

-D. H. Lawrence



TIDBITS:

1. If you are looking for an excellent publication concerning the growing and care of roses I highly recommend the "Consulting Rosarian Manual" published by the American Rose Society. (We now have a trial American Rose Society membership, \$5.00 for four months, for existing members.)
2. Help Me Find, www.helpmefind.com/rose is an excellent website to gather information on roses you may be interested in purchasing. Eve and I use Help Me Find on a regular basis.
3. The American Rose Exhibitors Society has just released their Winter 2010 issue of Rose Exhibitors' Quarterly, edited by Robert B. Martin, Jr. and Robert G. Sutherland, Jr., on-line. If you would like to join the American Rose Exhibitors Society or obtain information contact: PetRose@aol.com.
4. **THANK YOU** to the members that brought refreshments to the February meeting.

FERTILIZERS: WHEN AND HOW

By: Jill Barnard, jabarnard@cox.net

(This is a reprint from the American Rose Magazine)

Roses are heavy feeders, but supplied with a varied nutritional diet, they will provide an abundance of large, beautiful blooms. After the first spring bloom, you will be reminded that the reward is well worth the effort you expend.

NEW ROSES VS. ESTABLISHED BUSHES. For newly planted bare root plants, care must be taken not to burn the tiny new roots. Apply organic amendments to the soil at planting time, then wait until after the plant has produced its first blooms to apply chemical fertilizers. By this time you can be sure the roots are large enough to withstand chemical additions without burning. Water well first, apply the fertilizer and water well again. You may now begin a regular feeding program, but take a little extra caution – use weaker strength fertilizers on a more frequent basis for a safe, adequate food supply.

WHEN TO START FERTILIZING ESTABLISHED BUSHES. Immediately after pruning, incorporate organic amendments into the soil. As the soil warms with the weather, the organics will start to break down and supply a slow release nutritional diet to your roses, as well as feeding the soil micro-organisms. A basic recipe would include, per bush:

- 1 cup bone meal or superphosphate (0-20-0)
- 1 cup cottonseed meal
- ½ cup blood meal
- ½ cup fish meal
- ½ cup Epsom Salts

Water thoroughly first, then spread the ingredients evenly around the bush, under the drip-line (outer perimeter) of the bush. Scratch lightly into the top 1-2" of soil and water well again. In warm climates with long growing seasons (January-February pruning and blooms through November-December), a second application is beneficial in early September for fall bloom cycles.

About two to three weeks after spring pruning and adding organic amendments, new growth will appear. Chemical fertilizers, whether liquid or dry, can be applied at this time, and will provide an instant food source for this heavy feeding period. How often to apply is a subjective decision, based on the amount of time and devotion you have, but once a month should be the minimum. First, let's determine your style:

CASUAL ROSE GROWER. You like to look at roses from your window, but don't know the varietal names and only cut a few for the house. Your best bet would be a granular food with an N-P-K of about 10-10-10, applied every four weeks according to directions. Fish emulsion applied as a liquid fertilizer when buds are about pea-size (about three weeks before each bloom cycle) will enhance bloom color. Add chelated iron for rich green foliage. In hot climates, reduce the amount of fertilizer applied by half during June, July and August, but stay on the same 4-week frequency. Don't overlook the semi-annual dose of amendments!

DEDICATED GARDENER. Realizing roses require a steady source of food, and having the time to supply it, you are willing to adopt a bi-weekly fertilizer program for the big blooms. Start with an application of granular food as first growth appears in spring. Then begin a program of liquid fertilizers, alternating the following on a two-week basis:

Peters, Grow More or Verdi-sol: (all 20-20-20)
Fish Emulsion (5-1-1)
Green-Up, Deep Feed or Pentrex: (soil penetrant, fertilizers and iron, 16-4-2)
Epsom Salts (magnesium sulfate)

Apply according to package directions, usually 1 Tbsp per gallon, 2 gallons per bush. Add Epsom Salts at ¼ C per bush, either dissolved in the liquid feeding or sprinkled straight from the package onto the soil. A periodic dose of iron chelate added to the fertilizer may be required for deep green foliage.

MAIN LINE ROSE JUNKIE (OR EXHIBITOR). Your “main line” is your hose, and you have had it surgically attached to your hand, since you fertilize weekly. Your main goal is a trophy in a local, district or national rose show. Use the above rotation of fertilizers on a weekly basis, but reduce the concentration to about half of that called for on the label. Iron chelate added to a solution monthly, and zinc chelate three weeks before a show will ensure rich foliage and bloom color.

HOW TO APPLY. This again depends upon the number of rose plants you have and the method and type of fertilizer you choose. Granular fertilizers need only to be evenly scattered on the damp soil, 8” away from the bud union, scratched lightly into the soil, and watered in well (one-two gallons per bush). For liquid or water soluble fertilizers, two devices can play time-saving roles. Hose-end sprayers that will hold enough liquid or soluble fertilizer to feed your number of bushes with one or two fillings are great. The sprayer should have an adjustable dial that indicates how many ounces, teaspoons or tablespoons per gallon of water you are delivering. Fertilizers used must be water soluble, meaning they dissolve thoroughly and quickly in water. Miracle-Gro is a good example.

If you have succumbed to greed and compulsion, and your rose garden has grown beyond 50-60 plants, I recommend a siphon device. At about \$10, this is a garden miracle-worker, available at most nurseries. A brass connector is placed between your water spigot and hose, to which a black tube is attached. You mix any water-soluble fertilizer with water in a 5-gallon bucket, at 16 times the concentration prescribed on the package, and leave the bucket at the water spigot. The tube placed in the bucket draws out one part concentrate and mixes it with 16 parts water, delivers it from the hose end, and fertilizes 30-35 bushes at the recommended dilution. And you never lift the bucket! Again, water soluble fertilizers must be used. Start with 4-5 inches of HOT water in a 5-gallon bucket, add the fertilizers and stir until dissolved. Then fill the bucket to the desired concentration.

HOW LONG TO CONTINUE. Roses need a constant food source throughout their growing season. In areas of high heat, June, July and August are very stressful times for all plants. The recommended approach during those months is to reduce the quantity of applied fertilizer by half, but on the same frequency. Also during those months, when you water every day and flood once a week, it makes little sense to use liquid fertilizers, as they are flushed out of the soil as quickly as they are applied. A granular rose food of about a 6-12-6, used half strength, will supply a steady release of nutrients without high nitrogen concentration, to allow a semi-dormancy of the bushes during this period. Exhibitors withhold nitrogen and increase phosphorus about three weeks prior to shows, to focus growth away from leave and stems, and into bloom quality. The same theory should be applied in fall. Apply your last nitrogen-based fertilizer about 30-45 days before the first frost date. You don’t want to encourage lush new cane growth that will not have time to harden off prior to frost or cold.

CLIMBERS. Being two to three times the size of bushes, climbers need 2 to 3 times the fertilizer. If using granular food, apply double strength and a little more often, spreading around the plant out to the drip line. If using liquid, saturate the same ground area well.

MINIATURES. Minis are hardier to heat and cold than their big sister, but are very sensitive to fertilizers. Always feed half strength, whatever you use. They love fish emulsion and other natural products. Minis in containers must be watered well before application of any fertilizer, but allowed to drain well too. Remove the tray from beneath the container, to allow them to drain completely and not be left standing in water.

2010 TRS APPOINTMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Program Chairman.....	Elizabeth Mangino (1st VP)
Membership Chairman.....	Donald Snipes (2 nd VP)
Rose Show Chairman.....	Peggy Scott
Newsletter Editor.....	Michael Price
Hospitality Chairman	Cathy Daley
June Picnic Chairman.....	Sarah Jones
January Banquet Chairman.....	Nancy Sutcliffe
Country Store	George Wilson
Consulting Rosarian Chairman.....	George Wilson
Property Manager.....	George Wilson
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