
THORNY BUSH

Newsletter of The Huntington Rose Society; Huntington, WV

Affiliated with the American Rose Society

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Dates to Remember

June 20, 2017 PICNIC
RESCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 15th!!
NO MEETING IN JUNE.

September 5-11, 2017 The Colonial District Fall Meeting and Rose Show will be combined with the National ARS Fall Convention and Rose Show held at the Wyndham hotel in Gettysburg, PA. Contact for the ARS show is Nancy J. Redington, 717-264-6488, rosered1@comcast.net.

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President's Message

Monica A. Valentovic

So far this month we have had temperatures in the 90s and then very pleasant 70's. We have also had steady rain at our home while much of Huntington has been dry. On Tuesday of this week, June 13th, we had 2.5 inches of rain and hail in the afternoon while Huntington received a couple drops, talk about a local storm.

I want to inform everyone that we have rescheduled the society picnic from June to August. Many people were out of town in June so we will try again in August. I would really appreciate it if you could let us know if you could come to Archie and Linda's home for the picnic on Tuesday, August 15th. Their yard is always beautiful, and it should be a nice evening. Please let us know by phone or email (304-697-0321 or valentov@marshall.edu) or contact Archie and Linda (304-755-9486 or asnedegar@AOL.com) if you will or will not attend.

The farms in our area have started to cut hay. That means the THRIPS are being displaced and must find a new home. We have an article on THRIPS that may be of benefit to some of you who are noticing a brown tinge to the petals of light colored roses such as Moonstone. We also have an article about things to do in the garden in June, as we have Japanese Beetles checking out our roses.

Enjoy the month of June in your garden. Hope you can cut your roses

and share them with friends and family. We are cutting are roses so our friends can enjoy them and the thrips and Japanese Beetles can't get to them.

HRS OFFICERS FOR 2017

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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 summer of 2017 has had variety as we have had weeks of wet conditions with days in the low 80's and nights in the 60's. Then we have a few days in the 90's and high humidity. This summer seems to be one for watching your roses and how much rain you get in your garden. It is

really helpful to get a rain gauge for your garden. Rainfall in your garden should be monitored as it will be quite different than what is reported by the weather stations. It is apparent that even in our area, rainfall varies considerably between gardens in our Tri-State region.

Roses require 1 inch of rain per week. If your garden does not get 1 inch of rain, then water your roses, and they will reward you later with pretty blooms. Roses need at least 1-3 gallons for a large rose within a week and about half that amount for a miniature. 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 blackspot. If we do not get rain for a week, you may want to spray water on 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. Our golden retriever thinks this is great use of an overhead sprinkler.

Thrips have been quite bad and are mentioned in another article in this newsletter. We have had a few dreaded Japanese beetles but they quickly were disposed of in soapy water. There are many ways to control Japanese beetles, 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 Flower Insect Killer spray is also an excellent control for Japanese beetles. Some gardeners use Sevin liquid (carbaryl) to control beetle infestations. This will work, but Sevin 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. Rotation of your fungicide spray material will prevent resistance to fungal infection. 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 is causing My Rose Petals to turn Brown..Is it THRIPS?

Monica Valentovic & Gary Rankin

During the last 2 weekends, I have noticed that the fields in our area are the focus of cutting hay. That is good news for the farmers, the cattle and the horses. The problem is that also means it is prime time for thrips in our area. So far the growing season for 2017 has been unique with a wet Spring followed by large temperature fluctuations. During the month of June, we have been visited by rose thrips. It does not matter if you have 1 or 1000 or 1 million, they are called thrips. How do you know that you have thrips attacking your garden? Thrips cause your rose blooms to have splotched brown areas discoloring the light colored petals.

What are thrips? Thrips (singular and plural) in the adult stage are really small (<~2 mm or ~1/16-1/8 inch in length) straw-colored winged insects. They are extremely active and can be seen crawling in or flitting around rose buds and blooms. Thrips also attack a wide range of ornamental plants and grasses. They can invade a rose garden quickly and especially when host plants (e.g. wheat or hay) are harvested.



Brown petals due to Thrips

Temperature greatly affects the life cycle of thrips. At 50° F, the life cycle is about 40 days, but when the temperature reaches the mid-80s, the life cycle is shortened to about 10 days. This means that the thrips are reproducing at an accelerated rate as the temperature increases, much as spider mites do. For example, female thrips can lay 50 eggs at 60° F, but will lay over 200 eggs at 80°F. So, the warm spring has resulted in a larger number of thrips than usual being present in rose gardens in our area this year.

What kind of damage do thrips do to my roses? Thrips have rasping mouthparts that can damage rose buds and blooms as they suck the juices from the petals. Since they usually hide in the tightest parts of the bud and bloom, thrips are often difficult to detect. However, simply moving the petals or blowing on the damaged bloom will frequently drive the thrips up from their hiding places

where you can see them crawling all over the bloom. Thrips are especially drawn to light colored roses, but they will invade almost any variety of rose. This year I have noticed they have liked Randy Scott, Sugar Moon, Moonstone and Pop Warner. They also have done considerable damage to Souv. de la Malmaison, so even the old garden roses are enjoyed by thrips.

In monitoring tests for the presence of thrips in greenhouses, yellow and blue sticky cards attracted more thrips than hot pink sticky cards. Thus, thrips do have color preferences and light colored (white, yellow, light pink, etc.) roses are particularly vulnerable to thrips damage.

How can I control thrips? Controlling thrips can be accomplished with biological as well as chemical approaches. Greenhouses have used predatory mites such as *N. cucumeris* and *A. degenerans*, the pirate bug *Orius* and pathogenic fungi such as *B. bassiana* to control thrips. These biological approaches can be used as part of an integrated pest management system to control thrips. For the home gardener, these approaches are not as practical as for greenhouse use. Interestingly, some success has been attributed to growing garlic bulbs every 30 feet.



Our District Director, Charles Shaner, has been using blue plastic drink cups sprayed on the outside with STP

(see his photo above). Some people alternatively spray with WD-40 or vegetable oil. The thrips and oil need to be wiped off the cup and the oil reapplied weekly or after a rain. This is a pesticide free method to rid your garden of thrips.

Chemical approaches to controlling thrips utilize insecticides and can include the use of Conserve SC, Bayer Rose and Flower Insect Killer, pyrethrin or malathion. Conserve is in the spinosad class of insecticides. Research at Ohio State University has determined that Conserve is effective at killing thrips, while sparing many beneficial insects. The components of Bayer Rose and Flower Insect Killer are imidacloprid (Merit) and cyfluthrin. This combination insecticide is very effective at killing thrips, and, as an added bonus for exhibitors, it will not spot blooms when used as a misted application. Honey bees are susceptible to this

insecticide combination, and it is best used when bees are not present (e.g. early morning) to lessen the effect on these beneficial insects. Malathion, an organophosphate insecticide, and pyrethrin are effective at killing thrips, but they too are non-selective about which insects are killed. Regardless of which insecticide is chosen for use, one application in the garden will not be enough. When thrips are a serious problem, applications of insecticide every two to three days may be required to stop damage as the roses open and expose unsprayed areas to the thrips.

2017 ROSE SOCIETY DUES

It is time to renew your membership for 2017. Membership dues remain at \$8 for individual and \$12 for a family membership. The renewal form is included in this newsletter. Send your dues to: Gary Rankin, Treasurer, 109 Cedar Court, Lavalette, WV 25535.

The Society is also seeking additional donors to help defray the yearly costs incurred by the Society. The levels of donation are denoted as: Queen, King, Princess and Prince levels. Donations at the Prince (\$1-25); Princess (\$26-50), King (\$51-99) and Queen (\$100 or more) levels will be acknowledged in our newsletter. Remember that our rose society is a 501 C-3 non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible.

2017 MEMBERSHIP IN THE HUNTINGTON ROSE SOCIETY

NAME(S) _____

ADRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIPCODE** _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ **E-MAIL** _____

Make checks payable to Huntington Rose Society and mail to:

CHECK ONE

_____ **SINGLE \$8**

Gary Rankin, Treasurer
109 Cedar Court, Lavalette, WV 25535.

_____ **FAMILY \$12**

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

Levels - Prince (\$10-25); Princess (\$26-50); King (\$51-99); Queen (\$100 or more)

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