

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings



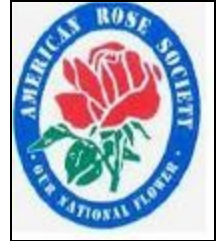
Shenandoah Rose Society

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Sorry for getting the July newsletter out so late. It has been a very busy month for me.

We will resume our seminars in August. I have not decided what the seminar will be on but it will be one of interest.

From the President

Trying to deal with the hot, dry weather has kept me busy both in the roses and my vegetable garden. That along with work I haven't had time for much.

I decided not to have a July get together this year. We may do something for August in the way of a social gathering along with a short seminar.

I have made my hotel reservations for Gettysburg. This sounds like it is going to be a great time. I have to be there on Thursday for the ARS Board of Directors meeting and then the District Business meeting is on Sunday morning. I am also going to sign up for the tour of Gettysburg. You may get the information and registration forms for Gettysburg from the District website www.colonialdistrictroses.org. If you make motel reservations tell them it is for the Penn-Jersey District of the American Rose Society. If you tell them of the ARS as the directions say the motel will not recognize the discount rate.

I am pleased to see attendance at our monthly seminars is improving. There seems to be a renewed interest in growing roses. Now we need to build our membership back up. We had several long time members who did not renew their membership this year. We do have several new members who are taking an interest in the seminars. For August we may do a covered dish picnic along with a short seminar of to be announced later. That decision will come in the next newsletter.

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Charles R. Shover



Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner

Whoever left the furnace running for summer would you please turn it off! A solid week of in the 90's is not doing my garden any good especially with no rain. My yard is about the color of the dirt road and vegetable garden is no doing much. I have been getting a truck load of mulch every Saturday for the past three weeks and putting it on the vegetable garden. Now I am going to add another layer to the roses. With the proper care roses will do very well in hot, dry weather. This care is what we will discuss in a later seminar.

The Japanese Beetle hit me this year in droves! I just let them have at it. It seems the sprays are not having much effect on them. After everyone uses the same thing on them for several years they will become immune to the sprays. I know of several people using the beetle traps and are having to empty them two or three times a day.

The best defense against the Japanese Beetle is the Milky Spore. An application will last about ten years and that is about how long it has been since I put it down. I plan to reapply it this year but I need some rain before I do to take in down in the ground. This is one thing that really does work. It may sound expensive but if you consider it last for 10 years then it becomes very inexpensive. What I plan on doing is treating one section of the yard per year and get it into a rotation. You put it on the lawn and not on the rose beds. The grubs feed on the roots of the grass.

My second bloom cycle is winding down. I have been pruning so my next bloom cycle will be staggered. This is so I can catch some shows in September. On the average a bloom cycle is 45 days although some varieties will be a little shorter or a little longer. Artistry is a hybrid tea that has about a 35 day bloom cycle. This is something you have to learn from experience with different cultivars.

Pruning is something else you need to become familiar with the growing habit of a cultivar. For example, Brigadoon is a cultivar that wants to spread so you need to prune to an inside bud eye. Fortune Teller is one that grows tight so you need to prune to an outside bud eye. This all comes with experience with different cultivars.

Watering is a must in this hot, dry weather. I am watering my roses twice a week. As most of you know I use an open ended garden hose and put 15 seconds of water per plant. This is the equal to about an inch of rain. Even though I mulched my roses in the spring I am looking at adding another layer now. It will help with the weather conditions we are presently having. The heavy rains we had in May and early June caused much of the early mulch to decay faster than normal. The ground is extremely dry. I tilled up an area in my vegetable garden going down about 4 inches and did not find any moisture.

It doesn't matter how hot and dry it gets the weeds still grow. Weed control is something that never ends. I sometimes wonder where they all come from. When we had the farm going, I planted a field of alfalfa and got a good number of seven top turnips in the field. When I said something to the Farm Bureau about the problem they told me that the seed from weeds can lay in the ground for as much as forty years before germinating. Birds will also carry the seeds in. I use Round Up or a generic version for weed control and the two finger method—*grab hold and pull*.

Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

Grafted VS. Own Root

by Charles Shaner

Many people, who are not experienced rosarians, do not realize that the majority of Hybrid Tea, Floribunda and Grandafrori roses you purchase are grafted or budded roses. For the article the terms *grafted* and *budded* are synonymous.

Grafted roses come on a variety of root stock with the most common being Dr. Hughey. One problem with grafted roses is that it will many times send up a *sucker* which comes from the root below the graft. If not taken off quickly and properly it will take over the plant. Some cultivars will do better grafted than they will on their own root.

Own root roses are becoming more common in today's market. Some cultivars will do better on their own root than they will do grafted. An advantage to own root is they will be a little more winter hardy and you will not get the suckers.

I enjoy rooting cuttings for my own use and I have many of these in my garden. One in particular, I have a Snuffy which is grafted and last fall I rooted a cutting from this plant. The own root Snuffy is looking better than the grafted one. Marilyn Wellen is on I have rooted several cuttings from and I cannot tell the difference between the grafted and the own root. It does well both ways.

An idea for a seminar this fall may be one on how to root cuttings. If we do this I will plan on setting a cutting for each person present. I will show you how and you will do it yourself, take it home and nurse it through the winter.



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