

Consulting Rosarian Issues 2004/2005

Some commonly asked questions regarding the CR program are addressed below. In the future, this information will be posted on the ARS website.

BASIC CONSULTING ROSARIAN (CR) REQUIREMENTS

What are the requirements to become a CR?

A prospective CR should be someone who knows rose culture and is willing and enthusiastic to share his/her knowledge with others. A CR must be willing to have his/her name as a contact for those who want information on growing roses. This may include phone and email. Some CRs may wish to add their names to the ARS website and function as "Cyber CRs."

A candidate for CR must be known by the local rose society and be experienced and knowledgeable about rose culture. He/she must also have 3 years as an ARS member at the time of the school, obtain 3 letters of recommendation by other rosarians who know the candidate and his/her credentials, and successfully complete a basic CR school including passing the examination.

Is there any flexibility in the requirements to become a CR?

The requirements to become a CR must be met, but there is some flexibility that should be handled discreetly. Individual CRs must be known by their local rose society (which is why 3 letters of recommendation are important). The CR program is an ARS program and ARS membership and local rose society participation are required. While 3 years of ARS membership are required at the time of the CR examination, special consideration may be given to those with more than 2 years of membership, but less than 3 years' membership at the time of the examination. Any person granted this exception must clearly be of high potential and approved by the district CR coordinator and national CR chair. In addition, the announcement of their CR status or inclusion in any list of current CRs will not be made until they have completed the 3-year membership requirement.

Does a CR have to file reports? What is necessary and what is optional?

A CR has certain reporting responsibilities. All CRs **must** participate in the Roses-in-Review program. Participation shows that the CR is capable of evaluating and recommending new roses. A minimum of one evaluation report (1 rose) is required, but all CRs are encouraged to complete as many evaluations as are practical. If a CR is not actually growing new roses, he should complete RIR with appropriate observations on new roses. Failure to complete the RIR report for two consecutive years will result in removal from the CR program.

The completion of the *Annual CR Report* is a district requirement, based on the needs of individual districts. If required, failure to complete the report may result in removal from the CR program. The district CR coordinator is responsible for managing the CR program in each district; the form of the report may vary with each district. In fact, individual districts are encouraged to adapt the form to the needs of their district. Some sugges-

tions follow. Consider creating a new report each year. In any event, the district CR chair is encouraged to summarize the information and report it in the district newsletter. The information may also be useful for preparing published articles on a particular subject. The individual CR report may also be a good method for evaluating information on CR activities relevant to the new Master Rosarian designation.

Where are forms for CR activities located?

These are available by contacting ARS headquarters and will be placed on the new ARS website. In the future, the website will be used to post information of use to all CRs and their district coordinators.

RECERTIFICATION

Why is re-certification necessary?

Information in some areas of the rose-growing hobby is constantly changing and it is important for CRs to remain up to date. Ultimately, the ARS wishes to have a group of well-trained CRs who are motivated and equipped to support the public in growing good roses. Re-certification encourages and requires continuing education.

Why does the ARS drop CRs who do not re-certify?

The ARS does not want to drop CRs! The re-certification process identifies those who are interested and willing to devote the time and energy to the CR program. The ARS understands that there may be extenuating circumstances (e.g. illness, family or job-related situations) that may preclude a CR from fulfilling his/her responsibilities. The district CR chair should try to accommodate these needs if possible. However, if a CR cannot fulfill his/her responsibilities for 2 consecutive years (regardless of cause), he/she will be dropped from the program.

Do all CRs need to recertify?

Yes! All CRs must re-certify every 4 years by earning 4 credits. Active CRs NOT wishing to re-certify may ask for CR Emeritus status (after 10 years of CR service). Each year, the District CR chair/coordinator should review the status of every CR in their districts and notify any CRs who are in danger of losing their CR status. The district should post the re-certification situation for every CR in its district.

How does a CR recertify?

All CRs are encouraged to attend re-certification seminars. There are several options to accomplish re-certification. In general, 1 hour of training is worth 1 credit for ARS sanctioned events. (1) A CR school for new CRs. (4 credits). Those who organize CR schools are encouraged to include special sections containing information relevant to existing CRs. (2) A CR seminar at a district or national ARS event (1-4 credits). These are special topics relevant to existing CRs. (3) Local CR seminars (1-2 credits). These are seminars arranged at a local level with specific topics of direct interest to CRs. (4) Courses outside of ARS (2 credits maximum). These would include but not be limited to university and extension lectures/courses. Examples would be “Soils and Water”,

“Non-Chemical Disease Control”, “Biological Control Practices”, and “Safe Use of Pesticides.”

How does recertification work and how does a CR determine his/her status?

The following schedule covers all existing CRs and any new CRs. The schedule is based on the re-certification date currently in the ARS CR database. This is called the “next audit date” in ARS records and is the official record. Every CR should consult the following schedule for recertification date requirements. Better yet, district CR chairs should post a list of dates for all CRs in their district.

For **current** CRs:

1. If your CR re-certification date/audit date is 2003 or before, you **must** attend a CR school (4 credits) and pass the CR exam. No further extensions will be allowed.
2. If your CR re-certification date is 2004, you **must** attend a CR school or seminar. If you should accumulate fewer than 4 credits in 2004, the balance must be completed in 2005 or you will need to complete another CR school and pass the exam.
3. If your CR re-certification date is 2005, you will need to accumulate 4 credits by December 31, 2005.
4. If your CR re-certification date is 2006, you will need to accumulate 4 credits before by December 31, 2006.
5. If your CR re-certification date is 2007, you will need to accumulate 4 credits by December 31, 2007.
6. If your CR re-certification date is 2008, you will need to accumulate 4 credits by December 31, 2008.

For **new** CRs (who passed the test between January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2008) the following schedule applies.

1. If you became a CR in 2004, you will need to accumulate 4 credits before December 31, 2008.
2. If you become a CR in 2005, you will need to accumulate 4 credits before December 31, 2009.
3. If you become a CR in 2006, you will need to accumulate 4 credits before December 31, 2010.
4. If you become a CR in 2007, you will need to accumulate 4 credits before December 31, 2011.

If a CR was scheduled for re-certification in 2004, what should be done?

Any CR who was due for re-certification in 2004 should receive a letter from the district CR coordinator stating that he/she is in jeopardy of losing CR status if they do not recertify. These CRs will have until the end of 2005 to complete 4 credits. In general, CRs who ignore this request and take no action will be dropped from the program. Any CR who is dropped from the program may be reconsidered for admission, but will need to follow the same procedure as for new CRs.

Can a CR accumulate recertification credits?

No one may re-certify for more than 4 years from the current calendar year. Therefore, no one may accumulate more than 4 credits. This assures that active CRs will attend a recertification seminar at least once in 4 years. CRs are always welcome to earn education credits, but no more than 4 will be required in a 4-year period. Once a CR earns 4 credits, a new audit period begins.

Who keeps track of credits?

The district CR coordinator is responsible to provide attendance lists for all CR events to ARS headquarters. The district CR coordinator should develop a spreadsheet or other suitable record keeping to track CR credits within their district. Once a CR has 4 credits, the district CR coordinator contacts ARS headquarters to advance that CR's audit date 4 years. The official records are kept at ARS headquarters and are currently updated on the website 4 times per year. Each CR coordinator has access to the website information. The ARS membership database is updated in real time as new information is reported. Check with ARS headquarters to obtain the most current information. It is prudent for every individual CR to keep a record of all credits in case there is a discrepancy.

CR SCHOOLS AND SEMINARS

How is a CR school organized and approved?

All CR schools and seminars must be coordinated by the district CR chairman. Others may be involved but the CR chairman needs to know about every school or seminar in the district. Forms are available from ARS headquarters or on the ARS website (in 2005). All schools and national seminars must be approved by the national CR chair. The district CR coordinator approves all local seminars as well as credits for any local courses that a CR may wish to apply towards CR recertification. Approved schools and national seminars will be listed in the ARS magazine.

Why must all CR schools have a section on the safe use of pesticides?

Pesticides must be used carefully and with discretion. Pesticide labels are constantly changing. New pesticides enter the market and others are retired. Therefore, the topic needs continuing coverage. Safe use of pesticides is an important concern for the ARS.

What topics should be covered in a basic CR school?

Topics for a school should be broad-ranging and based on those covered in the CR manual. Typically, they include but are not limited to: Duties and Responsibilities of a CR, Soil and Water, Fertilization, Diseases and Insects, Pesticides and their Proper Use, Pesticide Safety, Selecting Rose Varieties, Planting, Pruning and Winter Protection. Each school will vary somewhat in the topics discussed and be based on the needs of that particular district. A CR school should have 4-6 hours of training and allow 1 to 1.5 hours for the open book exam. The school should prepare the candidate to function as a competent CR as well as to take the exam. Re-taking the exam is not necessary for existing CRs who attend a basic 4-credit school for re-certification purposes, unless the CR has

gone beyond their next audit date. (Check the schedule above.) If an existing CR is taking a basic school to recertify, the coordinator is urged to include training of special relevance to those CRs.

What topics should be included in a CR seminar?

The re-certification seminar should address special topics of interest to the particular district or region. For example, a recent seminar included Roles and Responsibilities of the CR, Rose-Rosette Disease, Rose Midge and Pesticide Safety, followed by a series of questions used to promote discussion. The seminar lasted 2.5 hours and 2 credits were earned. Generally, 1 credit will be assigned for each hour of training in a seminar, assuming that all hours are directly relevant to the function of a CR. A CR can also earn additional credits by attending specific lectures at a district or national convention, or a local rose society seminar, as long as those lectures are relevant to the role of a CR and pre-approved.

Can rosarians become CRs or can existing CRs re-certify by mail or email?

Not currently. Provisions for basic CR training or re-certification outside of the existing process have not been developed. There are pros and cons on this issue. The timing of re-certification seminars or basic schools and their locations may make it difficult for some CRs to recertify or new CRs to train. Most District CR chairs believe that a CR needs to interact with other CRs, and the best way for this to happen is at a meeting or event. The ARS realizes that this will create hardship for a few otherwise worthy CRs or CR candidates who cannot get to a school or seminar, but the consensus is to continue the current process. The consequences are that people who otherwise may be good CR candidates cannot become CRs because they cannot travel.