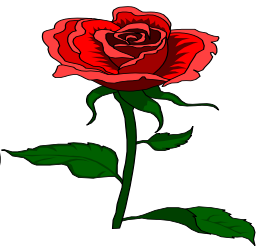


Basal Breaks



Fall 2010

Volume 24 Issue 4

From the President

Another rose season is quickly coming to an end. We can enjoy the larger blooms and the more vibrant colors in our gardens once again. The intensive heat is finally over and we do not have to dread working in our gardens. However, we still need to keep those rain dances going since rain is a thing of the past.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I hope you will consider sharing your garden by being on the "CONTACT Tour of Roses" garden tour next spring. We are still seeking gardens for this tour. Remember, you do not have to have a large rose garden to be on the tour since people enjoy seeing how we grow roses in different settings.

This is my last article as President since my term is coming to an end. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the members who have served as officers during this past year (Dan Brickman, Wanda Wilkey, Rita Phillips, Jeanne O'Steen, Jeff Garrett, and Susan Ruxton).

I also want to thank Jeanne for all of her hard work with our website and for the proofing of the newsletters. Jeff is the real workhorse behind this newsletter and I want to thank him for the many hours he spends putting the newsletters together. Charlie and Phyllis Belcher have hosted our annual picnic for several years and I want to thank them for their hard work. The picnic is always a huge success.

We have two special members who also contribute to the success of our club. Sissy Brackett has seen that we have had plenty of refreshments at our meetings and Katherine Dupree has done a great job with the phone committee. A special "Thanks" to all of our callers too.

I want to thank all of you who support our club with your hard work. This includes all of you who have worked at Veterans Park, attended our monthly meetings, volunteered at the garden centers, brought refreshments and door prizes, and helped out whenever needed.

For our club to survive it takes members who are willing to step up and serve as officers. A very special "Thank You" for those of you that who answered "Yes" when asked to become a leader.

All of you have made my job easier because you are such a pleasure to be around. We have a great club and let's keep it going in 2011 by supporting our new officers.

Remember our Annual Banquet on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club. We have a wonderful time and the Country Club is always well decorated for Christmas. Sam Jones, our current Tenarky District Director, will be our featured speaker. This is a great time to invite friends and neighbors for a wonderful meal and fellowship.

Have a Great Holiday Season,
Cindy

Tri-State Calendar

October 28, 2010

Monthly Society Meeting

Our program will be a panel discussion on what we learned/experienced this summer and what we're doing this fall including how we're preparing for winter. We will also nominate and elect officers for 2011. Finally, we will have our last Top Gun rose exhibition competition to determine the Top Gun for 2010. The meeting will start promptly at 7 pm at the North River Civic Center.

December 7, 2010

Annual Society Banquet

Our annual society banquet will again be held at the Chattanooga Golf & Country Club. The country club is located off of Hixson Pike at 1511 Riverview Road. As always, it will be well decorated for the Christmas season. We will begin eating from the buffet at 6 pm. Our guest speaker is current Tenarky District Director, Sam Jones from Nashville, TN.

Cost for the banquet is \$26 per person, tax and tip included. We kindly ask that you make reservations and pay in advance if possible with our Treasurer, Rita Phillips. Her phone number is (423) 842-4803 and her email is lrcphil01@comcast.net. We're hoping many of you will make a special effort to be there!

January 27, 2011

Monthly Society Meeting

Our first meeting of 2011 will start promptly at 7 pm at the North River Civic Center. Our guest speaker will be Clayton Beaty of Beaty Fertilizer. We will also be distributing order forms for our annual rose fertilizer and related products sale.

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Talking With Ted.....

The Summer of 2010

by Ted Mills

Rarely has there been a summer that will compare with 2010 heat-wise. After a few periods of spring rains it came in quite normally. Most everyone welcomed the sunshine and warmth. But once ole sol began to warm the earth the thermometer rose with every passing day. The high 90 degree temperatures seemed to be here to stay. One glance at the surrounding trees signaled that something unnatural was about to happen. The tree leaves lost their vibrancy. The lawns suffered. Even the local golf courses cried out for cooler weather. There was no let-up in sight as RoseDoc's rose garden took a blow that for 30 years it had not happened. Rose petals fell to earth before they had a chance to develop normally. A number of phone calls and e-mails from puzzled rosarians proved that the situation was widespread.

In spite of the damage wrought it was no time to wring hands in despair. Rosarians must step to the plate and relieve the situation. Prized rose bushes needed help and the dedicated rose grower sprang into action. Keeping rose bushes hydrated was the first call of action. Not only irrigated at the root system, but cooling the foliage regularly with a sprinkling of cold water was a must. With 90 degree plus temperatures prevalent it was no time to dismiss irrigation. Sprinkling more than once per day was often the call.

Spraying the roses took second place when compared to the need for water. Spray burn enters the scenario when elevated temperatures over 90 degrees is being endured. It has been RoseDoc's policy to reduce the dosage of chemicals during heated periods. A light spraying (not drenching) will suffice until the cooler periods arrive.

There is a folly existing that sprinkling water on bushes will cause blackspot. This is simply not true if proper spraying on a timely basis is performed. Haphazard spraying leaves the bush unprotected. It provides the ideal place for blackspot spores to thrive if the area is wet. Do not allow this blackspot fear to forego the more important act of hydration. Protect the bush with regular spraying and cease to worry about blackspot

Day after day this past summer the scourge of excessive heat damaged the roses. Even the sage rosarians commented adversely about the climatic conditions. However, most were optimistic that the

roses would not expire. They knew that the rose is a tough plant and can endure a tremendous amount of pressure. This known fact is validated by the many rose bushes that grow on fence rows along the countryside with little or no care.

Let's review the adverse things that were caused by the constant heat. Many bushes sported leaves that had little or no substance. This crispy foliage proved that the high temperatures were taking a toll on the plants. Today's e-mail contained a message to RoseDoc that in Florida the situation has been frightful. Nevertheless, the society members look forward to an improved fall bloom cycle. That's dedication flavored with optimism.

Every rosarian knows that blackspot is the most feared disease confronting rose bushes. But the advent of insect invasion that often accompanies hot weather spells trouble for the bushes. Particularly, if it is the dreaded spider mite. These creatures, not classified as insects, thrive in elevated temperatures. Here again water enters the scene. At least three generous applications of water to the underside of rose leaves weekly will generally keep the mites at bay. Use of a mite buster does the job with much success and can be purchased from *Rosemania* or *Kimbrew/Walter*.

Speaking of spraying during extremely hot periods, RoseDoc has found it reliable to decrease the dosage of chemicals and spray lightly to the bushes – ala misting. Never spray so profusely that the bushes are drenched with spray material collecting on the foliage. It is certain to result in spray burn. When cool weather arrives return to normal dosages and spray normally.

To be sure, the summer of 2010 has been like no other in the recent past. Resolve to cope with the heated condition with fervor and determination not to allow it to destroy your love for the rose. It just may be that global warming, though debatable, may be here at last. Floods will come, hurricanes will surely return, and hot days are ahead also. Just battle the forces of nature with a resolve to protect our cherished hobby.

Remember the wise words of General Eisenhower as he prepared the troops for the Normandy invasion. He said to his soldiers: "Remember men, preparedness is half the battle."

Looking for Answers

by Patsy Williams

As weather gets cooler, our minds go into overload. We begin to think about all those beautiful rose varieties that are not in our garden. Do I dare think about building another rose bed? Remember that roses require a minimum of 6 hours of sun a day. While they might grow with less, they will not do their best. Maybe I could just add them to an existing bed. What am I going to take out so that I can put a new rose in? This fall is an excellent time to evaluate the roses that you grow.

Yes, there are some roses that perform better than others. But at the same time, what grows great for me might not grow well for you. Now we are back to location, location, location. When a rose does not grow well in one location, you might give it a try next spring in another location. It could be the amount of sun, or the soil that it is planted in.

It is too early to transplant a rose at this time of year. The dormant season, after we have had a couple of hard frost or freezes, is the time to do it which is usually late January and February. The sap in the plant has gone down to the roots and the plant is not actively growing during that time. This allows the plant to establish roots in the new location before it tries to put out new growth.

The time to buy new roses is when the nurseries get their new roses in the spring. Some like to wait until they go on sale in the summer; these are the ones I like to avoid. Many nurseries do not take the kind of care of their roses that I want mine to have. They haven't been groomed and perhaps watered regularly. They are not usually as healthy as they could be. You be the judge.

Most of us planted them as far as we could away from trees. How long ago was that? I don't know about your yard, but tree roots are taking over almost every bed in my yard, including my vegetable garden. And we wondered why the trees were growing so fast. Food and water is the answer. Trees like the same conditions as do roses.

There are products that claim to keep roots out. All they really do is to slow them down just a little. Your best bet is to cut around the beds using a sharp shovel periodically, to make the roots go in another direction. My personal preference is to remove a section of root.

Others have begun to grow roses in large pots (10—20 gallon size). Pots are not without problems either.

The soil in the pots needs to be replaced every two to three years. You must remember that the most important element to growing roses is the soil that they are planted in, and moisture is also important. Pots have to be watered more often, and more fertilizer is used because it washes out of the pots.

A rose bush that is planted in the ground can send out longer roots looking for food and water. Those that are in pots have no place to go. They must rely on you.

Choose the right types of roses to grow in pots. Floribundas and miniatures and minifloras are great selections for pots. That is not to say that they should not be grown in the ground. Almost all plants will grow better in the ground because they have contact with the soil which gives them even moisture for growth.

A number of our bushes died this year. Last summer's heat followed by the stress of winter's freeze, followed by this summer's heat again, allowed tree roots to invade and finish them off. Roses cannot compete with the vigor of tree roots.

More and more people are going for the cottage garden approach by growing old garden roses. For some reason, OBRs don't seem to mind sharing their space. David Austin roses, or shrubs in general, probably fit into this same category. This gives you a totally different look than that of growing hybrid teas. Hybrid teas really don't like to share their space. Let's just grow roses in all their beauty and enjoy the uniqueness of every one of them. They all have a place in someone's heart.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the October 2010 issue of the "Houston Rose-Ette", newsletter of the Houston Rose Society, Patsy Williams editor.

Stay in touch with what's happening
in the world of roses by visiting our
society website at:

www.chattanoogaarose.org

ARS All-Miniature Rose Show & Conference Milwaukee, WS

by Carol Sharpe

The “Mini-National” was hosted by the Greater Milwaukee Rose Society, Gateway Rose Society, and the Madison Rose Society on August 20-22, 2010.

We had a pleasant, stress-free flight and shuttle to the conference site, where each registrant was presented with a miniature “Magic Show”-(BENjets), hybridized by Frank Bernadella, courtesy of Greenheart/Nor’East Roses.

The theme of the show was “We’re Wright With Roses”, a tribute to the late architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, whose famous home, Taliesin (Welsh word meaning “shining brow”), was located in the Milwaukee area. Our speaker was Frances Nemtin, who was one of 5 young apprentices hired by Mr. Wright in the 1940’s to oversee and work his farm. The farm provided them with their own butter, eggs, poultry, soybeans, pork, and beef, often in temperatures of 52 degrees below zero. Mr. McCormick, of International Harvester, was a good friend to Mr. Wright, and gave him three new tractors to help maintain and work the land.

Frances Nemtin is a beautiful, Bryn Mawr-educated, seasoned lady who spoke about the Taliesin gardens, which she now designs and oversees. She has also written books about Frank Lloyd Wright and Taliesin.

In her slide presentation, she lovingly illustrated the integration Mr. Wright achieved between his architecture, natural features, plantings, and art objects he placed in the landscape. We were held spellbound by her stories of the early days and difficult winters they experienced. As a young on-site apprentice, she once went to her room and was surprised to find 5 baby piglets in a box that had been brought inside for protection from the frigid temperatures. On another occasion, she found the young son of a fellow worker outside his room, crying, and she asked why he was upset. The young child told her that he was afraid to go into his room because there was a large peacock strutting beside his bed. (Never a dull moment at the Wright estate.)

Our next program was a floral arrangement class. Kreg Hill was our illustrious instructor. He is active in all levels of the rose society, serving as an accredited ARS Horticultural Judge, Arrangement Judge, and Consulting Rosarian. He began growing roses in high school, and currently has large gardens in his two California homes.

During our class, Kreg distributed small miniature pottery vases, and we did a line arrangement with miniature roses. As a bonus gift, we were allowed to

keep the vase, a floral knife, and a special pair of miniature arrangement tweezers. We learned that the miniature exhibits should not exceed 10 inches in height, and that arrangements should be approximately 1 ½ times the height of the container.

We were also told that a container for a miniature arrangement should be traditionally simple so as not to detract from the preferred traditional arrangement.

Kreg was an absolute delight, and ever so patient and supportive as we attempted to place the wet oasis into the tiny little opening of the vase. Even our own Jeff Ware, from ARS, made his first miniature arrangement in the class. (Jeff was s-o-o-o proud of himself!)

We attended two programs by Dr. Tommy Cairns. He is recognized internationally as one of the most authoritative sources on the fundamentals of rose culture, pesticides, fertilizers, new products, bugs and “beasties”, soil chemistry, rose registrations, and rose genealogy. He has won awards in International exhibits, and did a wonderful slide presentation regarding cutting, refrigerating, packing and shipping his fresh cartons of roses to international shows. (He uses ONLY Fed-Ex Air, and steers completely away from Delta.) He emphasized that refrigeration of exhibition roses should be kept between 38 and 42 degrees.

Tommy has the privilege of having been appointed the Senior Judge for the upcoming 2011 Tournament of Roses Parade in California, and will supervise and train the other Tournament judges in a two-day seminar prior to the event.

We enjoyed a video of Tommy, actually making a beautiful bowl arc-arrangement, emphasizing the importance of proportion and balance among the blooms and foliage.

The next program we attended was presented by Kim Loomis, a full-time college chemistry professor, and Elena Williams, a full-time teacher-librarian.

Their main focus was on roses grown in containers and buried for winter protection. We had a renewed respect for the rosarians in Wisconsin who find it necessary to go to such great lengths to protect their roses from the harsh winter climate.

Saturday night’s Awards Banquet featured 3 Hall of Fame Awards of Excellence Winners. This year they are:

“Be My Baby”, by Christian Bedard

Color name is Deep Pink, but looks red, 20-25 petals

(To be introduced by Weeks)

“Mary Pickersgill”, by Betty and Michael Williams

Yellow-Blend miniflora

(To be introduced by Rosemania)

BEN-omen (Code Name), by (late) Frank Bernadella

Pink Blend miniature

(To be introduced by Bill DeVor- Greenheart/ Nor’East)

The Banquet Speaker was Bill DeVor, (Greenheart/ Nor’East). He is an impressive young man who seems to have a wealth of information about the wholesale rose industry. His company is located on 67 acres on the Pacific Ocean in California, with one million square feet of space.

He has a new miniature rose collection with more than 80 varieties, and will soon be introducing new Micro-Miniatures under the name of “Garden Treasures.” During the past year, he has sold 2.4 million “TABLE TO GARDEN” plants that are winter-hardy and disease-resistant, including ½ million of the velvety, hardy plants to specific Lowe’s stores, and hopes eventually to expand to the other Lowe’s locations. Some of his selections are under the name “My Bouquet.” He has also contracted with Lowe’s to provide staff to do the required care of the plants at the stores, an unprecedented arrangement by a supplier.

One of the highlights of our entire trip was the 5-hour Garden Tour on Sunday morning. Three buses carried 138 visitors to the selected sites.

The highlight was our tour of the home of Bill Radler, creator of the celebrated “Knock Out” rose. I expected a nursery tour, but was delighted instead to arrive at his home garden. He has a beautiful corner lot, across the street from a park. He has an 8-ft. high deer fence surrounding the grounds, and multiple water features throughout the terrace and gardens.

There are also a huge outdoor kitchen/fireplace, pergola, gazebo, sculpture-embellished paths, and many plant varieties. He has multiple numbered rows of experimental roses and plants, each with a documented, coded tag.

Bill was a wonderful, friendly host. He is a small, friendly, 67-year-old bundle of energy and enthusiasm, who admittedly feels blessed by his success with the “Knock Out” rose. He has constructed an underground root cellar, where he stores some of his roses during the winter months.

He has a staff of 7 assistants who help maintain the grounds and on-site experiments, and supervise the basement office, computers, and orders for him. He has provided many amenities for them, including a shower, adjacent to the basement office area. Everyone seemed very congenial and happy with the home/office arrangement.

The remaining three tours included 2 smaller subdivision gardens and one large home garden. Rain barrels were popular (for nitrogen value) on all sites, and most of the pots had been buried in the beds for winter protection. Hostas, dahlias, and other plants were often incorporated into the rose mix...just delightful.

It was a beautiful show and busy conference, well-planned and informative, and the people were friendly and eager to share their ideas with us. We are pleased that we had an opportunity to attend a great conference and visit the Wisconsin area.

Horizon Roses

“Horizon Roses,” published annually for over 30 years, is a compilation of comments by the nation’s top exhibitors on the exhibition potential of the newest hybrid teas, floribundas, miniflora and miniature roses. For most exhibitors, it has long been considered an indispensable guide to buying new show roses.

The 2010 edition of Horizon Roses contains 100 pages of information and a record 2,300 reports on 317 roses by 87 reporters from 28 different states. The number of reports is up 22.9% from last year. The reports include 89 new roses not mentioned in prior issues. All comments are candid and reported in the words of the reporter (with some abbreviation and condensation).

The reports are set forth alphabetically by region and include statistics of the show results of the reported varieties. In addition, information is provided on known sources for the reviewed varieties.

“Horizon Roses” is produced entirely by volunteers under the direction of Bob Martin, National Editor, and nine regional editors. The regional editors solicit and compile the comments from selected top exhibitors in their region and forward them for final compilation.

“Horizon Roses” is available by mail order at \$10. Make your check payable to Johnny Premeaux, and mail it to him at:

Johnny Premeaux
700 Westbury
Orange, TX 77630

FROM THE POTTING SHED....

Trials and Tribulations

by Jeff Garrett

Each year in the rose garden is different and presents us with many different and interesting challenges. Trials and tribulations can serve to either destroy you or make you stronger with more experience.

This past growing season has certainly had its share of challenges and trying times. The year began with a spring that was wetter and hotter than normal. During the summer months, we had a record number of above average temperatures and little rainfall. So far this fall, we have continued to have warmer than normal temperatures and very little to no rain. This indeed has been a season of trials and tribulations in our rose gardens!

The question for us is how will we respond to these trials and tribulations. Will we throw in the towel and give up or will we strive to learn from our experiences and become better rosarians? I hope you agree with me and will refuse to give in to tough situations. Instead, let's take a look at what we can learn from this season of trials and tribulations.

Due to the hot weather, spider mites have been out in force. Our favorite approach to these tough little critters is water. We like to use a sharp spray of water applied to the undersides of the leaves. This must be done every three or four days for ten days or so to get them under control. In the past we have also had good results from combining Avid (Lucid) with TetraSan. However, I have learned this year that we can no longer simply rely on this combination to do the job for us as the mites are showing signs of becoming resistant. This fall I am using Avid with TetraSan followed a week later by Shuttle. Dan Brickman has reported that this rotation of chemicals is giving him good results.

The record hot weather really took a toll in our garden. By mid August, the foliage on our plants was mostly light green and really looked awful. We remembered that we had purchased a new product last spring from Clayton Beaty called Nutri-Cal. It is a nutritional supplement with chelated liquid calcium that is supposed to help plants deal with stress. Nutri-Cal is applied as a mist on the foliage. We began using it weekly on some of our plants as a test and the results have been very encouraging. Our foliage greened up and is looking a lot healthier. Next season we will use Nutri-Cal on a routine basis throughout our entire garden.

Every fall, we routinely check the pH of our roses. In doing this chore, we have discovered that many of our plants have a pH that is very low and need lime. We are attributing this to the fact that we have had to water our roses more than usual due to the very dry conditions.

Virtually all of our potted plants had low pH which should not be too surprising as we have had to water them about every day. Usually when your pH is off, the plants will look weak and not perform up to par. To our surprise, our potted roses actually have been looking pretty good and we have experienced a very nice fall bloom. Not what you would expect to see from a pH imbalance. We have surmised that the Nutri-Cal treatments are the reason our plants have looked and performed well. However, as long as our pH is off, our fertilizers are not giving us any benefit. For the long term health of our plants, the pH must be kept in balance. Our lesson learned here is to always check our pH in the fall and again in the spring regardless of how the plants look and perform. When checking pH, be sure to sample several different areas, as it will be different throughout your garden. Some areas might need adjustment while others will be just fine at around 6.2 to 6.5.

Now that fall is here, it is very important that we maintain our spray program. Last winter was unusually cold and our plants came through in really good shape. We are attributing this to continuing our spray program until the plants are dormant. We have learned that a healthy plant in the fall will be a healthy plant in the spring. If the weather continues to be warm, it might be some time before the roses are dormant. A good rule of thumb is that it takes two hard freezes to get roses into dormancy. A hard freeze occurs when the temperatures get down to around 28 degrees. You can help your roses prepare for dormancy by reducing your dead heading to simply pulling off the spent petals to keep the garden tidy. This lets the plant produce hips instead of new growth that results from dead heading.

Fall is the perfect time to do a garden evaluation and make decisions about which plants you want to replace come next spring. It is a good idea to go ahead and remove roses that you are replacing now so you can amend the soil with lots of good organics and have it in good shape for planting next spring. Doing this evaluation now will also give you plenty of time to make good decisions about what new varieties you may want to try next season.

Finally, as the season comes to a close, take inventory and store any unused pesticides in a cool dry location out of direct sun. Any out-of-date pesticides should be properly disposed of. As a general rule of thumb, most pesticides are considered out of date after three years.

Trials and tribulations can be devastating. However, they are what we make them out to be. Let's make a point of using them as opportunities to increase our knowledge and grow into better rosarians.

Changes Are Coming For The American Rose Market

by Rich Baer

Several months ago I announced in the “Portland Rose Chatter” that Jackson & Perkins Rose Company filed for Bankruptcy with a hope of returning as a reorganized company. Since then things have changed for them. As of this time the Jackson & Perkins company no longer exists. All of their varieties that we have loved over the years are now open to being purchased by the few remaining companies. Since there are really too many varieties to be assimilated by the other companies, many of the roses that we have loved will probably never be available again. But we will just have to wait until next year to see how everything shakes out before we will really have any idea about what will be the result of the failure of J&P. It looks like Weeks roses has purchased the crop of roses that J&P had in the field for next year and are offering them as a supplement to their regular varieties, but for next year only. There are no roses for J&P varieties budded for two years from now. If there are some varieties of J&P roses that you really would like to get for sure, contact a local nursery that carries roses and see if you can get them to add the varieties that you would like to obtain on their wish list for next year.

But Jackson & Perkins is not the only company due for changes for next year. What I believe is the third largest rose company in the US, Conard-Pyle, is also looking to make changes that may affect the rose market. The following information was obtained from “Acres Online” about the future of the Conard-Pyle rose company, one which is generally ranked in the top three rose companies in the United States.

Conard-Pyle to Focus on Breeding and Liners

Steve Hutton, CEO of Conard-Pyle in West Grove, Pennsylvania, just announced that he’ll be downsizing his family business out of finished material in order to focus on breeding and licensing young plants and bare root roses.

Why? Not because they are being forced to, Steve assured me, but because a down cycle like we’re in is the perfect time to reinvent your business. “The nursery business is in a mess”, the third-generation nurseryman stated frankly in a phone interview Thursday. “There’s too much of everything. There are too many plants, there are too many nurseries, too much breeding—even in my part of the business. There are too many wholesalers, even in some cases

too many retailers. There is too much of everything except consumers.”

The other “mess” we face he says is the macro-economic mess. The recession, which as we all know is a global issue. “I’m firmly convinced that when we nursery folks get on the other side of these two messes it is going to a different landscape entirely,” he continued. “You had better be very good in at least one thing—and probably only one thing. So we had to pick and we’re going to use the time that these two messes have given us to transition from what we have been for the last 25 or 30 years into what we’re going to become”.

To that end, Conard-Pyle is selling off their 230 acre Maryland finished plant facility and leasing their Pennsylvania finished plant facility in order to focus on breeding and young plant production. An added benefit of getting out of the finished plant business is that they will no longer be competing with their liner and young plant customers. “I don’t think that’s a very sustainable practice,” Steve says. For anyone who might speculate that this is a forced change, Steve insists the move is not being necessitated by any sort of financial problems inside the company. “This is a proactive move” he says. “We don’t have the hot breath of our bankers on our neck saying, do this or die. This is something that we wanted to choose for ourselves from a position of relative strength.” Steve added that in the company’s 113 year history, they have reinvented themselves several times. “The one I remember is my first year on the job full-time in 1978. My father and my uncle decided it was time to get out of the retail mail-order catalog business that was kind of our identity back then. We were Star Roses and we had a retail face that was to devote our energy to growing container plants and selling wholesale. So this is in that tradition of once every generation, taking stock of the situation and making a course correction.”

The company will still be known as The Conard-Pyle Company and will be headquartered at the present West Grove, Pennsylvania location. Oh, if you’re interested in buying a really nice nursery on Maryland’s Eastern Shore or leasing their PA location, let Conard-Pyle know.

Editor’s Note: This article reprinted from the October 2010 issue of the “Houston Rose-Ette”, newsletter of the Houston Rose Society, Patsy Williams editor. It originally appeared in the “Portland Rose Chatter”, Rich Baer, editor.

Rose Mosaic Virus

It Can Be Detrimental, But Is Seldom

by Bob Bauer

The Primary Symptoms

Rose Mosaic Virus (RMV), produces leaves on the plant with patterned yellow to whitish lines or spots in the leaves. This is called “Line Banding”. The lines appear in a fern like zig zag pattern. Leaves can also have a numerous amount of yellow spots reminiscent of mosaic tiles. This is called “Mosaic”, and is what gives the affliction its name. “Watermarking” is another thing to look for. It consists of faint, often nearly invisible swirls and squiggles, in the green color of the leaf. “Vein Banding” is yet another visual effect. It looks like the reverse of iron deficiency, that is the veins are yellow and the leaf is green.

Other symptoms according to Malcolm M. Manners: “Studies in Great Britain and California have demonstrated reduced production of flowers, shorter flower stems, reduced plant vigor, poorer survival when transplanted, poorer cold hardiness, and greater difficulty for nurseries in producing a #1 grade bush. Studies at Florida Southern College also demonstrated the production of fewer flowers, on shorter stems, and reduced longevity.” Make sure that you don’t confuse RMV with other afflictions that cause leaf yellowing, such as injury by thrips or various nutritional deficiencies caused by lack of certain minerals.

What Should I Do About It?

Since the disease has been proved to not be contagious, there is no great need to remove the bush from your garden. However, if you can be assured to get virus free varieties, they will most likely be more vigorous and bloom more in your garden. So if you have a favorite rose that you would like to see bloom more that is virused, you should replace it. If the virus symptoms are present even on one single leaf, you can be assured that the entire plant is affected. So don’t bother pruning off canes with infected leaves, this is pointless. All of this being said, an individual plant CAN be cured by using Heat Therapy. However, this is not something that you can do at home, so don’t try it. Make an effort to buy only non virused plants. These are called **indexed plants**. Indexing is any test that checks for the presence of RMV.

Where Does It Come From?

It is not clear where and when Rose Mosaic Virus came into being, but it is unknown prior to 1920. This is about when the rose Dr. Huey began to be used industry wide in the USA as a commercial root stock on which other hybrid varieties were budded. People have theorized that it was introduced by grafting some wood from a peach or apple tree onto a rose. This bud would not take, but would be enough to infect the rose with the virus. The

rose was then eventually budded onto some rootstock which got the virus and the rootstock wood was used to produce future generations of rootstock, which then introduced it into the whole rose world. It appears that NO roses are immune to this problem. The symptoms appear to be worse on some varieties than others, but any rose is capable of getting RMV.

Rose Growers Who Don’t Care About You

It is estimated by some that about 50 percent of all roses grown in the USA have rose mosaic virus. These numbers were up to as high as 90 percent in the 1970’s. All current evidence has shown that it is spread ONLY by vegetative propagation. That is one infected bush is grafted on an uninfected rootstock, or wood from rootstock plants is rooted and the infection is spread to plants when they are budded. So there is only one culprit, and that is the nurseries that bud roses. Unfortunately for us, there are a number of commercial rose growers (several in Texas and Arizona and a few in California) who are not willing to actively fight this problem. The fact is they just don’t care. Once it leaves their premises and is sold, it is somebody else’s problem as far as they are concerned.

That said, there are many responsible growers who care a lot and are doing much to eliminate the problem. The Foundation Plant Materials Service (FPMS) at UC Davis, has a program of producing virus free indexed scions and rootstock for about 400 of the most popular rose varieties. Rose growers claim that it would cost too much to clean up their virus problems, but this is certainly not the case in the long run since they would be able to produce more #1 plant and have a more vigorous crop overall to sell to the premium market if they were to fix the problem. The real reason that these growers don’t fix the problem, is because of momentum, they have always done things this way, and that is that. That being said, there are some varieties of roses at this point that aren’t available as unvirused varieties. More needs to be done to recover some of these heirloom plants in order to bring them back to their original levels of vigor.

Are Own Root Roses The Answer?

Whereas this can be a partial answer, an own root rose can still be virused if the rooted cutting comes from a plant that is already virused. Nurseries and several smaller growers and boutique houses are seriously taking on the problem, but it is a big problem, and it will not be solved for quite some time. It is up to you as the consumer to ask the question of your rose supplier: “Are these roses virus indexed roses?”. Make them find out and don’t buy them if they are not. This is the real pressure that will change the industry.

Editor’s Note: Article taken from the Roses and Everything About Them website at www.rose-roses.com

What to Look For in a Rose Garden

By Monty Justice

What Should You Look For?

What Are Your Plants Trying to Tell You?

- Is the ground crusted? If so it needs to be forked around to loosen the soil and allow for air percolation.
- Is there sufficient moisture in the soil: at the root zone depth? Are the tips of the terminal leaves straight out, dipping slightly or drooping? This will identify sufficient water if straight out or lacking water if drooping. Blooms with dried margins also indicate lack of moisture.
- Is there new red growth? If ground temperatures are not below 70 degrees F during most of the darkness of night for 3 or more days, there will be little or no root growth and therefore no new red top growth.
- Has there been sufficient moisture for new red growth? Cold tap water applied in the evening will help reduce ground temperatures. Frequent daily watering to keep the top two inches of the medium moist is optimum.
- Are the leaves on the plant getting smaller as the plant gets taller? This will help to let you know whether or not sufficient nutrients are available for optimum plant growth or over watering has filled up the air spaces in the soil with water.
- Are there any yellowing leaves? The few “nitrogen chevron” leaves is to my thinking unavoidable if you fertilize in hot daytime temperatures 85 degrees or higher.
- Yellow “blending” leaves at the bottom of the plant could mean too much water being held filling the spaces between the soil particles and oxygen or air to the roots is lacking. If the leaves are shaded from the sun by foliage above, or a lack of magnesium in the plant you may experience this problem. The central molecule of chlorophyll is magnesium. The sun does not perform its function of giving energy to the plant if this element is lacking. Some soils are deficient and a small amount (2 tablespoons per plant) of Epsom salts broadcast beneath each rose plant every four to six weeks will keep leaves green to the bottom.
- Leaves with green veins and blinding color:
 - At the top of the plant: Lack of iron
 - At the bottom of the plant: Lack of magnesium
- Look for stems with bore holes and cut back as far as needed to eliminate them. When you cut a thick stem, darken it with wet soil. The bore will think it’s dead and not stop to lay its eggs.
- Spider mite damage occurs when daytime temperatures are hot and dry, basically over 80 degrees. Pay particular attention to the leaves close to the ground, since the mites crawl from the ground up the stem of the rose and onto the underside of leaves. They multiply rapidly. The plants will like the cooling effect and will not cause blackspot.
- Blackspot will only adhere to leaves when moisture is on the leaf for at least eight hours or humidity approaches 100%. Frequent watering to keep the top 2” of the rose bed moist and leaves washed off before dark will be beneficial.
- Every rose garden has a different culture, amount of sunshine, trees and shade, soil texture and water holding capacity. All of these and other variables affect results. When you take care of roses you should evaluate their condition, taking into consideration the variables and the things that they are telling you. Act accordingly. Soil drainage is most important for plant growth.
- Always water before you spray pesticides. Roses are heavy feeders. Apply a little balanced plant food frequently rather than a whole lot at a time. If a dry fertilizer is applied, don’t let the ground dry out or leaves will show “burning”, brown on the leaf margin or worse.
- The single most important factor for plant growth is good drainage—plenty of air or pour spaces in the soil for the roots to reach out. The thickness of the roots will determine the density of the medium. The more dense the medium, the fewer the roots and the slower they are to reach out. There is little or no stem and leaf growth without night time root growth.

Every time you water, you are adding freshly needed air to the soil. A regularly applied balanced plant food to a porous medium with 6 to 8 hours of sun should yield desired results.

I’ve not mentioned soil pH. Roses need a slightly acid soil 6.0 to 7.0. Because I grow my roses in potting mix in a hole 10” wide X 20” deep in the ground, the medium is desirably neutral. Feedings and watering are only in the hole. The huge number of fine short feeder roots supply quickly the plants when the nutrients have been applied. Some of the best exhibitors have said that their best roses are grown in large pots with potting mix. I’ve taken this information one step farther—and put a soilless mix in the ground. It’s simple, it’s easy and it works well for a long time period. I would be happy to discuss any concerns that you may have. I’m 5 years with this planting process and see many advantages and can’t think of any regrets.

Editor’s Note: This article originally appeared in the August 2010 issue of the “Dixie Rose Club News”, newsletter of the Dixie Rose Club, Memphis, TN, Sonia Richardson, editor.

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Basal Breaks is the official newsletter of the Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga, and is published quarterly. While the information and advice contained herein is believed to be accurate and true, neither the authors nor the editors can accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga makes no warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

Jeff and Cindy Garrett, Editors

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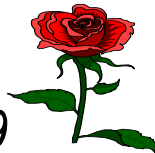
The following folks are happy to answer any questions you may have concerning growing better roses.

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North Chatt Area	Ted & Mary Alice Mills 756-5210
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Reminder!

Our next meeting is October 28 at the North River Civic Center beginning at 7 pm