



THE ROSE SOCIETY OF TUCSON'S

Thrip Hater

An Affiliate Of The American Rose Society



February 2025

Editor: Donna Kamper

Vol. 65, N° 02

February RST Meeting

Tuesday, February 4th, 2025

Social Time: 6:30

Meeting start: 7:00

Growing Roses in an Oven

Featured Presenter: Leroy Brady, Judge and Consulting Rosarian from Mesa AZ.

Our next meeting's program will be given by Leroy Brady from Mesa, and is all about plants that can thrive in our increasingly hot climate. Trees, shrubs, and of course roses, he has found to be able to survive very well in an extra-hot world!

Leroy is the Chief Landscape Architect for the Arizona Department of Transportation. He has many years of experience working with the kind of plants that can not only live along our highways but actually thrive in our increasingly hot Arizona summers.

Continued on page 2

President's Message

Happy February!

Hopefully everyone has their pruning done by now and is ready for the warmer weather to show up. Friendly reminder that dues are due!

E-mails have been sent to remind members who have not yet renewed, and there are several different options for payment. We'd hate for you to miss out on anything because dues aren't paid.

A friend from Mesa, Leroy Brady, is coming down to talk about shade trees at our February meeting. We all know how valuable shade is in the Sonoran Desert, so this is must have information.

Les Hayt will also be joining us with what to do in the garden this month. I look forward to seeing you there, Tuesday February 4th at 7PM in the Tucson Botanical Gardens' meeting room.

Happy gardening.

 Krystal Schmich, RST President

Contents

Three Main Rose Categories	1
February in the Garden	3
Fire Destroys Home of Rose Hybridizer Tom Carruth.	4
ARS Events and Information	5
Consulting Rosarian School Parts 1 & 2	7
Postcard from N Alvernon.	8
Charting Roses for Performance.	9
Dandelion Endorsement	13

Black Soldier Flies	14
Tour of Francis Roses.	15
RST Membership Fees Due!	17
All About Rose Bud Eyes	18
Fun Facts About Thrips	20
How to Propagate Rose Cuttings	21
My Hubby the Gardener	23
RST Board, Committees, Chairs and CR List	Back Cover

Rose Background: Rose Bowl Collection Of Roses, Pauline Martin of the UK.



February RST Meeting, continued from page 1

Please join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, February 4th to learn about what we can grow well in a challenging environment.

Date: Tuesday, February 4th — meeting begins at 7:00PM

Location: Tucson Botanical Gardens (2150 North Alvernon Way), one block south of Grant Road and Alvernon Way on the east side of the street.

Who Can Attend?: Anyone who wants to learn more about growing great roses (FREE!). Feel free to bring a friend and enjoy an evening with people who have a passion for growing great roses.

 Terry Swartz, RST Vice-President



— 3 MAIN —
ROSE CATEGORIES

1



OLD GARDEN ROSES

Often referred to as "antique" roses and "historic" roses, the Old Garden Rose has been around since before 1867.

2



WILD ROSES

Wild Roses, or "species roses," lack the cross-breeding history and hybridization of other modern varieties.

3



MODERN GARDEN ROSES

Where Old Garden Roses bloom once per year, Modern Roses offer a continuous bloom, as well as a larger bloom size.



Fire Destroys Home of Rose Hybridizer Tom Carruth

If you love roses, you either know Tom Carruth or know of him, and most certainly have grown his roses. Even if you're not a big gardener yet have visited a rose garden anywhere in the world, you've seen and enjoyed his roses.

Recently, one of the fires ravaging Southern California destroyed Tom's home and most of his belongings. A GoFundMe has been set up to help Tom.



Go to www.GoFundMe.com and search for "Help Tom Carruth Rebuild After Eaton Fire" or cut and paste this link <https://gofund.me/304423fc>



On the early morning of Jan 8th, legendary rose hybridizer Tom Carruth lost his home in Altadena CA of almost 40 years, along with almost all of his belongings in the Eaton Fire. Tom was only able to escape with cell phones, iPads, meds and a change of clothes. Virtually all was lost in the fire.

This is devastating news.

Over Tom Carruth's lifetime, he has given so much to the rose world and the community at large. As one of the top rose hybridizers, he has created many of the world's most beloved roses. Since his retirement, he's been serving as Curator of the Rose Collection at The Huntington. A kind and generous soul, he has touched

many lives, whether you know him personally or not. **Tom Carruth has given the world so much beauty and love. Due to the fire, he has lost almost everything. It's time for us to give back; show our appreciation, and support.**

If you are able, please donate to help Tom with expenses incurred with the sudden displacement, loss of possessions, uncertain future, and more. It's hard to process how difficult it is when so much is gone forever. This is our opportunity to show we care, and are there for him in this difficult time as he tries to rebuild his life.

Thank you for your support.
GoFundMe.com "Help Tom Carruth Rebuild After Eaton Fire"
<https://gofund.me/304423fc>



February in the Garden

Pruning

Pruning: Pruning your roses should be completed by early February. Make sure you remove all leaves. For more information on pruning, click [here](#).

Once you're done pruning, be sure to clean up all dead leaves and throw them in the trash, not your compost pile. Dead leaves may harbor mildew spores and other diseases that can infest your compost pile and create problems later on.

For a climbing rose, cut out small, twiggy branches and leave nice, long canes behind. You can then gently pull these long canes to a horizontal position to expose more of the canes to the sun which will produce more blooms. Zip ties work great for tying canes down. Simply tie around the support structure and canes in strategic spots to support the plant.

Seal the end of pruned canes with a dab of carpenter's glue to protect against cane borers.

Feeding

First Feeding Of Year For Established Bushes: One week after pruning is completed, apply a handful each of alfalfa meal (can purchase 25-pound bags from O.K. Feed Supply), Epsom Salts (any drug store) and Milorganite (Ace Hardware) sprinkled on the soil of each plant. Then water these products in

Fertilizer Strategy: There are two types of rose growers in Tucson. One is the casual gardener who is happy with average roses. Then you have the hard-core grower who is after the biggest and best roses possible. Here is what you do for both.

Casual Gardener: From mid-February to the end of April, fertilize every two weeks with Magnum Rose Food (1 TBSP to 1 gallon of water) on the soil of each plant. Contact Kevin Callaghan at Triple A Fertilizer (520) 861-4732. A 25-pound bag will cost about \$30.

Hard Core Grower: From mid-February to the end of April, fertilize every week. On week one, fertilize with Magnum Rose Food (1 TBSP to 1 gallon of water) on the soil of each plant. On week two, fertilize with Alaska Fish Fertilizer (1 TBSP to 1 gallon of water) on the soil of each plant. Then alternate every week up to the end of April. Alaska Fish Fertilizer (5-1-1) can be obtained at Lowe's in one quart or one gallon containers or Walmart.

Spraying Chemicals

There are two camps in rose growing – those who absolutely refuse to spray chemicals (for many reasons) and others who utilize chemical sprays to prevent damage to their plants from fungus diseases and insects. If you are in the first camp, don't read any further.

Those who want perfect roses, read on. Prior to spraying any chemicals on your garden, you first should purchase several products to protect your body. A respirator that goes over your nose and mouth is important that will allow two organic vapor cartridges to be screwed on.

Tucson Medical and Supply has a full line of respirators for sale along with cartridges rated for organic vapors. You also can purchase both products on the internet. Eye protection is important as well as skin protection (protective clothing and chemical resistant gloves).

The four chemicals recommended below to spray can be purchased on the internet at www.domyownpestcontrol.com for reasonable prices.

Brandt Indicate 5 (\$40 a quart): This adjuvant allows you to condition the water prior to putting in other chemicals so it has a pH of 5.0 which is ideal for the products you will use. It also has a wetting agent that



Continued on page 4



February in the Garden, continued from page 3

allows all chemicals in the solution to spread over surfaces smoothly without it congregating in areas which could burn foliage and blooms.

Honor Guard PPZ (\$30 a pint): This fungicide keeps problems from developing such as mildew. Rarely does Tucson have any other fungus issue other than mildew.

Merit 75 WP (\$36 for 2 ounces): This fine powder goes a long way with minimal amounts being utilized. It is great for aphids and thrips, the two biggest problems for roses in Tucson.

Acephate 97 Up (\$22 for 1 pound): This powder will stop aphids and thrips in their tracks.

Spray Roses Weekly February 1 – April 15

It is important to spray your roses early in the morning for several reasons. First, there is usually little wind which means spray drift doesn't come back at you. Second, there are few birds or bees that are active at the crack of dawn. And third, the neighbors and their pets are usually not out at this time.

Prior to spraying, make sure you bring inside any pets, pet food, water containers and hummingbird feeders — anything that animals or birds may drink or eat that spray drift may fall on. Be smart about spraying.

Pour fresh water in a 1 or 2 gallon bucket. Then mix in the following chemicals per label directions.

Week 1: Indicate 5, Honor Guard PPZ, Acephate 97 Up.

Week 2: Indicate 5, Merit 75 WP. Then alternate week 1 and week 2 every seven days up to the middle of April. At that point, no chemical spraying is needed through the summer.

 *Lou Pavlovich, Rose Society of Tucson*

Spring Song

*God rest ye merry gardeners,
let nothing you dismay,
For Spring is soon to come again
With lengthening of days.
The sun will warm the soil once more
And send Jack Frost away.
Oh tidings of composting and Joy,
Compost and joy!
Oh tidings of composting and joy!*

 01/2024 Noisette, South Carolina RS.





ARS Events

Glendale Rose Show

April 5

Site: Sahuaro Ranch Park Packing Shed (Glendale AZ)

For more Information visit the Glendale Rose Society Facebook

Page [https://www.facebook.com/search/top?](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=glendale%20rose%20society)

[q=glendale%20rose%20society:](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=glendale%20rose%20society)

Phoenix Rose Show

April 12

Site: Valley Garden Center (Phoenix AZ)

For more Information visit the Phoenix Rose Society website [https://](https://phoenixrose.org/?page_id=266)

phoenixrose.org/?page_id=266.

Tucson Rose Show

April 19

Site: Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 East University Blvd
(Tucson AZ)

For Show Schedule and More Information visit [https://](https://tucsonrosesociety.com/2025-rose-show/)
tucsonrosesociety.com/2025-rose-show/.

Pacific Rose Society Annual Auction

March 1

Due to circumstances beyond our control in connection with the evacuations from the Southern California wildfires, the date of the Pacific Rose Society Annual Auction has been moved to March 1, 2025. The set-up of Ayers Hall will take place Friday, February 28, 2025.

Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Missed the January RST Meeting?

No fear, YouTube is here!

The January Rose Society of Tucson meeting program is now ready to view on YouTube via the internet.

Two great presentations were given:

Terry Swartz gave detailed information on how to prune all types of rose bushes. In addition, he went into proper equipment to use so that pruning can be a safe, efficient job. To watch his presentation, click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/3r74G4ttSvg>

Les Hayt gave full details on how you should plant new roses, either in the ground or in containers, and what not to do. To watch his presentation, click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/IGY3bejQlvM>

If you couldn't make it to the meeting because of a prior commitment or you would like to see the presentations again, you now can watch the two videos.

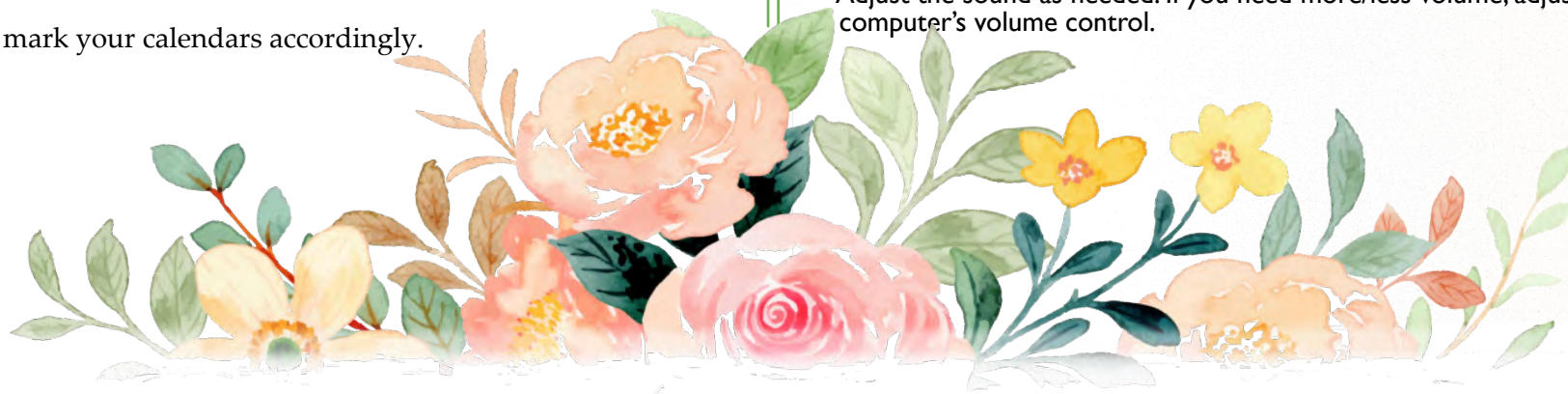
 *Diane Pavlovich, Publicity Chairman*

NOTE: Click on either link above and it will take you to that video on YouTube.

To view it full screen press the **Full Screen** icon [] at lower right.

In the same area is the **Settings** icon that looks like a toothed gear. Click that and choose **Quality**. Press **HD** at the top in the Quality area (1080 resolution) to see the video in High Definition.

Adjust the sound as needed. If you need more/less volume, adjust your computer's volume control.





ARS Membership

New Member Book Offer

Dear American Rose Society Members,

It is no secret that ARS has faced significant challenges recently. There have been many personnel changes with our staff in the past two years. Most recently Executive Director Claire Bissell and her assistant Crystal Aaron have left to accept positions with other organizations. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

I am pleased to inform you that our Publications Director Beth Smiley has taken on the additional duties as Interim Executive Director. Please welcome her in her new position.

ARS has also experienced severe cash flow problems in recent months, no doubt due in part to the decline in membership we have experienced. Help has come in the form of a \$100,000 appropriation from the State of Louisiana to cover certain expenses and from a grant of \$100,000 from the Franks Foundation for upkeep of the gardens. We, the officers, board and staff are committed to a balanced budget for 2025.

Your Annual Fund donations are much appreciated, and as long as the books are available, a copy of Rose Atlas, Creators of Roses will be sent as a gift of \$150 or more.

You can also help by recruiting or gifting memberships. New first-time members may still join for one year for \$50 and will receive the Rose Atlas, Creators of Roses book.

Finally, after many production delays, the 2025 ROSES calendar was delivered to headquarters. All 500 calendars have been shipped. The majority of calendars, more than 400, were shipped on 1/8/25 and the remainder of about 80 (all orders of more than five) were mailed on 1/15/25. We certainly appreciate your patience and understanding with this process.

Thank you for your support, and let's make 2025 a great year for the American Rose Society.

 Craig Dorschel, ARS President



Attention ARS Members!

In February ARS will launch our new membership database. This means our database will be down for an extended period of time.

If you are planning to attend CR School on February 15th and 22nd you MUST be registered no later than February 7th.

Your membership will also need to be up to date no later than February 7th, 2025—NO EXCEPTIONS!!!! If your membership is not current on or before February 7th, 2025 you will NOT be able to attend CR School. We will not be able to update or check your membership status until the end of February. Please make sure that your membership is up to date by February 7th, 2025.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation for your understanding on this matter while we work to make sure you have the best experience with our organization going forward.

 Brandy Boudreau, ARS

About the American Rose Society

The **American Rose Society**(ARS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is focused on the appreciation of the rose. Established in Hershey Pennsylvania in 1892, headquarters for the American Rose Society currently resides on 118 acres of gardens in Shreveport LA, known as *America's Rose Garden*. The American Rose Society was a founding member of the World Federation of Rose Societies, which provides additional benefits to all ARS members.

The American Rose Society provides educational content through a bi-monthly magazine, the *American Rose*, in addition to webinars and the **Rose Forum**. In support of the mission of the ARS, local rose societies exist around the country to provide local area educational support and rose enjoyment. Educational programs, competitive rose shows and noncompetitive rose displays, and a variety of rose related activities take place during the growing season.



Diane Wilkerson

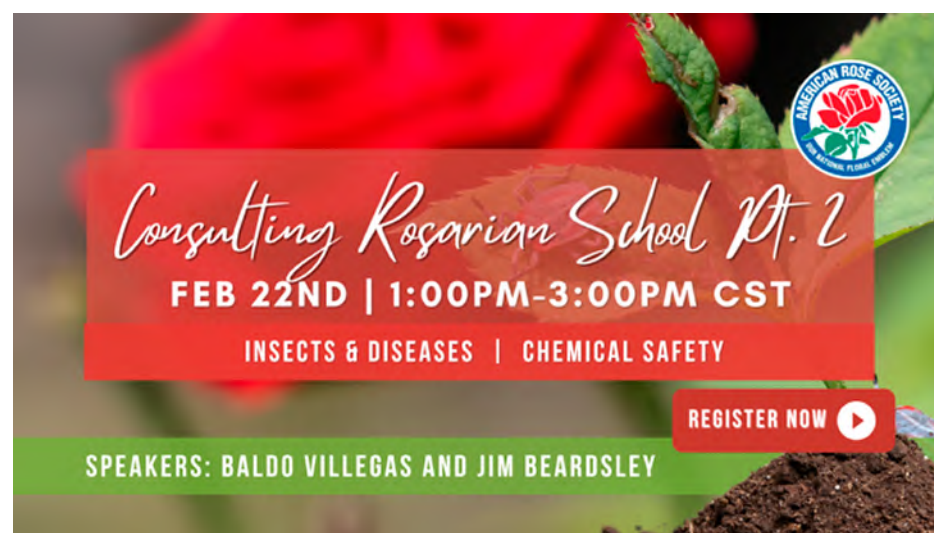
Diane is National CR Chair for ARS. She has been growing roses in central New Jersey for 31 years, located five miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean and 0.1 miles from a river, in sandy soil. She is a life member of the American Rose Society (ARS), and an active member of the West Jersey and Philadelphia Rose Societies.

Baldo Villegas

I retired as a Senior Environmental Research Scientist (Entomologist) from the CA State Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in 2011. He worked for State Agriculture Department for over 34 years developing and implementing biological control programs against invasive insect and weed pests throughout California. As well as his many positions with the ARS.

Bill Kozemchak

My wife Kathy and I grow about 1,050 roses in Levittown PA. Currently, I serve as President and Newsletter Editor for the Philadelphia Rose Society, Board member for West Jersey Rose Society, and Photography and Trophy Chairs for the Penn-Jersey District. I Chair the ARS Exhibiting Committee and also serve on the ARS Miniature Rose Committee. We enjoy exhibiting in Horticulture and Photography, and sharing our garden with other members.



Brenna Bosch

Brenna is a Master Rosarian, ARS Horticultural Judge and avid rose exhibitor. She has been growing roses for over 20 years in diverse growing areas including San Antonio, TX, Albuquerque, NM, South New Jersey, West Tennessee, and the Colorado mountains.

She has supported the ARS through the years in many capacities with officer positions at the local and district levels and as part of national committees. She is currently the Rose Show Chair for the Pikes Peak Rose Society in Colorado Springs, CO and grows more than 125 roses of all different classes at an altitude of 9,000 feet.

Jim Beardsley

Jim is a Retired 3M Aerospace Global Environmental Health Chemical Safety and Hazardous Communication Manager. Master Rosarian and Horticulture Judge.

**All eligible CR candidates will receive an email with the CR Exam information and test link following the last session.

For more information about the online Consulting Rosarian courses, please contact Diane Wilkerson, National Consulting Rosarian Chair, at dvwilkerson@gmail.com.



Postcard from N Alvernon

Flowery Prose!



Este es mi México

Because of the, mostly, mild winter weather some of our spring blooms have, or are expected to pop early. Paperwhite daffodils and winter iris were already past their best before the New Year. On January 3, a red barrel cactus was in flower, usually anticipated in April! The freezes we experienced in January

may slow things down again, of course, but plenty of spring flowers and ephemerals are expected at the Gardens, but goodness only knows what will flower when!

As you may know, our director of Horticulture, Adam Farrell-Wortman, began an on-going bulb planting program four years ago.



A Reverence for This Land

Some, such as Narcissus (daffodils), will naturalize – i.e. the bulbs are perennial and will spread. Tulips, on the other hand, are planted as annuals. (This is the case across the country. Tulip bulbs need specific conditions including temperature and humidity, and are bred for a show-stopping one-time display, not to come back year after year. After they flower, the bulbs are lifted and composted at the Gardens.)



Fiesta de los Animales

In readiness for Tucson's gem show season, you may be interested to learn more about our sizable collection of rocks displayed throughout the Gardens: the **Harrison Yocum Collection**.

Next time you're at the Gardens during opening hours, pop into the Friends House and head to the south side of the building for information about Harrison Yocum, one of the Gardens' founders.

In recent months, we have worked with the University of Arizona Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum to provide more information about the types of rock with new signage and information online.

Exhibits

Este es mi México | This is my Mexico

Charming children's drawings. Organized by the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME) in cooperation with the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico Through March 6, 2025 in Education Classroom

A Reverence for This Land: Southern Arizona

An exhibit of oil paintings by Tom Collazo Through March 9, 2025 in Friends House

Fiesta de los Animales

Mexican folk art sculptures Through April 30, 2025 in the Garden Grounds

Curious Allies: Mutualism in Fungi, Parasites, and Carnivores

The Fifth American Society of Botanical Artists and New York Botanical Garden Triennial Through June 30, 2025 in Porter Hall Gallery and the Legacy Gallery



Curious Allies



 **Laura Leach**
Director of Development & Marketing
Tucson Botanical Gardens



Charting Roses For Performance

Find out what you're doing right (and wrong!)

Keeping track of what works and doesn't work in your garden in the quest of growing eye-popping roses is important.

Rose Garden Performance Chart

Over 40 years ago, I designed my first **Rose Performance Chart**. After stealing an accounting ledger sheet from my mom's accounting office, I wrote in categories along the top with a pencil. One was the month. Another was what sprays (fungicides and insecticides) I used on plants through the year. Still another was what fertilizer was applied to the soil of big roses and mini roses and in what quantities.

I also thought it would be a good idea to have a category on insect problems and weather issues.

From that first chart has come 12 different versions over the years. My latest is a Microsoft *Excel* chart which includes seven lines for each month (*see next page*). You never know when you will have a situation crop up during the month that requires an extra entry. This chart will also allow you to keep records on pruning dates in the spring and fall and anything else rose related.

One time, we had an infestation of white flies and another time with thrips because of an unusually wet spring. Another time our garden was hit by unusually hot weather. We also have had extremely cold weather.

Another time, we had hundreds of cutter bees cut half circles in our foliage in mid-April and nearly defoliated our entire rose garden just before the start of summer. It was a recipe for numerous rose plant deaths that summer. Fortunately they recovered as we used shade cloth to protect the plants from the sun. The massive invasion of cutter bees has never happened again. An entomologist from the University of Arizona came over to see the damage since it was unprecedented to hear about such extensive damage to rose leaves.

He explained the female cutter bees were only cutting the leaves after finding a nesting location for their babies. They build cells in those small holes with cut leaves, nectar and pollen of plants for their larva to eat. He suggested that we cut ten 4" x 4" block, drill holes in one direction through the blocks and fill the holes with straws, cutting them flush to Place them throughout the rose garden. In the future, cutter bees can utilize these straw tunnels as their nesting locations. When blocks are full of nests, we take the straws out of the blocks to a commercial farm in Marana and leave them there. The larva will hatch and become cutter bees as the life cycle starts all over again – well away from our rose garden.

We did this, and it worked perfectly. The next spring, we didn't have any leaf cutter damage to our plants. We didn't use chemicals to kill these important pollinators. This is a vivid example of what rose growing records can teach us. We have always placed a few of these blocks out in the garden every year after this experience.

A few years ago, we encountered scale for the first time and had no idea how to combat these tiny hard shelled insects which go after the stems of roses and suck the life out of plants. Six of our plants nearly died. After calling several rose growing friends, we were informed that utilizing horticulture oil mixed with water per label directions would kill them off by smothering them. However, you could only use this horticulture spray on roses in Tucson in cool weather after you did your annual January pruning.

Because of this knowledge, we now do an annual cleanup spray of all roses after pruning each January. It stopped these insects dead in their tracks and left our roses clean of potential damaging insects as we begin fertilizing our roses in February with the quest of growing great roses that spring. Eventually the seriously damaged roses came back from near death and are growing great now.

Continued on page 10





Charting Roses For Performance, continued from page 10

One of the greatest rose growers of all time, Dr. Tommy Cairns of Studio City, Calif., has used a cleanup spray of horticulture oil and water in this fashion for many years after the January pruning in his garden of over 1,000 rose plants.

This **Rose Performance Chart** is essentially a rose growing diary that has become the backbone of our rose growing program. It has allowed us to refer to problems through the years and make important adjustments when necessary. Our Rose Performance Charts fill a 3-ring binder that is four inches thick and growing.

This chart hammered home the point that we were using too much fertilizer one year. The stems of our roses were massive which seemed like good horticulture care at the time. But they were too big.

When the blooms came on plants, almost all of them had double and triple centers – a sure sign of over fertilizing. None of them had perfect, pinpoint centers. However, the color of the blooms was exceptional. The foliage of these overgrown roses was much too large and out of proportion to what they should be.

We learned through this chart that having a properly balanced fertilizer program was essential in the quest for great roses. You obviously don't want small, puny roses. But you don't want grotesquely large specimens either.

After decades of tinkering with different fertilizers, both organic and inorganic, we settled on a spring fertilizer program that has been perfect for us, and we haven't deviated from it for the past 25 years. The results have been consistently great with thousands of fabulous stems, foliage and blooms in balance each spring from only 50 plants.

Think of fertilizing this way. Everyone has their favorite restaurant. The mark of a great restaurant is consistently terrific food without fail. Their unique recipes are the hallmark of their business. Most great chefs and restaurants got to that level by trial and error and keeping a log of recipes that keep the pallet of their customers happy as they come back over and over again as their business thrives.

Back to fertilizing. On the first fertilization in early February, we use Magnum Rose Food (1 tablespoon to one gallon of water) on the soil of each plant. Then on week two we apply Alaska Fish Fertilizer (one tablespoon to one gallon of water). Repeat through April. This may seem like overkill, but it has produced incredible plants, stems, dark, green foliage and blooms with vibrant color that is in perfect proportion.

You can purchase Magnum Rose Food from Triple A Fertilizer in Tucson by calling owner Kevin Callaghan on his cell phone at (520) 861-4732. You can purchase a 25-pound bag for a reasonable price. Alaska Fish Fertilizer can be purchased from Walmart, Home Depot or Lowe's.

We use a completely different fertilization program for the summer. Go to the Rose Society of Tucson's website at www.tucsonrosesociety.com. Look under "Rose Care" for the months of May, June, July and August for that program. In the fall, we switch to the spring fertilizer program for a spectacular fall bloom.

Plant Bloom Chart

I created another chart which focuses on when blooms arrive on each plant (*see next page*). Each spring, I make sure I have the current list of all our roses and what type they are (hybrid tea, mini, etc.) Then you can easily highlight that column in Excel as the list is sorted in alphabetical order from A to Z.

I print the chart and write in the date of the first spring rose bloom on each plant. There is another category for the most blooms on each plant as they reach their peak of bloom production in the spring. With some varieties, the first bloom cycle in the spring can last two weeks. Others might be over seven days and others will have a profuse bloom all at once.

It gives you great insight into each variety as to the bloom range and peak bloom time. It changes slightly each spring depending on the weather and when you prune each plant in January.

I also do this each fall with roses to find out the first and most profuse bloom times for each rose plant we have. Depending on the weather, roses can bloom quicker, on time or later than usual. Having statistics such as this allows you to hit the bloom target date with much more accuracy.

Continued on page 12

*Charting Roses For Performance, continued from page 11*

If your records show one variety blooms two weeks later than others year after year, you can easily prune that bush two weeks earlier than others if you want it to hit the date your other roses bloom. If you have varieties that bloom earlier than the vast majority, you can prune those a little later. Records don't lie.

Cut Rose Count For Shows

My Bloom Chart has a dual function (see accompanying graphic of this chart). The day before a rose show, I will print this list out in alphabetical order. Then to the left of the rose variety names, Diane uses a pencil and makes tick marks to signify how many cut roses we have in our rose cooler, as they are taken out one by one by me.

Once that is done, all roses are carefully put back in the cooler. Diane tallies up the lines for each variety as I type in the total numbers of cut roses for each variety in Microsoft *Excel*. After that, I highlight the column with the numbers and press the sort filter from smallest to largest.

Excel magically sorts all of your roses from least (at the top) to most (bottom) with the numbers to the left of each variety on the left. Printing out this list saves an enormous amount of time at the show.

Once we get our roses at the show and are ready to groom roses for entry, we always start with the varieties that have the fewest number. Then we move one by one to varieties with higher numbers.

For instance, we might have only one *Cajun Sunrise* hybrid tea cut rose, which we would prepare first. On the other side of the spectrum, we might have 18 *Ring Of Fire* cut roses which we wouldn't even look at until later. That is typically several hours after we started.

Over several hours different *Ring Of Fire* cut roses will be better and others deteriorated. It allows you to make a better informed decision later in the process without wasting your time.

These charts have been important to our rose growing hobby. It has allowed us to learn what works and doesn't in our unique Tucson microclimate.

 Lou Pavlovich, Rose Society of Tucson

Excel Combo Stats (First, Best Bloom, Cut Rose Count)**(Rose Count Least To Most)**

# Roses	Rose Name	First Bloom	Best Bloom
1	Cajun Sunrise (HT) 2		
1	Daisy Louise (HT)		
1	Eddie Edwards (HT)		
1	Emma Grace (MinFI)		
1	Hot Princess (HT) 2		
1	Mavrik (HT)		
1	Neptune (HT)		
1	Sunny Sundays (HT)		
1	Veterans' Honor (HT)		
2	Alysheba (Min)		
2	Babies Blush (HT) 2		
2	Buttercream (MinFI)		
2	Cherrytown (HT) 2		
2	Moonstone (HT)		
2	Powerhouse (MinFI)		
2	Swirly Pop (Min)		
3	Black Magic (HT)		
3	Jewel Grace (HT) 2		
3	Show Stopper (MinFI)		
4	Abby's Angel (MinFI)		
4	Baldo Villegas (MinFI)		
4	Clair Elyse (HT)		
4	Hot Prince (HT)		
5	Amy (HT)		
5	The Philosopher's Rose (HT)		
6	Burning With Passion (Min)		
6	Dina Gee (HT)		
6	Joy (Min) 2		
8	Glowing Sunset (MinFI)		
9	Dr. John Dickman (MinFI)		
14	Power Point (MinFI)		
15	St. Patrick (HT) 2		
18	Ring Of Fire (HT) 3		



Dandelion Endorsement

As a popular TV show used to say, “Kids say the darndest things!” and I’ve learned they also ask some of the best questions.

Ellie and her sister Alette enjoy every part of the dreaded “Dandelion” plant. To them, dandelions are the first and quite possibly the best bouquet in spring. There are no thorns, they are easy to pick and they last for a long time—even without a water vessel to hold them!

For many years, Ellie and Alette would watch me dig them up and dispose of them in the dumpster. Then one day the questions began:

“If you want dandelion blooms for the bees—why do you dig them out and throw them away?”

And, ‘If people eat dandelion greens, why don’t we?’

And, “If the dandelion greens are healthy for humans, why don’t we feed them to the worms?”

So began my willingness to take a more positive look at these bright yellow blooms and ultimate unique structured “puff balls.” We know dandelions are nutritious (<https://www.verywellfit.com/dandelion-greens-nutrition-facts-4582373>). But since I am not yet serving the “greens” on my table, or making any of the number of dandelion recipes I’ve seen on the internet, I might have to give some a try.

I already use dandelion plants in my dig and drop composting— to benefit my soil. An article “Uncovering The Benefits Of Dandelions: How They Enhance Soil Quality” tells us “dandelions are a popular choice for gardeners, as they are known to be beneficial for the soil. They help to aerate and enrich the soil.”

“Something to take into account is they are a great way to control weeds because they compete with weeds for light, water and nutrients. Dandelions can help prevent weeds from taking over your garden, as well as help prevent soil erosion... by binding the soil together. The deep roots also help to stabilize the soil.” I am even more ready to join the girls and endorse dandelions as “garden beneficients.”

Here are some known (maybe unknown?) statements the girls and I enjoyed:

- » The dandelion is the only flower that represents the three celestial bodies of the sun, moon and stars: the yellow flower resembles the sun, the puff ball resembles the moons and the dispersing seeds resemble the stars.
- » The dandelion flower opens to greet the morning light and closes in the evening to go to sleep.
- » Every part of the dandelion is useful: root, leaves, flower. It can be used for food, medicine and dye for coloring.
- » Up until the 1800’s, people would pull grass out of their lawns to make room for dandelions and other useful “weeds” like chickweed, malva and chamomile.
- » The name dandelion is taken from the French word *dent de lion* meaning lion’s tooth, referring to the coarsely-toothed leaves.
- » Dandelions have one of the longest flowering seasons of any plant.
- » Dandelion seeds are often transported away by a gust of wind and they travel like tiny parachutes. Seeds are often carried as many as five miles from their origin.
- » Birds, insects and butterflies consume nectar or seeds of dandelions.
- » Honey from bees pollinating dandelions is quite delicious.
- » Dandelion flowers do not need to be pollinated to form seeds.
- » Root of dandelion can be used as a substitute for coffee.
- » Dandelion is used in folk medicine to treat infections and liver disorders.
- » Tea made of dandelion acts as a diuretic.
- » If you know dandelions, they’ll grow shorter stalks to spite you. (Right!)
- » Dandelions are quite possibly the most successful plants that exist. They are masters of survival worldwide.



Written/compiled by Jo Angelos, CR. Reprinted from 07/2024
Rose Herald, Tri-Cities RS, Kennewick-Pasco-Richland (WA).



Black Soldier Fly

Beneficials...Who Knew???

For years, I have had friends at my house for Bunco. During the warm months they saw these flying insects in my home by my kitchen windows. YIKES! was generally the reaction from these stalwart women....WASPS!!!

All I knew is that they frequently got into our sunroom, and I caught them in a very scientific way....two plastic cups, scooping them up and setting them free outside. They never learn, however, they keep coming back in. I knew that they weren't wasps as they were not at all aggressive and never had I been stung. Still, I had no idea what these small black wasp-type critters were.

Fast forward to this year. I had the bright (or so I thought) idea of putting our birdseed in old coolers so that squirrels and other seed loving rodents couldn't get to it. Need I say it didn't work. Not only did our sharp toothed friends get through the skimpy plastic of our puny coolers, there was, obviously, a flying creature who found a way to enter my fortress and lay its eggs.

How did we know? I opened the lid and found, to my disgust (can deal with black snakes in my bathroom and guestroom....another story) but MAGGOTS (actually larvae)? No thank you! They undo me. Not being a total wimp and cheap as well, I thought, hmm, we can still use the seed and give them an extra treat!

Needless to say, the birds not only loved the gift, but we are still getting thank you cards. The downside, unfortunately, is that the seeds quickly became unfit for feeding birds, so we had to dispose of the remaining (very expensive) seed.

But wait! There's more! I was curious as to what these wriggly (and obviously tasty) mag-goty creatures were.



Black Soldier Fly maggots

I recently purchased *Picture This*, an insect identification app for my phone. I cannot say it's as accurate as the plant app, but it is worth the money in my opinion.

The app said that they were the larvae of the Black Soldier Fly (*Hermetia illucens*). As a general

rule, I never trust one source of information, so I decided to research other areas to be certain that the information I had was legitimate.



Black Soldier Fly

So....off to Google I go. It turns out that Black Soldier Fly larvae is not only considered a delicacy by our garden birds but one that efficiently breaks down organic material, especially green matter. Their sole purpose in life is to find a mate and a place to lay their eggs (200 to 600 eggs at a time!), preferring warm, moist decaying matter such as rotting fruit, manure, and, as it turns out, wet sunflower seeds, etc.

The larvae can consume twice their body weight daily. Their chunky little bodies contain up to 43% protein and 35% fat which makes them popular with chicken farmers as a source of chicken feed. Studies have shown that there is a significant reduction of *E. coli* 0157:H7 and *Salmonella enterica* in hen manure after the larvae was added into the manure. The larvae can also be dried and used to feed exotic pets, pigs, and fish among other animals. Additionally, the BSFL (Black Soldier Fly larvae) will eat the larvae of other flies (houseflies and blowflies) which is definitely a plus.

Aside from use as chicken and other animal feed (human food as well but I refuse to go into that....the whole maggoty thing, you know), BSFL is one of the most efficient ways to quickly break down compost and may typically reduce the of compost by as much as 50%.

As rose gardeners there is one very important characteristic of the BSF....they do NOT eat plants. In fact, as adults they eat very little. A sip of nectar or if you are considering farming them...(yep, that's a thing) some water and a bit of sugar.

In conclusion, I will continue to gather my "waspy-looking" friends and send them on their way to go forth and prosper. We did, however, get rid of the coolers and purchased an aluminum can in which to store our birdseed. If you are interested in learning more about BSF and their offspring, go to Google and type in "Black Soldier Fly beneficial".

 Rita Van Lenten, reprinted from 082024
Greenville Rose Bud, Greater Greenville RS.



Tour of Francis Roses

ELOY, Ariz. — Rose Society of Tucson members were given a rare opportunity to view one of the largest and most sophisticated rose growing farms in the world at Francis Roses in Eloy, Arizona on January 11th.

Nearly 75% of all rose bushes in the USA are started in Arizona. Our desert landscape and temperature consistency make our state a prime location to produce new roses commercially. Arizona has four major producers, and Francis Roses owns the largest market share.

The business employs over 200 workers and sells rose bushes to nurseries and wholesalers throughout the world.

This is stunning when you consider that owner Tyler Francis sold the old farm location of Francis Roses in west Phoenix several years ago. He then purchased the Eloy farm site. It had no water, electricity or gas and only two rundown buildings. But the property did have plenty of soil which was previously used for cotton farming.

Francis Roses currently grows more than 10 million plants annually on 2,000 acres, the largest rose growing operation outside of China. The farm generates the same revenue as 10,000 acres of cotton which is staggering in its own right.

At any given time, Francis Roses grows about 400 varieties of roses and evaluates another 400-600 varieties of roses to determine their disease resistance, fragrance and color.

All plants at his farm are irrigated with water, and they are able to inject a proprietary fertilizer into irrigation water for steady growth until the plants are two years old and harvested.



Tyler Francis (far right) owner of Francis Roses, points to E'Ana Bordon (Chief Operating Officer of Francis Roses)



Since his farm in Eloy is in a water management district, he is not allowed to use water to irrigate his plants in a haphazard, wasteful manner. All water use is monitored. He actually uses less water now even though his farm is much larger than the old farm west of Phoenix.

"We use surface and groundwater for irrigation," said Francis.

"The entire farm is connected through a series of pipes and canals that is directed to a pond which we call the sump. The sump is essentially a water loop for the farm...so we can take tail water from a field, store it and pump it to anywhere on the entire 2,000 acre farm. Any water that penetrates the soil is feeding the plants or replenishing the aquifer.

"We don't have a series of tanks that collect the water but rather a pond where we are able to collect excess water when the soil is 100 percent saturated."

Tyler said the ideal time to water roses during the summer is at 4PM when temperatures soar over 100° because the roots desperately need to be cooled off at that time. They don't lose many roses using this watering method and other time-honored horticulture practices. They also utilize a propriety soil mix to maintain moisture in the soil which is vital in the Central Arizona desert.

Continued on page 16



Tour of Francis Roses, continued from page 15

Only 60 minutes north of Eloy is Phoenix which had 143 days of 100°+ heat during the summer of 2024. Phoenix had a 113-day streak of 100° days last summer, an all-time high. Incredibly, Phoenix had 80 days with temperatures of 110° or higher last summer which set a record. The temperatures at Francis Roses in Eloy mirror what Phoenix experiences.

Chip Budding Utilized

Tyler said Francis Roses now uses chip-budding for its grafted roses, instead of the old technique of T-budding.

Francis Roses has six cold storage rooms set at a constant 33° on the property that contain budwood from different varieties to make 12 million plants.

"Each two-man team can chip-bud approximately 4,000-6,000 plants per day," said Francis.

In the past workers would hand plant 9" tall stems of *Dr. Huey* understock six inches apart in rows.



Freshly dug bare root roses

"It was a time consuming process and difficult on their backs, as workers had a 6" piece of PVC pipe in one hand to measure between stems in the soil and *Dr. Huey* stems in the other hand to plant them."

He said his operation is more automated now than in the past, since tomato planting machines place 9" tall stems of *Dr. Huey* understock in the soil six inches apart.

"They have a 99% success take rate," said Tyler.



Digging Up Roses

"*Dr. Huey* stems are obtained from the University of California-Davis Virus Indexing Program which are nearly free of rose mosaic virus. On rare occasions, this virus shows up on leaves of plants on our farm."

But due to a sophisticated quality control program at Francis Roses, these bushes are identified and taken out of production immediately when spotted. Tyler does not want even one rose to be sold that is infected with rose mosaic virus. That is a difficult goal but one he strives for.

When 2-year-old bare root roses are harvested from the field, they are brought to a warehouse that has 100% humidity and kept cool, as misters kick on through the day to retain high humidity. The microclimate in this warehouse is so well designed that some of the bare root roses even begin growing despite not being in soil, if stored too long.

Tyler said that he is backing a new retail bare root rose sales enterprise for the general public called April & Ashley Roses (www.aprilandashley.com) which ships roses directly to your home. One of the new roses is called *Barbara's Baby*, which is a high centered hybrid tea similar in



Freshly harvested roses

color to *Hot Princess*. My wife Diane just purchased one. It is a rose discovered in Barbara Streisand's home garden. Tyler was extremely excited about this new variety.



Bundling Up Roses From Field



Tour of Francis Roses, continued from page 16

History of Francis Roses

Tyler is a fourth-generation farmer. In 1989, Michael Francis founded Francis Roses on a 10-acre plot in the West Valley of Phoenix AZ. yielding 200,000 plants in his first crop.

Tyler, who is now the Chief Executive Officer who runs the show at Francis Roses, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona and a Masters of Applied Economics from Southern Methodist University. He once taught an Economics Class at SMU.

Years ago in his fourth year as a grower, Tyler used his business background to imprint major changes to the Arizona rose industry. He designed the first ever underground drip irrigation system for roses in Arizona and has implemented more sustainable precision farming techniques in moves to make his farm "green" over the years



Budwood storage

 *Lou Pavlovich,
RST Past President*



RST Membership Fees Due!

The Rose Society of Tucson is currently accepting 2025 membership dues. Payment should be made by **February 1, 2025** to ensure you continue to receive our newsletter, the *Thrip Hater*.

Dues are \$20/household.

Please fill out the form below. Make your check payable to **The Rose Society of Tucson** and mail it to our Treasurer at:

Chris Murphy
4115 East Sixth St.
Tucson AZ 85711

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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All about Rose Bud Eyes

Experienced rosarians sometimes use terminology to talk to others about roses that is mysterious to the new rose grower. One of these terms is “bud eye,” as in “cut above the bud eye” or “cut back to the second bud eye.” Asking questions about terms that sound simple or are so casually used by other rose lovers may be intimidating to someone who has started their exploration with rose culture. But knowing what a bud eye is and how it impacts rose growth is important. References to bud eyes show up often when talking about caring for rose bushes.

What is a bud eye? Other than basal breaks that come from the crown of the bush, this small bump that appears on a rose cane or at the base of a leaf is the only place that new growth in the plant can occur. Within this small growth are the beginnings of a new cane or flower.

Some Science

A little botany is necessary to explain the production of bud eyes. Plants contain clusters of cells called meristems. These cells will divide to



The axil area of the leaf and stem is where axillary buds form. Above, the bud eye is just starting to swell.

produce different types of growth, depending on where they are on the bush. Root and stem apical meristems occur at the end of the roots or stems (apical means apex, or end) and are the engines of new growth. The development of bud eyes depends on stem apical meristem cells which produce the vegetative growth of the bush.

There are three types of bud eyes. Terminal bud eyes occur at the end of stems and canes. Axillary bud eyes grow along the canes in between the stem

and a leaf, the axil area. Adventitious bud eyes appear at sites other the terminal or axillary position. Terminal buds contain hormones called

auxins which push growth going up rather than branching out. These auxins suppress the growth of axillary buds further down the stem. If the terminal bud is cut off, its auxins disappear and the axillary buds will begin to grow, resulting in lateral canes on the plant.

Although vegetative growth is desirable, flowers represent the ultimate goal of the plant, to reproduce. What triggers the switch from vegetative growth to reproductive growth in the meristem cells? A combination of the genes specific to that variety, plant hormones and environmental factors dictate this change, known as the floral transition.

Environmental conditions can dominate biological processes in the plant. Photoreceptors in the leaves sense colors in the light spectrum, especially far-right red, that humans can barely see. Sunlight contains 20% farright



The bud eye is growing into a bud that will become a flower.

An adventitious bud eye can grow directly on a cane. Notice the vegetation scar below the bud eye. When pruning, if an axillary bud is not available, cutting above a scar to where the bud eye would be can waken dormant bud eye tissue.



red. Research shows that increases in these light waves increase photosynthesis and promote flowering. One study concluded that “rapidity of flowering was promoted by both light intensity and temperature.”

Flowers serve the purpose of attracting pollinators with color and fragrance. When weather is not conducive to the arrival of pollinators, roses aren’t going to waste their biggest attractants, despite biological factors that may think it’s time to bloom.

Continued on page 19



All about Rose Bud Eyes, continued from page 18

Once the plant has developed enough vegetative growth of leaves and canes, the biological signals and environmental conditions direct energy into growing floral bud eyes. During the first bloom of pruned roses, development of vegetative bud eyes slows or stops; after bloom and deadheading, axillary buds at the base of leaves grow, increasing foliage.



A tiny floral bud eye protected by surrounding leaves.

Practical Applications

The science behind the development of bud eyes may not interest the gardener, but these little centers of growth have an influence on rose care. When deadheading or cutting blooms, the recommended practice is to cut the stem back to a bud eye that is developing at the base of a five-leaflet stem. The reason five-leaflets are preferred is because the cane is larger to support this leaf growth and the bud eye may be healthier and larger. It's best to choose an outward facing bud eye because the lateral growth that emerges will grow away from the center of the plant.

Deadheading is important because it will remove the auxin from the tip of the stem, allowing other buds to grow, either as laterals or flowers. If the spent flower makes seed, the plant has achieved its growth objective and will cut back its blooming.

Bud eyes are important when pruning. Cut back canes to an outward facing axillary bud eye so the cane will not grow into the center of the plant. When pruning back a climber, the standard advice is to cut back to the second bud eye on a lateral cane. Doing this not only removes the terminal bud on the lateral, but also provides opportunity for the new growth to develop, with new floral bud eyes.

Finally, if there is no axillary bud eye visible where the cut should be made, often a dormant, adventitious bud eye is visible, alone on the cane, perhaps above a scar left by past vegetative growth.

An adventitious bud eye that sprouts underground from the root mass produces a sucker, a cane from the root stock variety. It is important to tear the sucker off, creating injury at the base so the growth center of the bud eye is destroyed. Otherwise, the unwanted cane will regrow. It is possible for a cane to grow a good bit and never develop floral buds at the end. This condition is called "blindness;" the remedy is to cut the cane back to an outward facing bud eye further down the stem.

Sometimes bud eyes may need to be removed, preferably gently, with a finger. When floral bud eyes are developing, many varieties sprout additional buds, next to the larger, main bud. If a larger single bloom is the goal, these little side buds should be removed, early in their development. Or, if the plant is genetically prone to developing clusters of buds and a spray of blooms is the objective, the removal of the center, primary bud will allow the other buds to bloom simultaneously. This pruning is less obvious when the buds are small, just out of the bud eye stage, and no scar or gap is left behind.

Finally, bud eyes are important when grafting a rose. One of the easiest and fastest way to graft roses onto root stock is to attach a piece of plant tissue with a bud eye onto a cane from the root stock plant. The bud eye will produce new growth of the variety it came from. The area where the root stock and the new growth join is called the bud union because it is where the bud eye unites with the root stock.

Bud eyes are the beginning of new growth, either vegetative or floral. They are important to understand when caring for roses. Recognizing what they are and how to work with them is one more way to improve rose growth and bloom.



The floral transition has directed the bud eye in this leaf axil to become a flower, rather than more foliage.



Fun Facts About Thrips

Did you notice darkened edges or just a dirty look of your lighter colored rose petals last fall? Were you wondering what was causing that dirty look?

The discoloration was caused by a very tiny slender bug called thrips. It doesn't matter if there is one or many, they, or it, is still called thrips with the 's'. Thrips have a very unusual life cycle. After the egg stage they have two larval stages when feeding occurs and there might be one, two, or three pupa stages where no feeding occurs.

As our fall and winter months approach, thrips will hibernate as adults in hollow stems or in the ground. They need some protection from extreme winter cold. They also find solace on the underside of leaves up against the leaf vein or in cracks or crevices of branches.



Photo: Caroline Fredette

Thrips damaged bloom



Mild thrips damage

Photo: Rich Baer

Who preys upon or feeds on thrips? This would include other thrips, mites, and birds. However, dust, winds and heavy rains are just as disruptive to thrips as any predator.

If you had a severe infestation of thrips last fall and the result bothered you, you will probably want to be proactive next spring. I

have never done anything as a preventive for them; however I have given it some thought. The reasoning is I have never had a rampant issue of them so I haven't bothered to take any action.

However, as I mentioned, if you are bothered by the look of the discoloration, you can use an insecticidal soap spray, Neem Oil or some other product of your choice that controls insects. All that is necessary is to just spritz the bud right before the color begins to show and continue as the sepals (those are the green triangle-shaped protective cover of the bud) begin to pull away from the petals. Just follow the directions on whatever the product you choose to use.

This photo shows the sepals already pulled away from the petals. You would want to begin your "spritzing" of the bud prior to this stage. Thrips do not only bother the lighter colored blooms but all rose colors. It's just a little harder to see the damage on darker colored roses and they don't always cause damage to every bloom in your garden.

Bottom line, if you haven't already guessed, thrips are not friends of your garden. Thrips are rather interesting when you consider their non-conventional life cycle, but they are not something you want to encourage to set up house in your garden.



Photo: Caroline Fredette

Thrips free and proud

 Caroline Fredette. Reprinted from 2024 Summer Rose Petals_Seattle RS, Caroline Fredette, Editor



How to Propagate Rose Cuttings

I have experimented with many different methods of propagating roses by rooting cuttings over the past 30 years. Some methods were miserable failures, some were fairly good, and others were excellent. The more I researched how to root cuttings, the more I got confused and frustrated, and the less successful my methods were.

It seems that no matter what I did, even with an elaborate automatic misting box, I could not get my success rate over 50%, and sometimes it would fall to 30% and lower depending on the method I used. I asked myself what I was doing wrong.

Over the years, I often spent time researching information on an Internet propagating forum, trying to improve my skills for rooting roses from cuttings (sometimes called “cloning”). I read what others around the world have been doing in their methods. I tried several methods I had read about, but almost all were a waste of my time. I tried a new rooting medium and a different rooting hormone.

I learned that what works for one person, does not necessarily work for everybody. This is partly due to growing climates and zones. What works for somebody in the southeast region where the weather is very humid, does not work for me in Southern California where the sun can intensely bake at 110 degrees dry heat during the summer, so the humidity level is extremely low.

So I took all the information I’d accumulated about propagating roses by cuttings, reviewed my past experiences, evaluated each step, and developed methods that are more successful for me in my location. Important factors to consider are the time of year, rooting medium, using rooting hormones (or not), slicing the stem at the bottom (or not), misting or putting in a bottle or bag, sunlight or shade, and even the



*Rooting Multiple Rose Cuttings
in a 4" Pot*

rose variety itself. I would now like to share with you my updated method, which absolutely amazed me by providing a 95% success rate for most rose varieties.

Misting Box, Bags and Bottles

As of 2018 I decided to discontinue using my misting box for taking cuttings. After struggling with it for 20 years, it has become too complicated and unreliable. It’s a small box that holds two standard size nursery flats, enough for at least 100 cuttings in 2- inch pots.

The very expensive Mist-aMatic mister operates on a solenoid valve that turns on automatically when the paddle becomes dry. The mister turns on often throughout the day. Our frequent breezes and winds caused the Mist-a-Matic to be unreliable.

I have also tried a misting stick on a hose and timer, bags, and bottles. I did not have success with those methods.

The idea is to keep the rose cuttings moist at all times, but the rooting medium (soil) needs to drain well.

Growing/Potting Soil

I evaluated the rooting medium, which I feel is very important for success. I did not like sand, vermiculite, or peat moss for rooting mediums because they did not work for me. The 50/50% blend of potting soil and perlite works the best for me. This blend is light and airy and allows the cut rose stem to “breathe.” The cuttings remain moist while at the same time the soil drains well.

Wounding/Scraping the Stem

Next, I evaluated whether or not it was necessary to slice or scrape the bottom of the stem of each rose cutting. Sometimes referred to as “wounding the stem” there are different ways to do it. Some people just smash the end of the stem with a hammer or blunt tool, others make a thin cut along the stem with a knife, and still

Continued on page 22



How to Propagate Rose Cuttings, continued from page 21

others cut the stem at a high angle instead of just a straight cut.

The idea is to have as much surface area as possible at the bottom of the stem for new roots to grow. My cuttings are much more successful when I scrape the sides of each stem about 1" from the bottom.

I always take time to slice a small strip off of the cambium layer at the bottom of each stem. For miniatures I take one narrow slice, about 1/8-inch wide and 1/2-inch long at the bottom of each stem with a sharp X-Acto knife. For larger stems such as hybrid teas and shrubs, I make two 1-inch slices on opposite sides of each stem.



*Stem Cut at Angle and
Sides Scraped*

Rooting Hormone

Another important factor is whether or not to use a rooting hormone to aid the cutting to successfully root. In the past I had been lazy and had not used any hormone. Other times I had used powdered RooTone, or liquid Dip 'n' Grow (too much trouble to mix up a batch).

Neither of those hormones worked well for me, and not using any hormone was even less successful. So, I researched various brands of rooting hormones and decided to try Hormex #8 powder (.8% Indole-3-butyric acid, IBA).



*Hormex #8 Rooting
Hormone*

Hormex #8 works very well for me. There is also Hormex #3 available but the stronger Hormex #8 works better for propagating roses. I have also tried Clonex Rooting Gel and it works great.



*Clonex
Rooting Gel*

Sunlight Required

Rose cuttings need plenty of sunlight in order for them to root. Eight or more hours a day is needed. If you try to root roses during hot weather, you will need to provide them with filtered sunlight. During early spring, the cuttings can be placed in full sun. Just make sure to keep them watered so they can produce roots.



Fully-Rooted Rose Cutting

Preparing the Cuttings

To save space, I often use the "community" method of taking rose cuttings. This is when you place multiple cuttings of the same rose variety all in one pot. For small miniature rose varieties, I put nine cuttings in one 3" or 4" plastic pot, three rows of three, evenly spaced about 1" apart. For larger varieties such as hybrid teas, I put six stems per pot. This allows sufficient space around each cutting so that they can be separated and repotted after they become fully rooted.

I place 1" of lightly moistened 50/50% potting soil and perlite in the pot and tamp it down hard at the bottom of the pot. This is done to prevent the cutting from touching the bottom of the pot, and helps to prevent air pockets that would make it more difficult for the cutting to root.

Loosely fill the pot all the way to the top, to the point of overflowing, with more of the lightly moistened (not wet) potting soil mixture. Take your prepared cuttings, which are soaking in a cup of water (stems cut about 4" to 6" long, flowers removed, all but the top two sets of leaves removed, stem sliced at the bottom) and dip the bottom half-inch of the stem into the Hormex #8 powder.

Shake off excess powder, and stick the cutting into the loose potting soil mixture. After all the stems (however many you want to place in your pot) are stuck into the soil, then lightly

Continued on page 23



How to Propagate Rose Cuttings, continued from page 22

tamp down the soil around all the cuttings. Insert a plastic label in the pot with the name of the rose variety and the date of the cutting. Then completely water the soil mixture that the cuttings are in and place the pot into sunlight.

Best Time to Root Rose Cuttings

Certain times of the year are more beneficial for taking rose cuttings. However, since Southern California weather is relatively mild much of the year, taking cuttings can sometimes be done nearly year round. I have tried all seasons. Freezing weather of course is not good, and 117° in summer can certainly be a challenge for cuttings to root before dehydrating. I've had very good results taking cuttings in January before I prune my roses, and the milder weather of late spring and late fall is ideal.

In the wintertime, the rose cuttings can take longer than normal to root, but after 12 weeks they should be well rooted. Don't pull the cuttings out to see if they are rooting. Better to see if the roots are coming out the bottom of the pot.

During cool weather of late fall through early spring (in Southern regions) there is no need to put the rose cuttings under mist.

I have placed cuttings in small pots directly out in the sun during mild weather and they have successfully rooted. You do need to water them every day if weather is warm and dry. You could even just stick them directly into the ground. I have rooted cuttings of many types of roses, such as various antique roses, floribundas, miniatures, minifloras, climbers, and polyanthas. Sometimes a certain variety is difficult to root, so don't give up if some rose refuses to easily root.

 Kitty Belendez, MR, reprinted from 11/2024 Rose Ecstasy, Santa Clarita RS., Kitty Belendez, MR, Editor. All photos: Kitty Belendez.

My Hubby the Gardener (An updated lament)



He dug the plot on Monday
the soil was rich and fine.
He forgot to thaw out dinner
so we went out to dine...
He planted roses Tuesday,
he says they are a must,
They really were quite lovely
but he forgot to mow.
On Wednesday it was daisies
that open with the sun,
All whites and pinks and yellows
but the weeding wasn't done!
The poppies came on Thursday,
a bright and cheery red.
I guess he really was engrossed,
he never washed the car.
The violets on Friday
in colors he adores,
It never bothered him at all
all the dirt upon the floors.
I hired a handyman on Saturday,
my week is now complete,
My hubby can garden all he wants
the place will still be neat!
It's nearly lunchtime Sunday
and I cannot find the handyman,
Oh No! I don't believe it!
He's outside with the spade!

*Adapted from New Zealand Rose Annual 1995,
courtesy of North Harbor DRS.*

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Consulting Rosarians are rose growers who have met the qualifications set by the **American Rose Society**. They are here to help you with your rose growing problems. Call on them when you have any questions.

Pat Colburn	720 / 530-3594
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