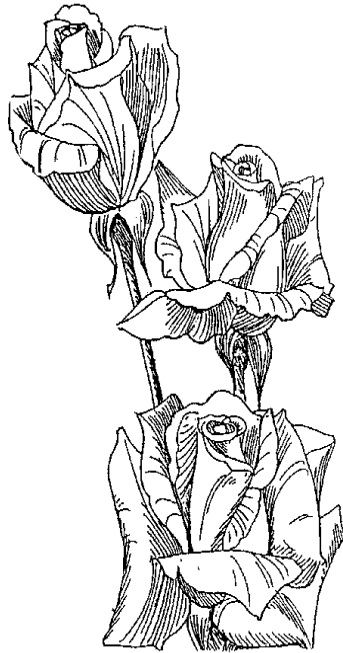


The Rose Vine

April, 2009
Volume 43, Issue 2

Penn-Jersey District of the American Rose Society's quarterly newsletter

A Great Year Ahead



Rusty '83

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subscription information
inside on Page 2.**



WooHoo – blooms in 40 days!

Orthodoxy

The formula for growing good roses was always simple for me. Pruning, lots of fertilizer, water and chemicals. Simple but effective (simple as in not complicated, not simple as in workload or \$ load.)

Now other simple formulas are cropping up as more people try more (pick your favorite) “green”, “organic”, “sustainable” methods. Vintage Garden’s December Newsletter (downloadable at www.vintagegardens.com) contains an interesting article by Gregg Lowery on pruning and rose care. He is advocating very minimal pruning and presents his arguments well. He is also advocating letting dead rose leaves lie in the beds to compost naturally, let natural rainfall suffice for established bushes and, in general, use a more hands off approach. I know, I know, the

first thing you say is “It’s California, they have no blackspot!” But they do have rust and powdery mildew so the approach has merit.

The “Earth Kind” roses are being promoted as low maintenance. Shrub roses undergoing trials at the AARS test gardens are to be grown “spray free.” And, of course, Knockout is the rose to plant and let nature take its course. The Knockout roses have certainly changed the prescription (and perspective) for growing roses.

So the opportunity is there this year for you to try some different methods. Maybe more organics, less spraying, more judicious use of water. I know it will be difficult for me when it is two weeks before a show and paranoia sets in.

But as the primary promoters of private garden roses, we must be able to “talk the talk..”

When we talk to someone who is interested in growing roses in a “green” manner, what experiences can we draw on to help them without using the “K” word. We must have knowledge from gardens where we have seen these methods first hand. The place to start is at home. So try a few tests in your roses this year and record the results.

Kevin

Subscription Notice

The Penn-Jersey District would like to deliver the *RoseVine* to all members via email. If you received this copy of the *RoseVine* through the U.S. Mail and would like to receive the *RoseVine* via email, please send an email to Elaine Adler at eladler@sourcecodecorp.com and we will update our emailing lists.

If you received this copy of the *RoseVine* through the U.S. Mail and would like to continue receiving the *RoseVine* via U.S. Mail, please complete the form below and mail to:

Elaine Adler
1408 Ponds Edge Rd.
West Chester, PA 19382

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Consulting Rosarian School

The Philadelphia Rose Society will host a Consulting Rosarian school May 23, 2009. At Fellowship Hall, 1st floor, Paoli Presbyterian Church 225 South Valley Road Paolo, PA 19302. Consulting Rosarians need to renew their certification every four years. Anyone interested in becoming a Consulting Rosarian must have been an ARS member for three years and provide three letters of recommendation. You will also need to purchase a CR manual from the ARS prior to the school. Any one interested should contact me at jrsyrose@verizon.net or 609-267-3809 and I will update you with the information need to attend.

Gus Banks

CONSULTING ROSARIAN SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration – CR School on May 23, 2009

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail: _____

Registration \$15.00 \$ _____

CR Test \$10.00 \$ _____
(Candidates only)

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to **Philadelphia Rose Society** and mail to Patricia Bilson, 127 Gable Rd Paoli, PA 19301 by May 20th.

NOTE: Individuals attending the school must have a copy of the CR Manual. Manuals **will not** be available for purchase at the school. They must be purchased directly from the ARS.

From the District Director's Desk

Penn Jersey held another great Winter Rose Getaway in Lancaster in February. Our enthusiastic thanks to Gus Banks for organizing the Convention, to Pat Bilson for acting as Registrar, to Mary and Bill Slade for our wonderful Hospitality Suite, and, as always, to Marion and Henry Forstenhausler for the entertaining and profitable raffle. And another word of thanks to Donna Smith for donating the lovely throw which was another welcome fund raiser.

At the Business Meeting it was decided to purchase the digital projector which Kevin Glaes had located. Kevin, Gus Banks and Tom Mayhew will come up with a set of regulations for use of the projector by District Societies. Penn Jersey will make a \$300 donation to the ARS in memory of a past District Director. This year the District will honor Marcie Aughenbaugh who died in 2008. It was also decided to make a donation to the ARS in memory of all District rosarians who passed away during the year. Iliana Okum has agreed to take over Bill Sehl's job as Penn Jersey Membership Chair. The 2009 District Directory is available and has been sent to all officers and Society Presidents. Anyone who needs a copy by email, please let me know.

Because RoseVine expenses have been averaging nearly \$500 per issue, the policy of mailing it to all ARS members in the District was re-examined. The RoseVine will be sent by email to all ARS members who have an email address and to anyone else requesting it, without charge. It will be sent by email to all Society presidents with a request that they distribute to their members. New ARS members in the District without email addresses will receive a paper copy for one year. Anyone attending the Winter Rose Getaway may request a paper copy at no charge. Anyone else requesting a paper copy will be charged \$10 a year.

The Trophy Committee reported the following changes: 1. the Hooker will be retired; 2. the Philadelphia Rose Society Seedling Trophy will be for all seedlings (not just HT's), and the J. Benjamin Williams Trophy will be offered for six exhibition MiniFlorals. Complete rules will be in the schedule for the Fall District Convention in Cherry Hill.

This is an election year for the American Rose Society. Those who are members of the ARS will find the ballot in the current issue of the *American*

Rose magazine. The two candidates for ARS Vice President, Bob Martin and Jolene Adams, attended our Winter Rose Getaway and participated in a Town Hall discussion moderated by Gus Banks. Both have websites if you would like to learn more about them and their ideas for the future of the ARS – www.bobmartinarsvp.com and www.jolene4vp.com. Jeff Wyckoff, current VP, will become President at the ARS Fall Convention in Palm Springs in November.

If there were multiple candidates for District Director of Penn Jersey and Regional Director of Region 1 (NY, PA, DE) or Region 0 (New England and NJ), they would also be on the ballot. Since there was only one candidate for each office, Kevin Glaes will be the new Penn Jersey Director, Clarence Rhodes will Region 0 Director, and I will be the Region 1 Director. New officers become official as of the November ARS Convention, however, Penn Jersey will announce its new officers at our Fall Convention in September.

Penn Jersey elected Nancy Redington to another term as the District Member of the National Nominating Committee (DMNNC) at the Winter Rose Getaway in February. The DMNNC also serves as the Chairman of the Silver Honor Committee for the District. The process of selecting a Silver Honor Medal winner for 2009 is already in progress.

The Pittsburgh Rose Society has agreed to host the District Convention in 2010. A host is needed for the 2011 Convention. As you know, our Societies take turns – next in the rotation are Reading-Berks, SPARS, North Jersey and Garden State.

The calendar says "Spring". My garden says, no, not yet. However, the forsythia is finally blooming, so I've been out there, pruners in hand. Since the coldest weather came when there was no snow cover many of my hybrid teas were badly damaged and will be pruned very low. They probably will not be in full bloom until after the rose shows – so, another year with nothing but shrubs and OGR's. I hope you all plan to come to the Spring Shows, to exhibit or judge or just enjoy. And put the September convention on your calendar!

Elaine

From the Arrangement Judges Chair

Judges and anyone interested - we are applying to ARS National for permission to hold a design symposium for renewal of ARS Arrangement Judges and anyone who wants to learn more about designing. The symposium will be held Friday, September 11th as a part of the PJ Fall District Convention hosted by the West Jersey Rose Society. There will be a line on the convention registration form to sign up and a fee will be charged for flowers and lunch. Details will be available as we get closer. We will be studying Miniature designs, so bring a selection of small containers. There will be a discussion of staging as well as doing miniature designs in Traditional, Modern, and Oriental styles. Mini Princess and Mini Duchess designs will also be covered.

General tips for both designers and hort people.

Want to make more of your horticulture? Consider bringing your roses inside. This is one way of gauging how fast they open, so you can cut them just right for the horticulture section of the show. Design and horticulture go hand in hand. The most points in design go to quality roses so growing the best you can and keeping them the best you can are a major components of both horticulture and design.



Arrangement by Georgie Papale
Rose: Pierrine
Photo by Tom Mayhew

We all know that you cut your roses early in the morning or later at night when the sugar content is highest in the plants. We all know that we want to make sure the roses are full of water, so we watch the skies and if it does not rain, we deep water the plants 3 days before we need them. When we go out to the garden, we take a CLEAN pail of warm water, cut the rose, immediately place it in the water, LABEL the roses (all pink roses look alike in the show room). We put the bucket in a cool dark place for several hours. We then recut the stem (under water if possible) and place it in conditioned water and store until the show.

The only difference at this point between hort and design is the length of the stem, the openness of the bloom, and the straightness of the stem. In design - crooked stems are fun and interesting, we can use all stages of bloom including an unopened bud, and if we plan carefully we can cut only the length of stem we need, and sometimes that is not long at all. In horticulture - bad leaves push a great bloom to the picture frame, floating, or English box classes. In design, we can use other foliage to hide naked stems; we would never leave bad foliage on a bloom, as that is points off.

See, horticulture and design are not so different after all. Designers can put "other stuff" with their flowers but the rose must shine over all.

We have a great opportunity to see great designs and designers from other areas at the Mini National Rose Show. Put that date on your calendar. The York Area is not far and would make a great mini vacation. Hope to see you there.

Pat Bilson
PJ District Chairman of Arrangement Judges.

Notes From The District Chairman of Horticulture Judges

Bruce Monroe, District Chairman of Horticulture Judges
Telephone: 302-478-5733. Email: professor@katiegirl.net

Horticultural Judging School and Audit

A Horticultural Judging School will be held in conjunction with the 2007 District Convention. The judging school will be on Friday, September 11, with the practical exam scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, September 12, after the show has been judged.

The School is open to all who would like to learn more about rose judging, not just to members of the Penn-Jersey District. However, only American Rose Society members who fulfill the requirements to become horticultural judges are eligible to take the exam.

Accredited judges are required to attend an at least four-hour judging audit at least once every four years. Please check the list of judges on the ARS website or contact me if you are uncertain as to whether you are required to attend. The audit will be held on Friday afternoon.

Judges who are not currently required to audit should consider auditing the school anyway so they will not be required to attend the Judging School two years from now. The audit is open to all judges, not just to judges who are members of the Penn-Jersey District.

Judging the 2007 District Show

Please let me know if you would like to judge the 2007 District show. Following the judge's breakfast, judging will begin at about 10:30 AM on Saturday, September 11.

Requirements for Becoming an Apprentice Horticultural Judge

In addition to attending a judging school and passing the judges exam, the requirements for becoming an apprentice horticultural judge include:

- Must have been a member of the ARS for 36 consecutive months immediately preceding application.
- Must have grown garden roses for five years.
- Must have exhibited roses for at least three years and won at least five blue ribbons and at least two ARS certificates.
- Must have worked as a clerk in at least three rose shows.

Please contact me if you would like more information and/or are interested in attending and becoming judges.

Anyone who wants to take the judge's exam should fill out the APPLICATION FOR APPRENTICE ROSE JUDGE CERTIFICATE and return it to the American Rose Society at the indicated address. Please contact me for a copy of the form. The form can also be downloaded from the ARS website. Please let me know you are applying so I will know how many people to expect.



Photo Contest Results from the Winter Rose Get-A-Way

- Class 1 – Novice Class – One photo, appropriate for any of Classes 2-11.- **Flawless**- Gus Banks
 Class 2 – One Exhibition Bloom, Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora, or Floribunda- **Gemini**- Tom Mayhew & **1st Place Overall**
 Class 3 – One Exhibition Bloom, Miniature or Miniflora- **Bees Knees**- Tom Mayhew
 Class 4 – One Open Bloom, HT, GR, or FL- **Priscilla Burton**(Summer)- Tom Mayhew
 Class 5 – One Open Bloom, Miniature or Miniflora- **My Sunshine**- Tom Mayhew
 Class 6 – One Spray, HT, GR, FL, Polyantha, Miniature or Miniflora- **Sweet Dream**- Julia Saurbaugh & **3rd Place Overall**
 Class 7 – One Exhibition Bloom or Spray, Species or Old Garden Rose- **Complicata**- Kathleen Lapergola
 Class 8 - One Exhibition Bloom or Spray, Shrub or Climber- **Golden Wings**- Kathleen Lapergola & **2nd Place Overall**
 Class 9 - A Rose Arrangement- **Arrangement by Nancy Redington**- Tom Mayhew
 Class 10 – A Rose Garden- **Elizabeth Park Dorothy Perkins Rose**- Tom Mayhew
 Class 11 – A Rose Society Activity- **Jersey Shore Rose Society Trip to Elizabeth Park**- Mary Hahn



1st Place Overall – Gemini by Tom Mayhew



2nd Place Overall - Golden Wings by Kathleen Lapergola



3rd Place Overall - Sweet Dream by Julia Saurbaugh

And for next year

Several years ago, Bruce Monroe put together a slide show of members gardens for the Winter Rose Get-A-Way. It was fun to see other peoples gardens and the roses they grow. I would like to do it again at the next Winter Rose Get-A-Way. Please take digital pictures of your garden and then send them to me in late fall and I will put them into a Power Point presentation. Let me know (kevyg@frontiernet.net) over the next several months if you are planning to do this so I can plan accordingly

From the eMailbag

Questions for Giggles and Zeek

Dear Giggles: I was just asked to do an arrangement for our rose show and they gave me the schedule. I have lots of great roses and I kinda “arrange” flowers for my house. But I’m not sure what this thing is all about that I am supposed to do. It says “A traditional arrangement of arranger’s choice. What am I choosing from and why do I want to make that choice?”

First and foremost, have fun. Usually there will be a little more information in the schedule telling you what size it should be and some kind of a theme. It may even also say something about having to include stuff (like weathered wood) but I’m not going to get there yet. For now let’s just talk about the basics.

Traditional arrangements in flower shows, generally include the following three styles: Line, Line-Mass and Mass. Those words describe geometric shapes. A line is easy. It is a single path that has a beginning and end. It can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal or curvey. For the flower arrangement that means that there is usually one or more flowers somewhere close to the middle of the line and that it is at this point that the flower and line material are stuck into a vase. The line has to be continuous. No fair changing the direction of the line in the middle of the arrangement to make a “V”. It should be almost stark and maybe have a feeling of the roaring twenties. As I said, one exhibition staged bloom and maybe a couple of buds just next to the bloom but well within the visual outline of a “Line” and the line material extends outwards from the bloom which is at the focal point on the line. That is a rose arrangement in a Line style. A line design is NOT a line of roses all at the same stage of development in a vase. Hidden in the previous statements is the word vase. Lately we hear the word container used, indicating the thing you put the flowers into. I carefully and purposely chose the word vase. In Traditional style arrangements, you use a vase and not the all inclusive word container. You know a vase when you see it. It is the thing your grandmother used, the thing that the flowers come in from the florist. It is not

mistaken for a windmill, a geometric configuration of wires or wood. It can be tall, or short, or flatish (low bowl). It can be of pottery, crystal, silver or plastic. It can hold water for the live material that you are going to put in it. All the flowers and other plant material will come out of one opening. As some of my family would say: “It doesn’t look weird!”

Enough of that. The Line Mass Arrangement is a pregnant line. Don’t laugh; it is as simple as that. The Line Mass arrangement can be 3, 6, 8, or 9 months pregnant (or any month in between). That’s up to you. It is that “line design” with a bulge in it where the flowers are. Instead of one bloom and maybe a couple of buds extending up or down the line, you now have maybe an open or exhibition bloom, or an exhibition stage bloom and 4, 5 or 6 blooms that are not as fully opened as your ‘focal point’ bloom. And these blooms extend out from the bloom blending back into the slender line further up or down.



Arrangement by Nancy Redington
Photo by Tom Mayhew

If the “pregnant” line doesn’t quite make it for you. Think of a bow drawn to shoot an arrow. Think of how the middle is wider and it gets skinny at the ends. How wide it is in the middle depends on how far you have drawn back your bow. “How pregnant is your bow?” Now there is a concept.

The Mass arrangement can and often first attempts turn out to be a mess. Folks often try and stuff everything they have into the vase to make sure they have “enough.” A mass does mean a lot of stuff but, there needs to be a certain restraint in this style too, it should have an organized plan for all the components so that it appears to be somewhat evenly distributed with the different colors or types of material. *Danger, danger Will Robinson!* I SAID somewhat evenly distributed. I DID NOT SAY exact distribution - Do not get out a ruler and start to measure things so that it appears that everything is like a polka dot on a canvas of green. It should appear like there is a pleasing garden in front of you, not a weed patch or a vacant lot.



Arrangement by Terry Palise
Photo by Tom Mayhew

One thing about a Mass design is that it has an exterior outline of a geometric form. The geometric forms I am referring to are circles, ovals, triangles and rectangles and squares. You get the idea.

Some forms are more pleasing than others. The usual forms we see are circles, ovals and most often triangles (either asymmetrical or isosceles.) All the stems of the material used in the design look like it they could have been held in one hand and placed in the vase. Again, I say that vase word.

To bring it all together. Traditional arrangements usually have a focal point (the place with the most important stuff – the perfect rose.) This focal point is usually at or near to the edge of the vase that is holding all the material. If you were to draw an outline around the outside of all the material in your arrangement (not including the vase) it should be a straight or curvey line, or some closed geometric shape: round, oval, triangle etc. All the stems of the material should appear that they are coming from one spot down in the vase and that they emerge from one opening. And as a visual help, you should not have a feeling that the stems are actually crossing giving the arrangement a “bad hair day” appearance.

Vases or (alright I will say it) containers should look like their design came out of an era of 50 plus years ago. Line designs might evoke a bit of the art deco or art nouveau period. And sometimes the art deco era’s container might also be used in a modern design. Let’s face it, line designs are a tad modern.

Traditional rose designs generally have rose blooms that go from stages of development from bud to open bloom, and the little buds are out at the ends. Traditional designs are naturalistic. These designs take material as it grows in nature and without too-too much manipulation create a pleasing grouping suitable for most living rooms, churches altars or night stands.

So now you know what these traditional arrangements are all about and to answer the “WHY?” do you want to make a choice. It might be you only have a few roses now you know you could make a line or a line-mass traditional arrangement. And the BIG WHY.

Because it IS fun and you are a fun-loving person. Hope this helps. See ya later, Giggles

And for pruning the OGRs....

Dear Zeek: I finally planted some OGRs last year. Now what do I do?

The first step in determining how to prune Old Garden Roses is to ask if it is a once bloomer or a repeat bloomer. The answer to this question determines your spring strategy. Most all of the once bloomer bloom on “old” wood, that is, canes that grew the previous year. If we were to treat them like a hybrid tea, cutting lower for larger blooms, we would be cutting off a lot of cane length where blooms would come forth. Since it is a once bloomer, we don’t want that.

Once we determine the type (one or repeat blooming), the next step is to determine growth habit. You generally cannot determine growth habit in the first year and in some cases the second year. That is why many good rosarians say wait until the third year for anything other than light pruning. If you have seen a mature bush of the variety in question, then you have an idea of it’s growth habit. If not, I recommend getting the Vintage Gardens catalog or going online to www.vintagegardens.com and looking at the intro to each rose class (Alba, Galicas, Hybrid Perpetuals, etc.) You may be surprised at the different growth habits that can be found in each class.

I have a group of OGRs out on the far edge of my property that I call the “free range” OGRs. They are not in a bed but scattered out in individual spots where they can grow to their full potential. At the front of this group are three of my favorites – Tuscany Superb, Leda and Charles de Mills. Those of you who know me know that Leda is my favorite rose, even though it is a once bloomer. Each of these three will send up slender canes to about 4 – 5 feet that will arch down as they become laden with blooms. To keep the canes off the ground and provide a more pleasing appearance, I take a 6 foot length of 2 x 3 mesh plastic coated fencing (Lowe’s at about 32.00 per 50 foot roll). I buy the 5 foot high fencing and cut it in half lengthwise and place this under the bush about $\frac{3}{4}$ out from the center. As the canes arch down, they are held to knee height and above. The younger canes will repeat this process and this provides a neat cascade of blooms.

The only thing I do for these three in the spring is to remove the support and prune out the smaller, twiggy dead growth at the bottom of the bush. Once done, I put the support back in place. Leda is a damask and just behind it are Isphahan and Autumn Damask. When you look at all three together without blooms and not looking closely at the foliage, you ask yourself “These are all Damasks?” There very different growth habits. Leda as I have said is to about 4 ½ feet with the canes arching down while Isphahan is more upright reaching 7 feet and Autumn Damask is a crazy bramble about 5 ½ feet by 4 feet (it would be more if I didn’t use some strong pruning after the first flush.) All I do for these is cut out the obvious dead growth and be prepared for some harder, pruning to shape in late June.



General Jack before pruning

The Hybrid Perpetuals are an interesting lot. Most of those I grow are the tall upright types and I prune these similar to hybrid teas although not as deeply. I tend to leave all the green wood on these. One in particular, Reine des Violettes, hardly gets prune at all. It is a Hybrid Perpetual, but it has a more lax, loose growth habit and doesn’t like pruning very much. When new canes arise, I let them get to about 4 feet in length and then use stakes and plastic tape to train the cane to the

horizontal about 2 – 3 feet off the ground. Not quite pegging, where the tip is anchored close to the ground, but more like training a climber to the horizontal. You get the same effect – instead of a long lax cane with a few blooms at the tip, you get bloom shoots breaking from every leaf axil along the cane.



Good spring pruning leads to a great display by General Jack.

I hope I'm the only rose nut trying to grow tea roses in Zone 6. Looking at the shape they are in right now, the only green wood I will have is what is buried under the protective soil mound. Teas don't like pruning to begin with and in Zone 6, with the winter we just had, pruning will be limited to cutting out the dead wood and that will be it for the year! Last year's mild winter actually forced me to do some spring pruning of other than dead wood but that is once in 8 years!

Portlands are another matter all together. Rose de Rescht wants to become a short dense bramble patch if left to its own. I find a good "opening up" in the spring and periodic pruning throughout the season are necessary to keep it in good bloom. Marbree is sparse compared to Rose de Rescht and so requires little pruning other than "tip" pruning – cutting the brown tips off last year's canes and down to a cane diameter that will support a small cluster of blooms.

I could go on and on but I think you get the point. OGRs are grouped into classes based on certain bloom and leaf characteristics but within the class, growth habits vary greatly and we must prune according to those characteristics rather than a one method works for all in class.

Zeek

News from the Web

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, California scientists dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, headlines in the *LA Times* newspaper read: "California archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later, *The Assumption Pioneer*, a local newspaper in Napoleonville, LA. Reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 feet in a cane field near Napoleonville, Boudreaux, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Boudreaux has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Louisiana had already gone wireless!"

Rose Midge – The Deadly Predator

By Gus Banks

Rose midge is a deadly predator of roses. A severe infestation can wipe out your entire rose crop for the growing season. In order to prevent this problem an exception to good Integrated Pest Management must be made. IPM suggests that you wait until you see the damage and then react with the lowest level of treatment. I believe that if you follow this type of pest management for the rose midge you will lose many if not all of your rose blooms. Early and regular preventive spraying with the correct insecticide solves this problem.

Midge is the common name for any minute fly that resembles small mosquitoes. The rose midge is related to the small, bloodsucking sand flies that are common to many beaches and sandy areas. The rose midge larva lives in the soft earth and become adults in the early spring and again autumn. Midges make up the families Chironomidae and Ceratopogonidae in the order Diptera. The rose midge scientific name is *Dasineura rhodophaga* Coquillett (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae).

The rose midge like the Japanese beetle is another gift of New Jersey to the American rose culture. The rose midge was first identified by a greenhouse grower in New Jersey in 1886. Unlike the Japanese beetle which was imported the rose midge is thought to be a native North American insect. Like the Japanese beetle the rose midge has spread all the way to the west coast.



Shaped like a mosquito they are 1-2 mm in length (this picture of a closely related species of midge illustrates the relative size of the adult female and

adult male in millimeters). Nature has timed their emergence from pupae in the soil as adult midges with the start of new plant growth and flower buds. Adult midge females lay their eggs inside the sepals of flower buds or leafy tips. The larvae then hatch from the eggs and damage the buds and rose tips. Full-grown larvae may measure up to 1.8 mm long and are sometimes reddish in color. The tiny maggot that hatches feeds in these areas causing the symptoms that allow us to recognize rose midge damage of blackened tissue, tip abortion, and distorted flower buds. This is most recognizable symptom after they leave the damaged tips then the buds wither, blacken, and die (this damage is illustrated in the following pictures). You also end up with blind shoots instead of the bloom. Pupation usually occurs in the soil but pupae have been observed in the damaged rose tips. There can be several overlapping generations per year. A single generation, or life cycle, can be as short as two weeks. Rose midge populations build up until early fall and the last generation winters over in the ground in cocoons.



It is sometimes difficult to determine rose midge damage because it can be confused with pesticide foliar burn. The tiny rose midge larvae feed on the tender new growth and immature buds. You are not able to see the rose midge that is the cause of this damage.



When the rose midge was first discovered the treatment was dusting with tobacco dust containing nicotine. Later DDT was used to keep the midge under control. Then Diazinon® was used as both a foliage and foliar soil insecticide. This required repeated applications during the growing season resulting excellent control of the rose midge. When Diazinon® was removed from the consumer market in 2003 rose growers were left without an inexpensive defense against the rose midge for a short time. This void was filled by Bayer which has produced several products that can be used by the home rose gardener.

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Bayer's Complete Insect Killer for Soil and Turf is a granular product. Although it does not list rose midge on its label it contains Merit's active ingredient imidacloprid. This is the same ingredient in Bayer's other products that do list rose midge. Merit is a systemic compound developed by Bayer. Both Bayer's Advanced Garden Rose & Flower Insect Killer and their Bayer Advanced Lawn Complete Insect Killer for Soil and Turf list rose midge on the foldout label. Both come in liquid form and in premixed and concentrated formulation. The premixed formulation comes in a ready-to-spray container with a hose end connection. Either of the two Bayer Advanced liquid products could be used as a soil drench for a rose midge treatment. A regular spray program with these chemicals every 7 to 15 days will kill the rose midge and break their life cycle.



For those inclined to use non-chemical sprays you could use Azadirachtin neem extract, sold as Azatin or Bio-neem, applied to the soil around the roses, stops the midges from being able to feed. This will not kill immediately but will help stop future generations. The damage done by the current generation of rose midge will continue to the end of their life cycle. Another method is to put a plastic cover over the soil under your roses, when the midge larvae drop to the ground they are exposed and unable to pupate. As with any rose problem immediately remove any damaged or suspicious growth you see on your roses and throw the cuttings and any fallen leaves away. Bag them for the garbage. Do not place the damaged cuttings or leaves in your compost pile.

Rose midge is a deadly predator of roses that can result in your loss of all rose blooms for the entire

growing season. Having healthy rose bushes without blooms is not our intent as rose growers. Bold, active prevention is required. Organic methods alone will not provide the protection from rose midge necessary to insure bountiful rose blooms from your bushes. So spray early and regularly and enjoy your rose blooms.

REFERENCES:

ARS, *The Consulting Rosarian Manual* 2nd Edition 2001 pp IX-2-7.

Johnson, Warren T. and Howard H. Lyon. 1988. *Insects that Feed on Trees and Shrubs*, 2nd edition, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY., pp. 236-37.

Smith and Webb, *The Rose Midge*. 1976 ARS Rose Annual pp 57-73.

Picture Credits:

Picture #1: Adult male and female of the skeletonweed gall midge by USDA-ARS, Biological Control of Weeds Laboratory, Albany, CA.

Picture #2: Rose midge damage on rose tip by Dr. Bill Chaney, UC Coop. Farm Advisor, Monterey County, Salinas, CA.

More information on the midge and its management can be found at the following websites.

[University of Minnesota Extension: Insect Pests of Roses](#)

[American Rose Society rose midge article](#)

What Works for Us

By Donna and JR Smith

What we have learned about Midge was trial and error. And we are still learning. This is what we have found out so far.

Basically we went through a whole growing season before we realized our problem was Midge.

With such a severe problem of Midge new to us, we bought 4 of the large size bags of Diazinon,

and spread all 4 bags in our beds of roses containing approximately 450 bushes.

After telling our rose friend what we did for the Midge Problem, he promptly told us "we won't have to worry about our Roses anymore and to get an order together, that we killed them all".

Continued on next page

Well we just watered more than usual, and we did not notice any loss of roses. But we did notice that we started getting blooms.

After further research we learned that you do not have to treat for Midge till the middle of May with granular, once and done for the season.

Which, now that we have learned and saw, that we had a Midge damage problem the end of April of the next growing season, where the Basal's were damaged 2 to 3 inches high.

So, This is what we do to control the Midge problem in our yard, and what works for US.

We start off the middle of April, by spreading a granular application to beds and surrounding yard.

we do this by using a hand held crank grass seed spreader.

The following month, we use Bayer Complete Insect Killer for Soil and Turf hose end sprayer. We alternate between granular and the hose end sprayer all summer long until September every 30 days.

Even with doing all this, the Midge still flies in and does damage. But you will not get an infestation of Midge, because the granular will continue to kill the larvae in the ground, and the liquid will kill whatever is on the plant.

This works for us, and we recommend this for anyone that has Midge troubles.

Do Not expect instant results. This will take a diligent regimen of care to get under control .

This is what we have used for the past 5 years or so and seems to work for us.

*I thought this was pretty neat so included it here. Kevin
From the October 2008 edition of Wired magazine*

Just Dew It: What Scientists Can Learn From Flower Petals

What can materials scientists learn from a flower? A lot, it turns out. Researchers in China have discovered why water droplets roll off a lotus leaf like mercury yet stick to rose petals like peanut butter. The answer: nanostructures that tweak the physical and electrostatic forces at the droplet's edge.

Rose

This bouquet-favorite exhibits both adhesive and superhydrophobic qualities. Droplets smaller than 10 microliters stick to the surface, even upside down. Larger drops roll away clean. The dewy effect keeps petals looking "fresh."

Surface Structure

A pattern of 16-micron bumps called micropapillae amid a lattice of 730-nanometer-wide folds.

How It Works

Water doesn't reach into the micropapillae's nanofolds — droplets bead on top of them. But water does sneak into wider surface "valleys" or grooves. It beads up, but can't roll away unless the droplet gets big enough for its weight to overpower surface attraction. Slightly different structures have the same effect on sunflowers and Chinese Kafir lilies.

Potential Applications

Grabbing and holding droplets could be useful in micro-fluidics; petal-inspired surface patterning could lend a fresh, misty sheen to everything from produce to artificial flowers and even fabric.

Lotus

Ironically, this aquatic plant is superhydrophobic. Water forms spherical droplets, which roll spontaneously on inclines as slight as 1 degree. (Even slick Teflon needs a 10- to 30-degree tilt to get water drops moving.)

Surface Structure

Rough leaf epidermis, dotted with irregular bumps that are each 20 to 40 microns across and studded with wax crystals.

How It Works

Air trapped by the microbumps and waxy nanoparticles cuts water-surface contact area to almost nothing. Result: The water droplets "float" on the surface and easily slide off. That's good for the swamp-loving lotus — despite the soggy environment, its leaves stay clean and dry.

Potential Applications

Water-repellent paint, glass, and other "self-cleaning" surfaces (challenge: make it robust enough for real-world use); super-slick microfluidics components for lab-on-a-chip devices.

Do You Believe In Magic?

By Jolene Adams

Of the thousands of roses we could grow in our gardens, some of the most interesting are the offspring of a popular florist rose named 'Frisco'. 'Frisco' (KORflapei) was hybridized by Reimer Kordes and introduced as a Floribunda in 1986. Almost thornless with an upright growth habit, 'Frisco' is medium yellow with a mild fragrance, 35 to 40 petals with an average diameter of 3.5". It has a high-centered bloom form and an extremely long vase life - - just perfect for the cut flower trade. It is the popular 'sweetheart' yellow rose we find in so many bouquets and corsages.

Frisco's parents are reported variously as [(New Day x Minigold) x Antique Silk], or [(New Day x Minigold) x Banzai '76], or [seedling x Champagne]. 'New Day' is a medium yellow Hybrid Tea, 'Minigold' is a medium yellow Floribunda (a seedling of Whisky Mac). 'Antique Silk' is a creamy white Floribunda with the alternate name of 'Champagne'. Banzai '76 is 'Banzai', a medium yellow Hybrid Tea. All these parents are fine roses, giving nothing too surprising in their offspring which are mostly yellow or orange blend florist roses. Great vase life, strong stems.

But something happened with 'Frisco' and a surprising color combo started showing up.

First generation 'children' of 'Frisco' are: 'Amore' (a sport - dark red with a yellow reverse), 'Black Beauty' (a sport - blackish red with a yellow reverse) and 'Lambada' (orange-pink seedling).

Second generation gets more interesting: 'Gold Strike', 'Tropical Amazone' and 'Sunny Kordana' are seedlings of 'Lambada' and are florist roses.

'Hocus Pocus' is a sport of 'Black Beauty' and is a small Floribunda with blackish red petals striped with lemony yellow.



Third generation (so far): 'Abracadabra' - a sport of 'Hocus Pocus' that is a nice-sized Hybrid Tea with the same dark, brownish blackish red petals splashed in yellow. Introduced by Kordes in 2002, many of our amateur hybridizers are working with it to see what unusual progeny they might find.

Not easily available, the rose is mostly sold as a florist variety. Some wholesale nurseries will have it and often your retail outlet can order it for you.

As a novelty rose, this one attracts attention in the garden. As an exhibition rose, the bloom is large, double, but the center is fleeting.

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