

Formerly the Georgia Rose

Issue 99 | Summer 2022

Summer Heat



CRAZED ROSARIAN

Ryan Won
'Queen of Show'
with his
Neptune
Hybrid tea

Ryan Tilley, Master Rosarian & Meteorologist



THE CRAZED ROSARIAN

SUMMER 2022 | ISSUE 99

Table of Contents

Dear Subscribers,

Ryan is out in the garden searching for the current best roses of his garden to take to next week's rose show while enjoying one of his famous adult frozen drinks (recipe on pg.7), so I am writing for him this time to give you the scoop on our new subscription and access methods and more.

Welcome to the 99th issue of Ryan's rose musings on (first) The Georgia Rose and (now) The Crazyed Rosarian. Just like you and me, our newsletter has gone through many transitions. Since we migrated to our new, pretty magazine format for our newsletter other things have started to change also. You might notice it is easier to access our newsletter. If you are still going to Ryan's outdated website...try reaching it through <https://therosegardener.com/newsletter/>...it is so much easier. And now, instead of signing up through our shop, new subscribers do the same thing...enter their name and email and VOILA! **If you're a current subscriber use this link <https://therosegardener.com/newsletter/> with this new password roses2022** and you see everything, even archived issues. I've just started uploading our archived issues, and I will say this will be a chore, so, please bear with me.

I am also learning Mail Chimp for communicating so Ryan can pass tidbits along between the issues. Some of you already get product and sale updates from our current communication method of SnapRetail.com which we will continue until I get the hang of Mail Chimp.

But, now back to this year's summer issue of **The Crazyed Rosarian**. I can't believe it's summer. Today, in Vancouver, Washington it is presently 56 degrees in mid-June. Who says it's summer? And then I look at the weather report in my old hometown that says it's 87 degrees. Just like it's 5:00 somewhere, it's summer somewhere...just not here. In fact, out of our approximately 300 rose bushes, about 5% have started blooming. Yes, I said, "Started!" We had 7 stems to take to the local Portland Rose Society Rose Show. But, they say quality, not quantity, and that is how the results went. Ryan won his first Queen of Show with the hybrid tea and very fragrant Neptune. To say Ryan was, "Over the Moon," is an understatement. Read about it in this issue.

Winter was tough and the die-back of canes continues. We thought when we left the weather ups and downs of Atlanta that die-back would be a thing of the past. Not so! See Ryan's nowcompleted Winter Scorecard here. There's a whole year of season by season rose care packed inside this issue. You can adapt it to the seasons in your neck of the woods. Then, read the latest Weather Word for summer predictions.

And, so, our summer begins. We have another local rose show. This time it is our home society the Ft. Vancouver Rose Society having the show Saturday June 18th. Ryan has sprayed for botrytis (again) since it keeps raining, and we hope to have many more stems in this upcoming show. You will have to wait to hear the results. Join us in prayers for sun! You can have some of our rain! (Take it, please!)

Mr. Know-It-All has been very busy this issue. Ryan tells me to remind you to remember to water your roses and to send your questions to him at **wtalley598@aol.com!!**

Stay cool. Stay hydrated, read and share **The Crazyed Rosarian**.

The Crazyed Rosarian's Crazy Wife,

Wendy Tilley

Summer 2022 in the Rose Garden pg. 3

Ryans Top Shelf for Rosespg 5

Ryan Famous Fortified Alfalfa Tea pg 6

Roses Don't Like to Drink Alonepg. 7

Rhubarb Custard Bar Recipepg. 8

Ryan's 2022 Winter Damage Scorecardpg. 9

Ryan's Way with Roses pg. 10

Rose Garden Tasks by Season..... pg.12

Mr. Know-It-All pg. 18

Ryan's Rose Garden Journal pg. 21

The Elusive 'Queen of Show' pg. 23

Ryans Weather Word..... pg. 24

More Final Cuts pg. 25

New Roses from **Proven Winners** pg. 27

New From **True Bloom** Rosespg.28

Creature Feature pg. 29

Our Favorites..... pg. 30



Summer 2022 in the Rose Garden

by Ryan Tilley, The Retired, Relaxed Master Rosarian

Well now that the rose show season has concluded, spring is over and it is now officially summer when in the rose garden livin' is easy! What! Yep, it really is a bit easier to take care of roses in the summer, depending on how OCD you are! Let me explain.

Before you got your roses to show or just to the living room, a lot of time-consuming work went into those first great (or even not-so-great) blooms.

First there was the late winter/early spring major rose pruning. Don't have to quantify that, it really is a lot of effort to do it right. And then a damaging late freeze adds to your pruning task.

Second, pulling the winter protection mulch away from the bud union of each rose, a chore that my 64 year-old arthritic hands, knees, hips, and back do not look forward to tackling.

Third, thumb pruning away extra canes coming from a single point, a task that should be done anytime you are strolling through the rose garden.

Fourth on the list is getting the initial fertilizing done, no matter how you have decided to accomplish it this year. And you might even want to apply a bloom booster fertilizer to push your blooms to be the best they can be.

Fifth, can't forget the start-up and maintenance spraying that, depending on which part of the country you live in, you need to do on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to prevent blackspot, powdery mildew, downy mildew, botrytis (yeah, right), thrips, aphids, cucumber beetles etc,

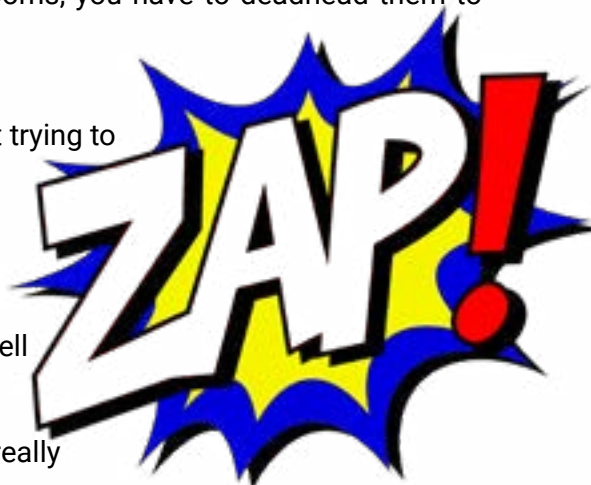
Sixth on the to-do list is disbudding the side buds on hybrid teas and grandifloras and to some extent floribundas and English-style varieties.

Seven on the list, always a joy, is staking the fast-growing new canes before winds can knock them over or break them off. And you need to make time to prepare soil and plant the new roses you purchased months before as well as keeping them well-watered during dry spells throughout the spring.

Don't forget the extra water to existing roses so that the blooms can be nice and big. Irrigation system problems can sneak up on you without you realizing it.

And for the obsessive among you, throw in extra organics like **Mills Magic Rose Mix**, lime, gypsum, fish emulsion and alfalfa tea from time to time to get the best color out of your blooms. Then once you get those big, fat, colorful, blooms, you have to deadhead them to keep the garden looking good.

And finally, nobody's favorite, The always popular time spent trying to keep deer out of your roses. One night of foraging can completely destroy your roses, trust me. Just ask Atlanta's rosarians in the West Paces Ferry, Mount Paran, and Roswell neighborhoods how bad deer can be. Electric Fence to the Rescue because nothing else really works.





Okay, I laid it on a bit thick there. So let's switch gears to what really matters in the summer. And I am going to start it off with one simple truth...**your summer roses are not going to be as nice as the first bloom cycle in mid to late spring...period.** Hotter weather means smaller blooms and there is nothing you can really do about it. Japanese beetles may pay your garden a visit and they are a hungry hoard that will leave no bud, bloom, or leaf unscathed. Then in many parts of the country, the beetles leave after about a month or so (lucky me, no beetle problem in my west coast garden). At times the pile of beetles makes it look like they are eating each other! And in some part of the country it is so hot and/or humid it can be hard to even be outside in the garden and that same heat and humidity makes your rose garden a blackspot, spider mite, and thrips playground. Then there are hail, tornadoes, cicadas, hurricanes, voles, moles, mosquitoes, and yes, the deer are still there with their hungry fawns.

Once you accept the fact that bloom cycle number 2 and 3 will be inferior to spring and fall bloom no matter how much you fuss over them, you will stress out less and enjoy your less than perfect roses more. What really does matter is, of course, keeping your roses.

So here is my to-do list for summer roses that you can live with.

- 1) Number one is of course watering which includes watering the roots and the foliage. It is commonly believed that roses need at least 3 inches of water a week. In-ground irrigation systems that wash off the lower leaves are an efficient way to supply water to the roots, refresh the foliage, and help wash off insects and mites. In hot, dry summer weather, I also like overhead watering during the heat of day to further refresh the foliage. Foliage dries too quickly to spread disease, leaves will not burn, and overall, your foliage will look soooo much better. In cooler weather, overhead watering will add moisture. Once the weather gets cooler, this practice may increase botrytis due to extra water inside the petals and the much cooler nights. I had a well in Atlanta and so I watered to my heart's content. Here in Vancouver, I have no well so I pay for more watering. But the long rainy season means that at most I might be intensively watering for only 4 months so it really is not all that bad.
- 2) Keep up with your regular spray program to prevent disease and keep mites at a minimum. Japanese beetle season is always during the lesser second bloom cycle and they will go away after a month or so. Therefore, I do not spray for them. If I am keeping my roses healthy and growing, new foliage cover eaten leaves and I

simply removed chewed on buds and blooms. I have always found that thrips decrease in the summer and aphids tend to go away after spring so I do not worry about them as well. And I have also found that if I do a really, really good job spraying the underside of the leaves for mites with a mixture of 2 or 3 miticides in late spring when it starts to get hot that I don't have much of a mite problem for the rest of the year. And if you are not spraying insecticides all the time, the beneficial insects may increase enough to help you out keeping the mites down.

- 3) I like to use timed-release fertilizer as my main fertilizer for the year and as long as I am happy with the growth of the roses do not worry about additional fertilizers. If some roses are sluggish or don't look good, I will supplement them with liquid applications of **Peter's 20-20-20** or perhaps some organics like fish emulsion. Although I like applying my fortified alfalfa tea in the summer for a nice pick-me-up, my arms, hands, and back simply do not tolerate that kind of effort. Early spring is when I routinely add organics like **Mills Magic Rose Mix, lime, gypsum (when I can find it and afford it), and Milorganite** and perhaps some Ironite.
- 4) Staking is always important as thunderstorm winds can devastate tender new basal breaks and lower laterals. Check your garden constantly to catch fast growing new canes before they get broken off. **AM Leonard** (www.amleo.com) has terrific 7 and 8 foot canes that I use to stake my roses. They are a bit expensive, but they come in bundles of 10 and last for many, many years. I can't remember a time when I did not use them to secure the 7 and 8 foot rose canes.
- 5) Deadheading can be done at your leisure based how much they bother you. If they have botrytis, then I am more diligent at removing them. And if beetles are eating them, why not let them continue to damage the same blooms. But, I do like snapping off a big bloom with a dozen beetles on it and stomping on it to crush the little #&!\$@.



Bucket or Waist Pouch

Both on Sale



Ryan's Top Shelf

For Roses

Stirred not Shaken

Over the winter I put a large trash can of water in the greenhouse so that I have water if it gets too cold outside to use a hose to get water. Along with having water handy to use and perhaps put fertilizer in, the water itself starts growing algae in it! So each time I water with this organic green water, the plants are getting some extra goodies as well. And this works year-round anytime you have a trash can full of water and have it in a sunny place.



GOOP



A Spritz of Water

When you are enjoying a cocktail in the garden, remember that roses need lots of water during the summer to produce the best blooms. Water at least 3-4 times a week if rain is scarce. Watering can be done anytime of the day as long as the foliage will be totally dry before dark. You can also overhead water from late morning to mid afternoon during summer heat to help keep the foliage looking good and to wash off some garden pests, namely mites. But again, the foliage must be dry before it gets dark so don't forget to turn off the faucet. I have sometimes gone out at 2 AM to turn off faucets that I had forgotten about.

Farmer Ryan's Famous Fortified Alfalfa Tea

- Fill a 44 gallon Trash Can with water
- Add 8-9 lbs of Alfalfa pellets and stir it up a lot
- Cover and leave sit for 3-4 days. Stir Daily.
- Goodies to add : 2 quarts Fish Emulsion
- One quart Chelated Liquid Iron
- One lb. Epsom Salts
- 20 Tbsp. Peter's 20-20-20, Miracle Gro... etc....
- Liquid Seaweed per product instructions
- Use approx. 2 gallons per rose bush over the entire root zone.
- Stir often with a very small rake if you have one or some other tool.
- Use the leftover alfalfa residue to brew another batch.
- Warning! It can be a bit stinky. But that is how you know it's good. Apply with a watering can or some type of siphon system that won't clog.



Roses Don't Like to Drink Alone

by Ryan Tilley, Mixologist and Baker Supreme

Ryan, Wendy and their friends often enjoy a drink in the garden with the roses. Frozen Tangerine Negroni is one of Ryan's favorite summer sips.



Ryan's Frozen Tangerine Negroni

- 4 parts Tangerine Juice
- Two parts of your favorite Gin. I like "47 Monkeys", "Citadelle", "Roku".
- One part Sweet or Dry Vermouth
- One part Campari or other Bitter licquor
- Blend ingredients then put the blender container in the freezer for about 4 hours. Take blender out and break up the ice crystals that formed due to the ingredients separating in the freezer. Blend again until mixture is nice and smooth. Then I like to put it back in the freezer for a few hours until it has frozen to an almost sherbert-like consistency.
- This is a very versatile drink and you can customize it depending on your taste. It can be more juicy, more boozy, or more frozen. Or drink it on the rocks. Other bitter liquors I have used are Elderflower, Italicus, Aperies, and so many more.etc... It is fun to experiment with this drink

Love Rhubarb? Make This Today !

Rhubarb Custard Bars

Crust

**2 cups all-purpose flour 1/4 cup sugar
1 cup cold butter**



Filling:

5 cups finely chopped rhubarb. Red Rhubarb makes a very pretty, yummy dessert. But the old reliable Victoria Rhubarb will taste great also.

**2 cups sugar
7 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup heavy whipping cream
3 large eggs, room temperature, beaten**

Topping:

**6 ounces cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped**

A little extra treat is to serve it with a little "Nocello" Walnut Liqueur poured on it. Wow!! Warning : this the "only" walnut liqueur to use. Other brands are muy stinko! Sadly, you cannot buy this brand in Washington or Oregon for some unknown reason.

Crust: In a bowl, combine the flour and sugar; cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press into a greased 13x9-in. baking pan. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes.

Filling: combine sugar and flour in a bowl. Whisk in cream and eggs. Stir in the rhubarb. Pour over crust. Bake at 350° until custard is set, 40-45 minutes. Cool.

Topping: beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until smooth; fold in whipped cream. Spread over top. Cover and chill. Cut into bars. Store in the refrigerator.

Ryan's 2022 Winter Damage Score Card



Winter took more of a toll than I thought 2 months ago. Much of this due to a newly discovered cold spot in my garden that might have gotten down to 12 degrees in late March instead of 17 degrees like the rest of the rose garden.

Here is the tally so far.

Julie Andrews - 2nd year plant **DEAD!** • Beverly - 4th year plant most likely **DEAD!**

St. Patrick - 3rd year plant **DEAD!** • Painted Porcelain - 2nd year plant **DEAD!**

Beverly - 4th year plant most likely **DEAD!** • St. Patrick - 3rd year plant **DEAD!**

Paul Ricard - 2nd year plant **Severe Damage**, could come back.

Arctic Blue Tree Rose - 3rd year plant **Severe Damage**. Had to severely cut back.

John F. Kennedy - At least 10 year-old plant **Heavy Damage**, coming back okay

Mellow Yellow - At least 10 year-old plant **Heavy Damage**, coming back okay

Clair Elyse - 3rd year plant **Moderate Damage**, starting to come back.

Emily Bronte - 2nd year plant **Moderate Damage**. Lots of canes with discolored foliage, might come back okay

Bronze Star - Like always, **Moderate Damage**. Cut back a lot and is coming back okay.

RYAN'S WAY WITH ROSES

by Ryan Tilley, Master Rosarian

99 Issues and 3 or 4 issues a year. It's hard to have imagined this way back over 30 years ago when I started editing the **Greater Atlanta Rose Society** newsletter, **The Phoenix**, and subsequently **The Georgia Rose** newsletter when I started my rose garden installation and maintenance business, **Rose Gardens by Ryan**. Back then, I relied on the conventional wisdom of more experienced rose gardeners as I dispensed their wisdom along with my own rose growing trials and tribulations. That was before I even knew about roses on fortuniana rootstock and how they would impact my business and my expertise in growing them. I changed the name of my newsletter to **The Crazy Rosarian** when we moved out here to Vancouver, WA. Sharing rose growing advice to a national audience is a challenge and hopefully I have made inroads on that front the past few years. Next issue will be issue Number 100 and in it will be many of my best articles freshened up a bit so don't miss that.

Okay, back to business. This will be the first year I will be able to exhibit a few roses in both the Portland and Vancouver Rose Shows, Mother Nature willing with Covid lessening its grip. Hopefully, many of you will cut a stem or two to enter in your local rose show, and I have a few tips on that further into this newsletter. This issue will likely come out just before the actual rose shows here, so I will share a few experiences at the show in the next issue and you can reread them before your Fall rose shows come around. Perhaps this year will be the one where I claim the elusive "Queen of Show". But there are a lot of very experienced exhibitors who enter these two shows and experience grooming blooms to compete in this category goes a long way to winning it (see "Make Way For the Queen") in the last issue. Perhaps divine providence will be on my side, but I will take "dumb luck" as well. As a card-carrying meteorologist, can I whip up a hail storm that destroys every rose garden but mine the day before the show? Probably not!

But I can share with you what I have been doing to my roses to encourage them to produce some "Queen-worthy" blooms by early June. April and May have been abnormally rainy and cool here. The first thing I have had to deal with is more winter damage than I was expecting.

As you read in my Garden Journal, winter was hard on some of my roses this year. I had knee replacement surgery on my left knee this winter and so on the few nights where it got pretty cold, I was not able to add a bit of extra mulch to some of the younger roses in my garden. Still, most roses protect themselves pretty well in most winters due to the many, many weeks and months where temperatures stay almost entirely in the 30's to low 50's giving roses plenty of time to winterize themselves. In Atlanta, the warm winters and roller-coaster ride of temperatures and send roses into the 70's one week and then into the teens with no time for roses to make the adjustment. Winter damage was always expected and winter fatalities were a way of life. This is the main reason that I wait as long as possible to do the final cuts on my late winter pruning.

But second year plants, **Painted Porcelain** and **Julie Andrews**, took a bit hit and have been dug up and put in pots inside my greenhouse. My plan is to really push them with fertilizer for a month to see if they

can at least put out a few new buds on the bud union. The first watering was with **Green Light Root Stimulator** followed by **Peter's 20-20-20**, both mixed into my "algae tea" with a touch of Epsom Salts for a quick shot of magnesium. I even scraped off the old bark with a wire brush to aid in new bud formation, something I have not done in many years. But it is sure a lot easier to scrap off the old bark when the rose is in a pot at waist level instead of plastered down in the garden soil on my knees.

Claire Elyse and **Hot Prince** also had a disappointing amount of winter damage and had to be cut back a lot to get them going. Both are on fortuniana rootstock and I hate to heavily prune them since fortuniana rootstock roses sometimes "pout" for months without a lot of new growth.

And of course the winter tender **Bronze Star** had it's share of winter damage as well, but hey, it is still alive so hooray for that.



Paul Ricard is my favorite rose, but it has struggled the past two years after a good bit of winter damage. Just today, I had to cut it back again to try and get it jump-started. I don't like doing severe pruning on fortuniana roses because they can sometimes pout and grow poorly for a while after the pruning. But I did not have much choice. It simply likes the long hot summers in Atlanta better than the cool spring we are having right now. I have planted one more bush of it in a primo location in the front of the house in hopes of getting it back the rose I know and love. I believe I will have no choice but to downgrade it on my next update of my comprehensive list of rose ratings.

As for the other roses I just planted, they include the new hot fortuniana roses **Lauren Leigh** and **Cheri**. **Affirm** is an older fortuniana



Fredric Minstral
Photo by Heirloom Roses



Eyeconic Plum Lemonade

favorite of mine with humongous, heavily-petalled blooms of a gorgeous shade of bright medium pink. The challenge will be to see if it gets botrytis here as it got a lot botrytis in my very sunny Atlanta garden.

An even older, harder to find favorite on its own roots, **Frederic Mistral**, is now finally in the ground. This rose has tremendously fragrant pink very large blooms that also have over a hundred petals.

I needed a few low-growing roses for around my large fountain and I chose to put **Jubilee Celebration**, a warm pink English rose with a golden center and nice citrus scent. The second rose I put in was **Tamora**, a small, fragrant apricot English rose that was not doing well in its previous location. The third rose was the hulthemia **Eyeconic Plum Lemonade** that was also not happy in its previous location. I dug the poorly performing roses up about 7 months ago, grew them in the greenhouse and hopefully they will do much better in their new home.

A few other brand new varieties on fortuniana that I am growing in pots right now include **Liz's Charm**, **Clovie**, and **Pilgrim Maid**. I will put them in the ground next spring to avoid any chance of winter damage since they are quite small right now.

I always loved **Color Magic** in Atlanta, but the topsy-turvy winters practically turned it into an annual so I stopped growing it. Now I have one out here and I am cautiously optimistic about its chances here.

Diane Sommers is a new hulthemia miniature from Jim Sproul, and later this spring I am hoping it gets big enough to be put into the ground (see the picture of it's first bloom later this issue). It is so new in fact that there is almost no information on the internet on it except at helpmefind.com. Go ahead, try to find more info on it, I dare you. But this rose was widely distributed at the most recent ARS convention and you may be able to get it at KandRoses.com

Okay, so much for winter damaged and planting roses. On to other things. Since my left knee is still not close to 100%, I had Wendy remove the winter mulch on the younger roses. Once that was done I put down my startup fertilizer mix comprised of the Portland Rose Society 15-10-10 and 5-4-4 organic mix along with Milorganite and lime. Spring has been quite cool and I could have waited another week or two hoping for it to warm up, but 75% of my fertilizer mix was organics and they take awhile to break down, so it was torpedoes full steam ahead. Gypsum is a favorite soil amendment of mine for roses as well as tomatoes and Japanese maples; but, it is not economically feasible here to buy enough to put on the entire garden, so I don't. But for the rest, I put them in a wheelbarrow at a ratio of 1:1:1:1, mix it all up, and then apply it to the entire rose bed. I covered

it lightly with the composted mulch from Soil Builders.

Then because I have the roses planted in borders around my lawn areas, I put down my first lawn fertilizing as well using Weed and Feed from Scotts along with a good application of lime. Now if only we would see some sunshine to put all this good fertilizer to work.

With all the cold nights and really cool days we have had this spring, there have not been any chances for disease spores to germinate so the roses are pretty healthy right now. Of course **Neil Diamond**, as always, seems to be one of the few bushes with leaf spots. (see if you can guess which one in the quiz). So I have gone easy on the spraying. But yesterday (May 14), I cranked up the sprayer and applied **Banner Maxx**, **Mancozeb**, and **Stature**. They will give protection against blackspot, cercospora, and downy mildew. I hate put more that 3 chemicals in the same mixture, so I will wait until conditions later this week are right for powdery mildew to spray for it.

Just saw the first blooms on **Clovie** and **Liz's Charm** and they are spectacular! The plants are still too small to plant in the ground, especially since the ground really has not had a chance to warm up. I did repot them into 2 quart parts and they seem to have adjusted very quickly, most likely due to the fact that I kept them in the greenhouse during this very cold spring. Just a few nights ago the temperature dropped down to 29 degrees which is ridiculous for late May. It is not looking good for having many blooms for the Portland Rose Show on June 9. I am crossing my fingers though.

Two roses in my greenhouse seem to be prone to mildew. **Ringo Double Pink** shrub rose is susceptible to downy mildew and the hybrid tea **Arizona** was caked with powdery mildew faster than you can shake a stick at. Once they are in the ground they will join **Neil Diamond** and **Affirm** as roses to carefully watch for disease. These roses are my Indicator plants meaning they get disease first when conditions are right for them to develop.

I had dug up my severely winter-damaged **Julie Andrews** and **Painted Porcelain** in hopes that they would come back in my greenhouse. They clearly have not and are suckering along with weeds starting to grow in the pots. Since they were not favorites of mine, they are gone. **Beverly** suffered heavy winter damage as well but it was so large that I left it in the ground. So far no new growth there either, but the weather has not been favorable for new basal breaks either so I will wait a bit longer since it will be a chore to get it out of the ground if it is necessary.

Well that is all for now. Next issue I will let you know if I had any good blooms to take to the rose show.

Rose Garden Tasks by Season

by Ryan Tilley, Master Rosarian



Over the past 99 issues, I have given you the things you need to be doing in the rose garden throughout the year in many different ways. Mostly, it was for whatever rose society I was writing for including the Greater Atlanta and the Fort Vancouver rose societies. For them, I was able to give relatively tight windows and specific instructions for various tasks like winter pruning, mulching, spraying for rosarians coast to coast, it is better to give seasonal advice which can be adapted to fit wherever you are growing your roses. That is also why I do my Garden Journal.

Instead of a Garden Calendar as I used to do, I have created an extremely detailed list for those of you that want to pour your heart, soul, and wallet into your roses based on my experience on both coasts. So after my 99 issues worth of experience, hopefully these seasonal instructions will be helpful for whatever garden zones you are growing roses in. If I have skipped anything useful for your particular local, let me know.

Winter

Apply winter protection mulch

- Apply winter protection mulch.
- Prune back tall canes to prevent canes breaking and loosening of the roots.
- Water during long, dry spells and before severe cold snaps.
- Apply an anti-transpirant like Wilt Pruf before severe cold snaps.
- Study new rose catalogs and order new roses. Pot up bare root roses once they arrive and grow in greenhouse for at least 8-10 weeks before planting them in the ground.
- Check your irrigation system for problems before the spring rush begins. You will thank yourself in April.
- Prepare new rose beds during good weather.
- Apply winter protection mulch
- Apply lime and gypsum if not already done.
- Late winter/early Spring: Major rose pruning. Be sure to remove old diseased foliage. Old leaves on the ground can be left and covered with new mulch.
- Apply a clean-up spray after major pruning is complete.



Spring

- Late winter/early spring - Major rose pruning for the year. Remove winter mulch.
- Thumb prune guard buds so only one cane is coming from a single point.
- Stake tender new basal breaks and low lateral canes.
- Begin your regular spray program, especially for disease.
- Check your irrigation system for problems before the spring rush begins. You will thank yourself in April.
- Begin regular watering during dry spells. Pay special attention to watering new roses once it gets hot, dry, and/or windy new rose beds during good weather.
- Remove any canes showing delayed winter damage showing black or severely discolored canes.
- Wait until the soil warms enough, and then apply first application of whatever fertilizer you have chosen to use. See my fertilizer article in issue 94 for options.
- Begin disbudding and leaving only one bud per stem for hybrid teas and grandifloras. Remove the center bud on floribundas so all buds bloom at the same time.
- Keep an eye out for spider mites once it starts to get hot.
- Finish preparing new rose beds and planting new roses.
- Once it gets hot, water at least 3-4 times a week. Water every day a week or so before a rose show if needed to get the biggest blooms. Many rosarians like to apply extra organics 2 weeks before a rose show. But organics can be applied any time and roses love it, especially anything with fish in it!
- Many rosarians like to apply extra organics 2 weeks before a rose show. But organics can be applied any time and roses love it, especially anything with fish in it!
- Start applying deer repellent before deer start to munch on the foliage. If you wait too long, the deer may still do plenty of damage. Electric deer fence is best. If you have had vole problems in the past, put down Vole Stop according to directions.



Spring

Summer

- Don't worry about small blooms due to the heat.
- Stay alert for spider mites. Spraying for them when their numbers are small is the best way to get rid of them.
- Continue regular spray program every one or two weeks. Stop spraying in extremely hot, dry weather to avoid spray damage to foliage.
- If needed, apply insecticides only to the buds and blooms. Nature friendly Conserve is a good choice for thrips, although, sometimes you need something stronger like Orthene, Malathion, or Safari.
- Check your irrigation system for problems before it the spring rush begins. You will thank yourself in April.
- Stake canes as needed to avoid damage from thunderstorm or hurricane winds.
- Have patience with Japanese beetles. They will go away. Spraying insecticides too much encourages spider mite explosions.
- Keep roses deadheaded. This will help keep thrips that are hiding in old blooms from becoming a problem.
- Use BT (Dipel) if caterpillars or budworms become a problem. BT is a great chemical to use because it only targets caterpillars. It can wash off so apply often for best control.
- Don't forget the sunscreen when you are in the garden.
- Voles can be a problem in rose gardens. They eat the roots so you don't know they are there until it is too late. Use Vole Stop and follow the 3 step application process. This stuff actually works and smells great. Get it at domyown.com or at your local Site One Store (formerly Lesco).
- As you stroll through the garden, continue thumb pruning extra shoots and removing side buds on blooms.

Fall

- Stop applying granular fertilizer at least one month before your first expected frost.
- Low nitrogen fertilizers including bloom boosters and organics are okay and can be applied approximately 2 weeks before the first fall bloom cycle or rose show.
- Staking is very important this time of year, especially in areas subject to tropical storms and hurricanes.
- Continue your regular spray program. Be alert for aphids, cucumber beetles, and thrips. Dry warm fall areas may also be subject to spider mites.
- Botrytis can be a nightmare with cool nights in the 30's. Spraying Decree, Pageant, and other pesticides labeled for botrytis may help. Exhibitors may protect prize blooms from dew and rain.
- Disbud roses often when side buds are small for hybrid teas and grandifloras and central bud for floribundas.
- With garden tasks winding down, it's a good time to take soil tests in several parts of the garden with a quality pH meter. I must admit though I am really bad at doing this as often as I should. It's also a good time to apply lime and gypsum as needed.
- After several hard freezes, apply winter protection mulch. In extreme cold winter areas, using rose cones may help.



Photo Botrytis

ASK MR. KNOW-IT-ALL



By Ryan Tilley

Q: Alan from Atlanta writes - I want to replace some of my David Austin roses in the second and third rows of my garden. They don't have strong enough stems for cutting and they have gone downhill. Any reason you can think of. I was looking at some Grandifloras-as they hardy in Georgia. Reading about them they seem to require a lot of care. What about Floribundas-*Shockwave*, *Easy Does it*, *Queen of Elegance*, or *Golden Showers*? What floribundas would you recommend? What are your thoughts?

A: Alan, Before I start, a bit of background here. I installed his Atlanta garden of about 30 roses 6 years ago on a bit of a slope. His drainage system was terrible. So I raised up his rose bed about 6 inches and went to work. The first few years the roses were awesome. Many of them were on fortuniana rootstock. Okay, here goes.

Grandifloras are treated identical to Hybrid Teas. In fact, in my opinion a third of all roses labeled Hybrid Teas are in fact Grandifloras in Hybrid Tea's clothes. The word hybrid tea seems to appeal to people better than the word Grandiflora. The only difference is that Grandifloras produce a lot more sprays than Hybrid Teas. For instance, *Parade Day* and *Gemini* are listed as hybrid teas, but they need a lot of disbudding to get them to be one-to-a-stem blooms. As a general rule (sort of), they may grow a little shorter than your typical hybrid tea. But it varies from variety to variety and the situation they are growing in.

For your second question, my favorite floribundas include *In Your Eyes* which has spectacular color. *Pumpkin Patch*, which can be a touch winter tender in the suburbs. *Easy on the Eyes* again for spectacular color. *Summer Romance* has gorgeous Lilac pink-lavender old-fashioned blooms and long cutting stems. *Eyeconic Mango Lemonade*, the best of the Lemonade series. *Arctic Blue* will produce lilac-pink blooms with a silvery reverse and it grows like a horse. *Frida Kahlo* is a stunning red and orange bi-color. *Bolero* has old-fashioned super fragrant pure white blooms, *Pure Perfume* a favorite grapefruit-scented, old-fashioned white. Bull's Eye is creme with a terrific maroon eye. *Hot Cocoa* is a big grower with chocolate orange blooms. *Betty Boop* is pale yellow/ivory with a vibrant red edge. The superb *Koko Loco* that has latte-colored buds maturing into light chocolate mauve blooms that fade to lavender. *Violet's Pride* is another great grower and bloomer with indeed violet-colored blooms and a great fragrance. *White Licorice* is a can't miss with ivory strong anise-scented blooms. *Sentimental* is highly fragrant with red and white stripes and splashes. A must have is *Belinda's Dream* which has bright pink hybrid tea size blooms and a fruity fragrance. *Angel Face* is a highly fragrant purple bloomer.

Red floribundas: *Oh My* is a winner along with *Showbiz* and *Drop Dead Red*.

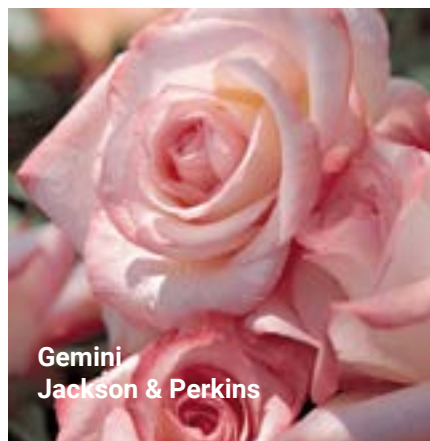
Yellow floribundas: *Shockwave* and *Julia Child* are both good yellows and *Easy Does It* is great as well.

Pink floribundas: *Queen of Elegance* is a lovely pink with strong fragrance.

Some English Roses with strong cutting stems include *The Ancient Mariner*, *Desdemona*, *Bashsheba*, *Boscobel*, *Darcy Bussell*, *Princess Alexandra of Kent*, *The Prince*, *Othello*, *The Alnwick Rose*, and *Charlotte* to name a few.

As for your row of English roses going downhill, since I already know the drainage is not always the best in your garden I am going to say that could be the reason. And with them having large dead canes on only one side of the bud union I am also going to say some winter damage may have killed part of the bud union. North Georgia is famous for damaging late winter freezes and so that is always a possibility since you are in the suburbs and are a bit colder than city rose gardens. Trust me, I lived in the far suburbs and every year I had some severe cold damage almost every year and often had to dig some up and replace them. I have even had some here in Vancouver, WA.

When you replace your bad roses, instead of digging them up and throwing them away, you can cut the poor performing roses back, dig them up and pot them up into large pots (or give them to friends) with a light soil mixture to get the roots growing again. A little root stimulator would also get things growing in the right direction. Do it soon before it gets hot. Summer is just around the corner. And now that you have some spaces to try some of the new varieties that have come out in the last 6 years.



Gemini
Jackson & Perkins



Easy on the Eyes
Spring Hill Nurseries



Belinda's Dream
Spring Hill Nurseries



Drop Dead Red
Spring Hill Nurseries



Julia Child
Gardenia.net

Q: I found the strangest leaf in my rose garden. Should I be worried and should I spray anything to stop it?

A: As Kramer said on Seinfeld, “Mother Nature is a Mad Scientist!” which is quite correct. There is nothing to worry about with your half and half leaf. Nature is just screwing with you. Somehow the DNA code of the bud on the cane in question kind of went nuts and accessed some recessive gene in it’s DNA code. Future leaves will certainly return to normal on this cane although from time to time it may reappear.



But, if by some strange 1000:1 chance all the rest of the leaves on this cane were identical to this one, then it might be a stable mutation and could be propagated from a vegetative cutting with a chance to make more roses like that. This would then be classified as a “sport” which is how some new roses came to be. For instance **Classic Touch** is a sport of **Touch of Class**. **Dolly Parton** produced the sport **Ain’t She Sweet** Climbing **Peace** along with **Chicago Peace** and **Flaming Peace** are sports of the hybrid tea **Peace**. **Memphis Music** and **Top Contender** that are both sports of **Memphis Magic**.



This phenomenon is not unique to roses. Here is a picture of one of my dahlias that exhibits the same behavior on the blooms(right). Every year I get a few blooms like this and I secretly wish it would happen more often.

Q: What kind of mulch should I use and when should I put it down?

A: There are many different organic mulches that can be used. I always have used mini-nuggets as long as they really are mini. Here in Vancouver, they like to use fir mulch which I plan on trying at some point. Other good choices include composted mulch, Cypress mulch which smells great and is a lighter colored mulch, shredded pine mulch, and good old pine straw mulch which many people like in Atlanta. I have even used leaves that have been mowed, bagged, and put on the street for recycle services to pick up, although leaves can mat down after awhile. But hey, free mulch is free mulch. I like to get my mulch in bulk which is much cheaper than bagged mulch.

As for when to put it down, the winter mulch you mound over the bud union of roses should be put down after a few hard freezes have occurred and before a severe freeze is forecasted. Main warm season mulch can be put down anytime the mulch is getting a bit thin on top of the ground and put about 2 inches or so down. As time goes on the mulch will break down and it will then need to be re-applied to keep the soil at an even temperature and reduce how often you have to water.



Q: What vegetables can I intersperse with my roses? I don’t have much room, but I want roses and veggies.

A: In my first house in Atlanta, in order to grow all the things I wanted on a small lot, not much more than a third of an acre, I had to be creative and squeeze 300 roses, fruit trees and berries, perennials, and more where I could. But this is a case where, “Do what I say and not what I do,” applies.

The simplest solution to this problem is simply don’t spray your roses when the actual vegetables are on the vine, bush, etc... or don’t spray at all. You can get away with not spraying in my neck of the woods, but perhaps not in hot, humid summer climates. Secondly, you can cover your veggies before you spray so that none of the pesticide actually gets on the veggies themselves.

In Atlanta’s climate, spraying is a way of life to get really nice roses. This means that you will be spraying chemicals on your roses and your veggies and so you may be ingesting a variety of rose chemicals when you eat them. Not a great idea.

But all is not lost if you spray and can’t cover the veggies. Most of the chemicals you spray on roses break down after a week or two which is why they need to be reapplied every week or so. Broad spectrum fungicides like, **Mancozeb** and **Daconil**, that do not penetrate the surface of what you are spraying are labels for vegetables as well as ornamentals. They sit on the leaf surface and thus can be washed off. This is what is meant by the term “days to harvest” on the label of pesticides that are sprayed on anything edible. If the pesticide say the harvest time is 6 days, then it is presumed to have broken down enough 7 days or longer to be safe to eat. Some typical fungicides like this are **Daconil** and **Mancozeb** that are often sprayed on roses. But washing or rinsing them before cooking is still a good idea.

I would be much more hesitant though with insecticides and miticides because they are formulated to specifically kill living, breathing organisms be they insect, mite, or you! New designer pesticides that penetrate the leaf surface cannot be washed off and are seldom recommended for anything edible although they also break down after 14 days or more and have to be reapplied. If they are not labeled for use on edibles, you should avoid using them on vegetables.

A pesticide label also has the risk level of using it. The 3 categories are Caution, Warning, and Danger. As a general rule you should avoid the pesticides labeled Warning and Danger. They say that for a reason. And it may seem counter-intuitive, but many “natural pesticides” are more dangerous to use than good-old **Sevin**, which only carries a CAUTION designation with regard to getting it in your eyes.

So if you absolutely must plant veggies among roses that you are spraying, be smart. Only use broad-spectrum pesticides that are labeled for veggies, have a “**days to harvest**” designation meaning they can be washed off, and cover them as much as possible.

Q: Barry from Atlanta writes, “Thrips are a big problem this year. So far I have not used any insecticides. I own Conserve-SC and Safari. I am afraid of using Orthene again. Which should I use in my regular spray cycle? or should I alternate? My goal is to dramatically reduce thrips, but I am REALLY risk-averse about spider mites. How frequently should I include one of them? Should I include miticides even if I don’t see mites? I own Tetra-San, Avid, and Floramite.”

[I should tell you I try to spray weekly, plain mancozeb one week, mancozeb + Banner Maxx the other week -- let me know if you think that is too much.]

A: Thrips and mites are the two worst obstacles to growing great roses in long hot summer areas. When spraying, if possible, use a spray bottle to spray buds and blooms every 3-4 days. Use a bottle that creates a fine mist. **Conserve** is the safest insecticide to use against thrips as it is easy on beneficial insects and can be used anytime you spray your roses, but it is not the best at eradicating thrips.

In my experience, there are more effective chemicals to use: **Malathion, Safari, and Orthene**, but they will also kill beneficial insects that help keep mites under control. Make 2 or 3 applications 3-4 days apart. Of all of these chemicals, **Safari** is likely to be the most expensive, but it worked great in the past when thrips took over Atlanta rose gardens 6 years ago. After a warm winter, they got going 6 weeks early and never let up.

After a 4-5 days or so, check your garden for signs that mites are building up. If they are, make one application that has 3 miticides/ovicides including **Avid, Floramite**, and either **Hexygon, Shuttle, Akari, or Tetra San** if you can afford them. This avoids the chance of mites developing resistance.

I like **Hexygon** as my third chemical since it is strictly an ovicide and will not contribute to miticide resistance. I like **Avid** because it claims that it does not contribute to mite resistance, and **Floramite** because it both adult/young mites and eggs. **Tetra San** is the cheapest but not the best in my opinion. Mites can build up resistance to it so it cannot be sprayed more than twice a year.

Shuttle and **Akari** work well but are also much more expensive to use. But if you are like me and only use it once a year in a rotation, it will last you a very long time. If stored properly they should still be good after 7 years and likely longer. **Tetra San, Shuttle, and Akari** should be sprayed no more than twice a year, although if you wipe 100% of the mites in your garden off the face of the Earth, resistance should not ever build up.

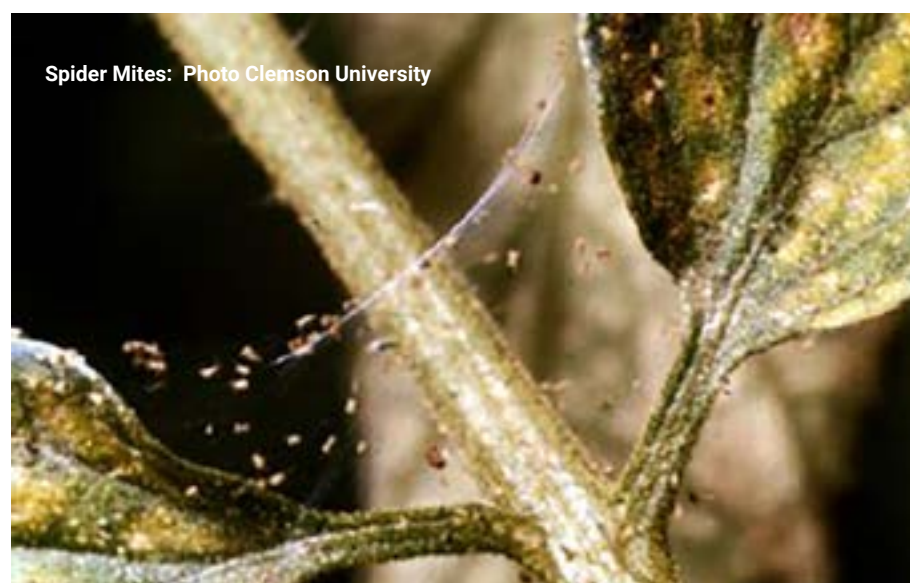
And when I say to do a good job, I mean spray the undersides of each and every leaf. Even with my skid sprayer, I have been known to lie on the ground to make 100% sure to get every last leaf. Even in the greenhouse, I was paranoid about mites so sometimes I would even lie on the ground there or a least tip every pot over to exposed the bottom of the leaves. This is a royal pain and very time-consuming which is why I only want to do one “super” mite spray a year.

Then add either **Avid** and/or **Conserve** to your regular spray program for the next few applications. If you did a really good job on the first mite spray, mites should be no problem for the rest of the summer. Continue to monitor your garden for mites for the rest of the summer into the drier months of fall.

Also I usually would say don’t spray unless you see mite damage, many of the miticides “supposedly” have residual action up to 21 days and in theory can be sprayed when the weather is right for mites to develop. And since you know the precise time it takes for mites to form after spraying insecticides, I would probably do the mite spray about 7 days after spraying insecticides unless you see mite damage sooner.

A general paling of the foliage is the first sign that spider mite numbers are building up followed by a slight bronzing of the margins of the leaves. At this point, spray immediately to get ‘em while the gettin’ is good. Of course washing the bottoms of the leaves is helpful, but time-consuming. Overhead watering when it is hot and dry will also help wash some of the buggers off your roses.

Here in my garden in Vancouver, it has been a downright cold, and rainy spring so no mites and thrips to worry about yet. I will be lucky to even have blooms by the rose show! Where have I heard that before?



Spider Mites: Photo Clemson University



Thrips (Frankliniella sp.) damage on roses. Photo Clemson University

If you have a question for Mr. Know-It-All send it to : wtalley598@aol.com along with your name and state.



Ryan's Rose Garden Journal

This is my journal for the preceding months in my own rose garden here in Vancouver, WA. Most of these entries are valid for other parts of the country, just not on the exact same timetable, especially in my old rose garden in Atlanta, GA.

March

March 7 - In the past I pulled out a lot of my 7 and 8 foot thick stakes from AM Leonard. I need these because many of my roses get well over 6 feet and they are heavy with blooms, especially after a rain.

But the heavy soil down a foot or more makes it really hard with my hands to push the thick stakes far enough into the soil to support the canes. Often I have to use a ladder and a small sledgehammer to accomplish this. And I do not want to do that again. So the bigger stakes get left pounded into the subsoil. Doesn't look quite as good until the roses really get growing again, but, "C'est la vie."

March 10 to March 22 - Weather permitting, it is time to do my "initial" final cuts where I take my canes down to where I want them to start growing. By doing some "pre-pruning over the winter (See my article "The Art of the Pre-Prune") and do a little thumb pruning to get rid of guard buds that are growing around the main bud that is soon to be a cane. This helps promote better canes and bigger blooms and cuts down on pruning later in the year and even next winter.

March 23 - Woke this morning to mild, muggy conditions and thought for a second that OMG! I was back in Atlanta. So after 3 days of mild, damp weather, I decided to do a second cleanup spray for disease only with **Banner Maxx** (I use **Bumper** which is triple strength 42% Propiconazole in a gallon size so I can use 66% less of it and save a ton of money), **Daconil Ultrex**, and **Stature**. Better to nip blackspot and downy mildew in the bud before they get started.

March 24 - The very mild conditions continue. Everything is really starting to grow. **Painted Porcelain** is the only disappointment so far as winter damage is evident from a 17 degree night earlier in March. Looks like I will be updating my review on this rose. My updated roses reviews will be coming up in my upcoming super-sized Issue 100! OMG, has it been that long? If you have not been a reader of "**The Crazy Rosarian**" in the past, my next Issue 100 will be a great starting point.

April

April 2 - Over the past week I have been doing a bit of "additional Final Pruning" after the previous Final Pruning (See my article in the last issue.) The cold weather back in March with the record cold night at my house of 17 degrees (since I moved to Vancouver from Atlanta) breaking my old record of 19 degrees (in March as well as October) apparently did a number on a few roses, much more than I thought at the time. **Jardins de Bagatelle**, **Louise Estes**, **Julia Andrews**, **Honor**, **Painted Porcelain**, **Chrysler Imperial**, **Beverly**, and **Deidre Hall** were especially hard hit with many black canes and other canes showing a lot of red and yellow discoloring. On many other roses the buds at the top of the canes either did not look promising or had some cold damage and needed a bit more cutting. This is precisely why I learned in Atlanta to cut my canes higher than most so that I would have a lot of wiggle room to cut lower if need be. And it needed be alright. One time in Atlanta a late freeze April 12 produced so much carnage that I had to completely redo the final cut backs on all my clients roses along with my own, and often I had to cut right to the ground or shovel prune. What an ordeal!

April 7 - Second day in a row with temperatures in the 70s. The ground has warmed up enough to get some fertilizer down along with some lime. I used the Portland Rose Society's 15-10-10 and organic 5-4-4 which contained alfalfa pellets for the first time. Guess they are tinkering with the formula. I also went the organic route with **Milorganite** which also had a slight formula change as well. It is hard to find Milorganite here in Vancouver and Portland, but I found some to the tune of \$25!!! It is great stuff even with the sticker shock.

I also fertilized my lawn with a high-quality **Scott's** product. Since I have fortuniana rootstock roses bordering on much of my lawn, I am also fertilizing those wandering 10-foot-long roots as well. For my shrub roses along the street, I applied a timed-release 16-16-16 and some pelletized lime to cut down on the cost as well. The upcoming cold spell should not cool the soil too much so the fertilizer should begin to work after it rains. And the organics take time to break down so no problem there.

April 5 - But rain is in the forecast for Saturday and Sunday. So I am doing a botrytis/thrips/downy mildew spray of **Stature**, **Decree**, and **Pageant** over the top of the bushes where the buds are just starting to show color.

April 10 - Forecast calls for a bit of light snow tonight. If it does snow, it will be the latest measurable snow in history for this area. Amounts are forecasted at maybe a half inch to over one inch. Hope it does not nip the new canes that are starting to look really good.

Always Wear a Mask when Spraying



March 23 (part 2) - Battery on my electric skid sprayer is having cable problems. Thank the Gods that the pull cord back-up is working pretty well so I was able to do my first regular season spray on time after 3 days.

April 11 - Woke up to 5" of really heavy wet snow! I knew something might be up when the rain changed over to snow before 11 PM last night, a full 4 hours sooner than it was supposed to. It was also 35 degrees when the snow changeover occurred which was 2 degrees lower than the computers predicted. A little snow even was icing-up the deck when I went to bed.

April 11 PM - And now the bad news. The snow was soooo heavy and wet that it completely bent over many of my shrubs, potted fruit trees and bushes, and every nice new shoot on every one of my roses. It looked horrifying! I won't know until tomorrow if there was any lasting damage to the new rose shoots. I thought when I moved here that I was done with all this damaging late freeze #\$\$%&@ and spring snow stuff! I wonder how other rosarians gardens fared?

April 12 - After assessing the effect the heavy snow had on my roses, I am worried that some of the new tender shoots may have been damaged which would entail cutting them back a bit. Another good reason to prune high in February and March. My time in Atlanta taught me well.

April 12 PM - Too soggy to spend any real time in the rose garden. But a pea-sized hail thunderstorm blitzed my garden followed by a heavy snow burst for about 20 minutes. Wow!

April 13 - Still really soggy from melting snow. Had a third straight day with some snow and hail.

April 14 - What a relief! Not as much snow damage than it first appeared. Still had to do some pruning though.

April 15 - Finally, sunshine, but it was cold sunshine. Tomorrow will be the day to do a cutback of damaged roses. At least with all this winter stuff there has been no need to even consider spraying. And with temperatures staying below 60 for the next week, there won't be any spraying until the end of April.

April 20 - Took some time off to drive in Canada and catch the final auroras of 2022 spring. I had my good Canon 70D and Go Pro cameras, but a thin layer of clouds due to an inversion layer did not show anything more than a faint brightening sky from time to time in different parts of the sky, no one area to hone in on. 18 hours of driving with really high gas prices to High Level, Alberta shot down the toilet!

Just for fun took a few dozen pictures the moment there was a very brief brightening in some part of the sky. There would have been no way to keep moving the camera and tripod and changing the angle to catch the quickly fading, especially since there was nothing to see. But I could whip my I-phone 12 around to catch the brightening so I gave it a shot just for fun. But, apparently my I-phone could see what I could not. The picture here shows what could not see. The only part of this that I did see was the faint brightening in a few spots. If I had more control on the settings, I would have changed the white balance a bit to bring out more green and perhaps the red. But beggars can't be choosers.

April 24 - Sprayed **Stature** for downy mildew as conditions were very favorable for it to develop. A few days later the weather pattern switched to one more favorable for powdery mildew, but not enough to spray for.

April 25 - Removed the winter protection mulch I put down in December on only the smallest and youngest roses. I made sure to expose the bud union to the sun.

April 26 - Pruned a few inches off the tops of more canes that had gotten nipped by the few cold nights we have had since my last pruning.

April 28 - Still dealing with the fallout of the 17 degree night and subsequent heavy April snow. I decided to dig up the **Julie Andrews** and **Painted Porcelain** bushes that I had cut down to the bud union,

pot them up and put them in the greenhouse. Perhaps they will put out some shoots in the next month or so. And I decided to go back to a practice that I used to do a long time ago for them...using a wire brush to scrape away all the old bark to aid in new bud development. This is a sound practice, but I stopped doing it after many years of accidentally scraping off some of the very new shoots I was hoping to encourage to grow. So in a month or so, it will be sink or swim for these two roses. Beverly was far too big to dig up and put in a pot. So I cut it down to the bud union and am hoping for the best.

April 29 - Starting to wonder if there is a separate microclimate at the bottom of the backyard where most of the winter damaged roses have been the last 2 years. I am going to put a thermometer there and start comparing it to my other outdoor thermometers. With the exception of the rose name **Beverly**, the hardest hit roses the past 2 winters are in that area. It is at the bottom of a very slight downhill area in my backyard so it is possible.

April 30 - According to the NWS (National Weather Service), this April was near the wettest all-time with nearly 5 inches of rain in my garden. I like the fact that I don't have to do any watering, but the soil needs to start warming up to push some of the roses that have been sluggish so far. The latest outlook is for more of the same cool and damp weather.

May

May 1 - Had a half day of decent weather, so I got the fortuniana roses that had been in pots since last year put into the ground. The ground had already been prepared with the organic soil mix from **Soil Builders** and the raised bed mix from **Yard N' Garden Land**, so this was easy duty. I put my usual organics of lime, Milorganite, and my remaining bags of **Mills Magic Rose Mix/ Portland RS 5-4-4 organic blend**). I usually like to put gypsum in as well, but "relatively inexpensive" gypsum in large bags has been hard to find here in Vancouver, so it usually gets left out. I also used to put super triple phosphate at the bottom of each hole, but roses on fortuniana rootstock primarily spread most of their roots horizontally so the extra super phosphate is really not needed.

May 3 - With temperatures hanging around in the 50's and 60's during all of recent damp weather, downy mildew is probably lurking. I finally have a dry day to spray **Stature** again, but only on roses that have a lot of growth and are susceptible to downy mildew like **Neil Diamond**. Not even enough bushes to warrant using my skid sprayer. So I have only mixed up a little more than one gallon in my backpack sprayer to take care of the bushes that might need it. I am going to skip my usual **Banner Maxx** and **Daconil Ultrex** for now as most of the new growth is still quite young and tender and susceptible to chemical damage. I am hoping to start my regular main season spraying in about a week or so if there is a good growth spurt and some real spring weather. I almost feel guilty for not getting my main season spraying program going yet since by early May in Atlanta I would already be on main season spray number 5 or 6 for blackspot, downy and/or powdery mildew, and thrips.

May 5 - Showery, chilly weather continues. I am going to wait for a totally dry day to spray which does not look like until early next week. So far, no downy mildew.

May 8 - Showery, chilly weather continues. Looks like it will be in the mid-30's tonight. I am dying to have a few "Spring" days. My **Pope John Paul II** tree rose is the first rose to need disbudding. The rest of the garden is at wildly different stages of growth due to the paucity of dry, sunny days and cold damage. On the bright side, I have had time to do many of the articles for this newsletter while I am waiting to get outside and get stuff done.

May 9 - Pretty cold last night. My usual thermometers recorded 37 degrees, but the new one at the bottom of the garden showed 32 degrees which is a pretty big deviation. But if it is right, then the microclimate there might indeed be the cause of most of the winter

damage. There was no frost however which means there was a light breeze overnight with the clear skies. Since it will be in the 30s again tonight, there is no need to spray today or tomorrow since disease formation is unlikely.

May 10 - Well, the experiment is over. Four straight cold nights yielded a significant temperature difference of 2, 2, 5, 3 for an average of 3 degrees lower at night. So on the 17 degree night it could have been 12 degrees in that part of the garden. Next year I will pile mulch over the bottom 8 inches of the canes.

May 12 - Finally, I am starting the regular spray program going. About time.

May 30 - Looks like there might be a few sunny, mild days ahead so I am optimistic that at least a dozen of my rose bushes might have some blooms that are ready for the The Royal Rosarian Contest Judging on Sunday

June

June 1 - For the 4th straight year the first hybrid tea rose to bloom is **Tickled Pink**, a very nice pink blend on fortuniana rootstock with a great fragrance. And on occasion it shows enough of a center to exhibit.

June 5 - Well, the rain held off for the judging, but only about a dozen bushes actually have enough blooms to be judged. I am hoping that great looking foliage and vigorous growth with roses only in the bud stage will give me a chance to compete for the title.

June 8 - A nice sunny day gave me a chance to see if there are blooms nice enough to enter in the Portland Rose Annual Rose Show which is being held for the first time since Covid started. It is a very prestigious show and I have looked forward to exhibiting some roses in it for over 30 years. Most blooms have a bit of botrytis and so-so form, but I will cut the best of the bunch early tomorrow morning to take to the show and see what happens! I should have many more blooms for the upcoming Vancouver Rose Show, although once again there is a good chance of rain for the next few days. This could be the wettest first 2 weeks of June since the soggy June in 2020, which set the all-time record for rainfall at 3.5 inches! Climate change sucks.

June 9 - Against all odds, I won Queen of Show at the Portland Rose Show with a very nice bloom of **Neptune** that had no botrytis and did not take a lot of fussing over. Did not think it had enough of the "right stuff" for Queen, but I was obviously mistaken. Lots and lots of donuts were available as well. Can't exhibit in a rose show without plenty of donuts.

June 10 - Cut a fantastic **Ring of Fire** today and another really nice **Neptune**. These are best **Neptune** blooms I have had in years. Guess they like lousy weather. There are more of both of these in the garden and if I am lucky maybe I can get a few of them to the Vancouver Rose Show in 8 days if the rain and botrytis don't mess things up. I am going to have to do a few extra sprays for botrytis and downy mildew over the next week when there are some dry spells. First up, **Mancozeb**, **Systec (Cleary's 3336)**, and **Stature with some Conserve** for thrips as well. I know some of this will possibly wash off with rain later today, but I have no choice with rain chances for the next 4 days. I will just have to spray while the gettin' is good.

June 11 - Looks like a 5 hour break is here so I am going to spray **Orvego** (a chemical I am trying for the first time for botrytis) along with some **Daconil Ultrex**, which does have a weather stick component to it, a real plus given the current weather pattern. So far the last 2 days it has rained almost 2 inches!! That is way too much rain for June here in Vancouver. It is supposed to be the dry season after all. Back in 2020 it rained 3 inches in early June just like it is now. Botrytis ruined almost every bloom back then. Not good.

The Elusive 'Queen of Show'

'Queen of Show' is finally off Ryan's bucket list! The Portland Rose Show ended yesterday with Ryan earning the Queen. That's a really big deal in the rose world. Having always lived in the northernmost parts of our local society's membership, we often lagged 2-3 weeks behind other members' gardens, so this was an unexpected treat. Neptune is a beautiful mauve rose; very fragrant as most mauve roses are, and it was a big winner for Ryan in Portland, also known as "The Rose City." Ryan's specimen of Neptune beat out thousands of roses entered in the Portland Rose Show to bring him that top honor. Check out these pictures of Ryan with his rose and the award. And, you can see some of the other roses in the show with this link to **The Oregonian**, the local newspaper.

<https://www.oregonlive.com/living/2022/06/thousands-of-blooms-on-display-at-lloyd-center-for-portland-rose-show.html>



Kristen Singer
Another of Ryan Tilley's bloom that is Queen - worthy, but she was not in bloom in time for the show.



Ryan's weather word HOT! HOT! HOT!



ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK 2022

| | Named Storms | Hurricanes | Major Hurricanes | Direct U.S. Impact |
|---------------|--------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2021 | 21 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 2022 Forecast | 16-20 | 6-8 | 3-5 | 4-6 |
| Normal | 14 | 7 | 3 | 3.5 |

The 2022 Hurricane Outlook

Although this not official, here is a first look at the upcoming tropical storm/ hurricane season. Just like last year, waters in the Atlantic are slightly above normal and with the continuing La Nina, this looks like a very active tropical season. La Nina aids in the formation of hurricanes by weakening the upper level atmospheric winds. Strong upper level winds tear potential hurricanes apart while weak winds allow the hurricane machine to get all revved up,. And it's already happened as is evidenced by having 2 named storms already.

Early tropical storm forecasts are predicting between 16 and 21 named storms, six to nine hurricanes, with three to five major hurricanes for the upcoming season. The number of named storms looks to be above the 25-year average, and would be the seventh-straight, above-average hurricane season. According to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the average for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic between 1991 and 2020 is seven hurricanes, three of them major, and 14 tropical storms.

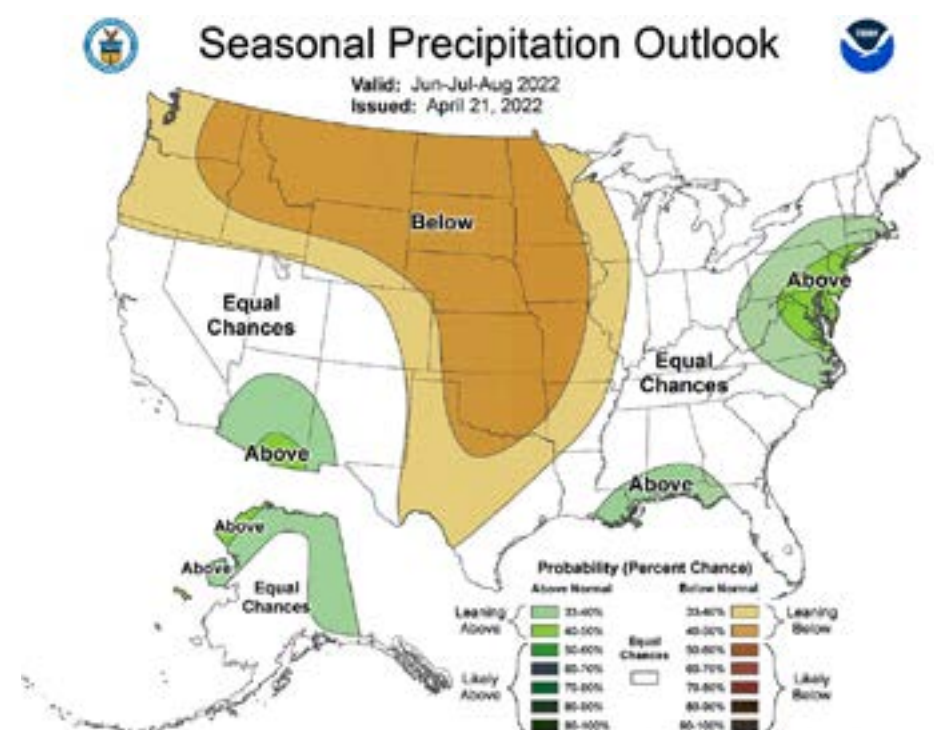
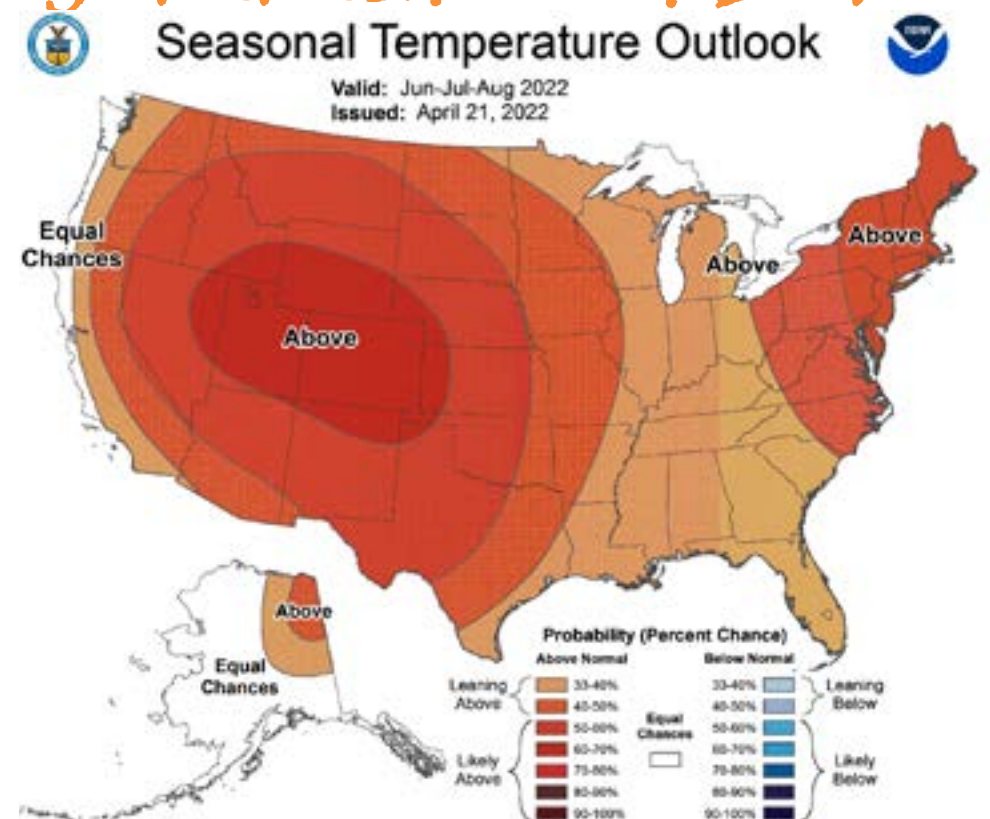
Does this mean more hurricanes will hit the gulf coast and the east coast? Very hard to say at this juncture, but it seems like the Gulf coast will bear the brunt of the land-falling tropical storms and hurricanes. But it only takes one really strong tropical storm or hurricane to produce catastrophic damage.


Hokey Smoke Bullwinkle, what the #%&@ is going on ? Up until this year there had no real snow accumulation of any kind in history in April. Well, 6 inches of snow in mid-April smashes that record to smithereens. Just like 120 degrees last June did and just like 11 inches of snow on February 2021. What is next, grapefruit-size hail in July? Oh wait, I had 3 straight days of Pea-size hail 2 weeks ago. Fortunately it was only pea size. Larger hail can do a number on roses that are rapidly growing.

During the last month, a weak La Nina is still in effect just like last year. The water on the surface and 200 meters below the surface are still below normal so it will likely hang around as the easterly wind around the Equator in the lower atmosphere and strong westerlies in the upper atmosphere favors La Nina as well which is important because it tends to favor tropical storm and hurricane formation.

As for the 2022 summer outlook (June, July, August), take a peek now and get ready for another hot one. Seems unlikely due to the cool spring we have had so far in Vancouver and Portland; but, after a very cold and wet May why would I disagree at this point? For Atlanta, when the west is really hot, the east tends to be slightly, very slightly cooler than normal nowadays, but not by much. And when has there been a cool summer in the southeast.....uhhhhh! So if temperatures are 90 degrees instead of 95, does it really matter? Is it really cooler than normal to us humans?

SUMMER OUTLOOK



A stylized illustration of the Riddler, a character from the Batman franchise. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing his iconic green turtleneck with a large black question mark on the front. He has a purple eye mask and is smiling broadly, showing his teeth. His right hand is raised, with the index and middle fingers extended in a 'V' shape, a gesture often associated with him. The background is a mix of green and yellow with a large yellow circle behind his head. The overall style is painterly and vibrant.

More Final Cuts

by Ryan Tilley, Master Rosarian

Riddle me this BATMAN, when are final cuts not really “The Final Cuts” ? Because they are a cut above! Let me explain. Last issue I focused on when, how, and why I made my final cuts the way I did in the article,

“Who Will Make the Final Cut?” But now we dig a bit deeper as we head into June.

Unless the weather is unusually warm, the final late-winter cuts are done in March when new canes are just starting to wake up and start growing in earnest. Usually the cuts are made a little above a good-looking bud or a promising young cane pointing in an out-facing direction. Dead, damaged, or discolored canes are pruned away with only healthy canes and nice white pith. What could go wrong with this approach? The answer is plenty!

Sometimes over the winter or during a late freeze, canes are damaged just enough that they do not show up right away. The cambium layer may no longer be able to bring nutrients from the roots to the canes and blooms. But there is just enough energy stored up that new canes grow and in some instances even bloom before the nutrient train runs dry. At this point, usually when the first hot spell occurs and the damaged canes are put under stress. With all the water and nutrients gone and without roots replacing them, these canes often become discolored or turn black and may die down all the way to the bud union or close to the ground. You might think you have done something wrong and despair sets in. But you did nothing wrong. These dying canes simply did not show up in late winter. But now they have and you have some cutting to do.

In my garden, there is one relatively young, newer rose, **Painted Porcelain**, that winter did a number on. There are lots of discolored canes that will need to be pruned out. What about the canes that still look good (admittedly not very many)? I will wait and see how the new canes grow and bloom. When I am convinced that additional canes need to be cut out, I will cut them down and wait again. Perhaps, just like **Just Joey**, this rose may be winter tender, even here in Vancouver. If this is deemed to be true, "Mr. Shovel" will be paying a visit to the garden. And since the blooms have been underwhelming the last few years, I will not lose any sleep over it.

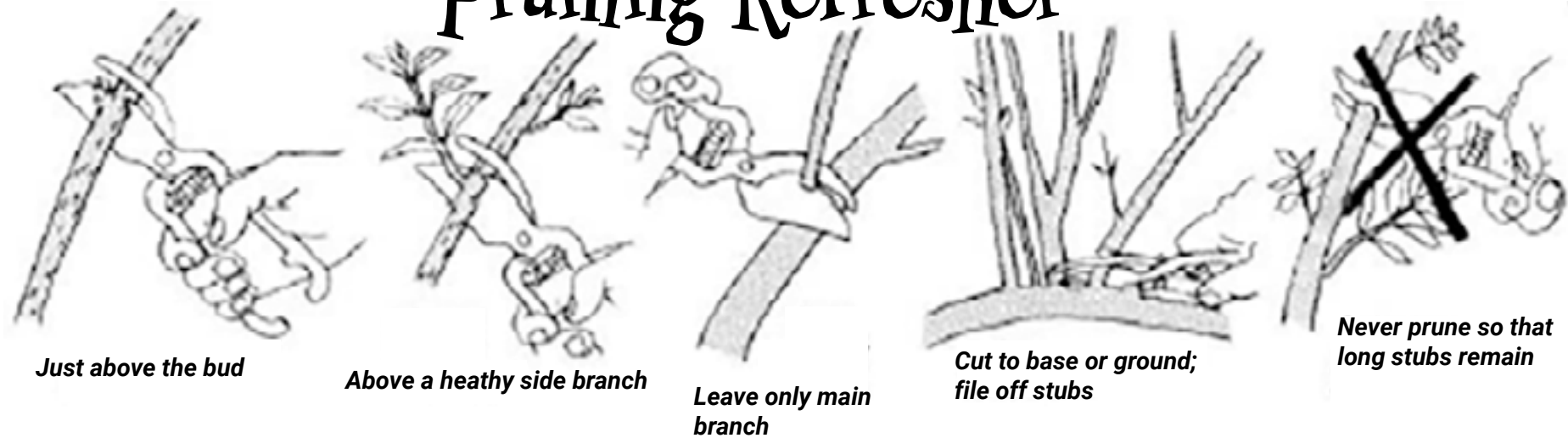
In another instance, the new growth directly below a "final cut" may turn out to be kind of crappy due to cold damage or often times there is simply too much small growth at the tip of the cut cane with more vigorous growth a bit further down. The solution is to either get rid of all but one bud at the tip of the cane (called thumb-pruning) or cut the cane down to 1/4 inch above the better looking growth. When you leave your canes longer like I do it is a simple matter to cut the cane back anywhere from 4-8 inches further down and still have a great looking bush.

Often times you leave some big, beautiful bright green cane with perhaps a light red tint that might not have hardened off in time before cold weather arrived back in October or so. The inside of the cane will not be a healthy solid white. Instead it will be white, but shriveled and the cut will be ragged without that crisp look a healthy cane has. It is so big and luscious you don't have the heart to cut it back or, more to the point, completely remove it. Sometimes I cut canes like this back just in case I am wrong about it, but deep down I have little hope for its eventual survival. I am just putting off the inevitable.

And of course as the bush grows in April you may see blind shoots, canker, or even some crown gall that you overlooked. April is a great time to prune out these problems since you will have the time after the brunt of the major pruning is finished. Let the final cuts begin again!



Pruning Refresher



New Roses To Try In 2022

Proven Winners

by Ryan Tilley, Proven Master Rosarian

Up until this point I really have not had much experience with roses from **Proven Winners** as they always seemed “to about” shrub roses rather than my favorite hybrid teas. But now we are in their “test program” where they send us roses and other plants to evaluate. These roses come to us small and on their own roots, so I might simply pot them up into larger pots once the weather gets a bit warmer. But I must say that after unpacking them, they are growing quite nicely so I might change that line of thinking in a month or so. The following roses are the first ones that they have sent us so I will have to see how they grow in this climate.



Ringo Double Pink - This new Hulthemia shrub rose is the third in the “Ringo” series and has loads of semi-double pink flowers accented with bright yellow stamens surrounded by a distinctive wine-stained eye. More than just a pretty face, it is also very hardy, with glossy foliage that exhibits excellent black spot resistance. The bush is upright, rounded, and will reach about 3 feet. **Winner of the First Class Certificate at the Hague Rose Trials.** Another great rose from master breeder **Chris Warner**. I have already been growing **Ringo** and **Ringo's All Stars** and they have both done well for me. My favorite so far is **Ringo's All Stars**. I am looking forward to trying this new one and I will let you know how it does.



Rise Up Ambersness - The **Rise Up™** series of roses are the first-ever climbing roses from **Proven Winners ColorChoice Shrubs**. They call them “mini climbers,” as they keep a neat, dense habit and can be grown as a climber or a shrub rose, depending on how they are pruned. The flowers look exquisitely sculpted, with wavy amber-colored petals surrounding a classic orange rose bud shape. They open to a full bloom with appealing golden stamens in the center. The exceptionally fragrant flowers appear all summer without deadheading. Sturdy stems make this rose a great rose for a vase.

The blooms are also disease resistant. I am not sure what to make of the claim “mini-climber” although I am guessing it will be like an English Rose and grow bigger in southern gardens than here. I will let you know later this year.



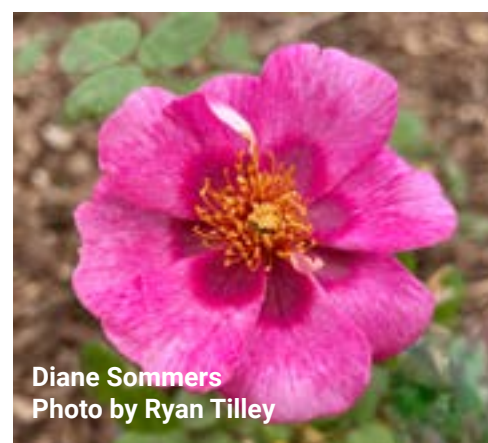
Rise Up Lilac Days™ is one of the most unique roses to hit the North American market in years. Between its unique lilac-blue color and powerful, heady fragrance, it will practically fly off the bench at the garden center! Its versatile habit allows it to be grown as a climber or a shrub, making it the ideal addition to landscapes and gardens. This rose is disease resistant with dark green foliage and has a long blooming period. As with **Rise Up Ambersness**, I will have to see how the term mini-climber relates to this climate.

New From Jim Sproul !

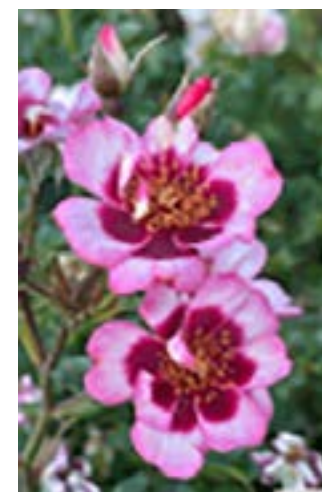
Diane Sommers , Miniature Hulthemia

If you have been reading my newsletter for the past few years, you know that I love **Hulthemia Roses** which are often called Persica roses, that have a true “eye” at the center of the blooms. Here is a new miniature one that I am trying. The single (4-8 petals) blooms have a diameter of about 1.5” and are borne in small clusters that bloom in flushes throughout the season. The bush is Medium, upright in habit with medium green foliage. Can be used for container rose, exhibition or garden. It is reported to be mildew resistant.

Bred by James A. Sproul. Photo on right Courtesy of HelpMeFindRoses.com



Diane Sommers
Photo by Ryan Tilley





New From True Bloom Roses

<https://true-bloom.com/img/portfolio/ebird-full.jpg>

Here is another company whose roses we are trying for the first time this year. The ones we have are **True Friendship** and **True Passion**. See the info below on them and the other 4 that they have. With limited garden space, these will likely be growing in a pot for the first season.



True Integrity

A floribunda shrub with full double blooms and a delicate scent. Blooms early.

Class: Floribunda Shrub

Habit: 3' X 4', Compact

Flower Size: 8 CM

Petal Count: 70-75, Double

Color: Salmon

Foliage: Glossy Green



True Gratitude

A climbing shrub rose with 3.5" blooms and is highly fragrant. Excellent for landscape and cut flower. Class:

Climber, Shrub

Habit: 6' X 4', Climber

Flower Size: 8 CM

Petal Count: 25-30, Double

Color: Deep Magenta

Foliage: Dark Green Fragrance: Spicy, Strong



True Sincerity

Shrub type floribunda with red, yellow and pink multicolor blooms.

Habit: 3' X 3', Compact

Flower Size: 8 CM

Petal Count: 20-25

Color: multi, red, yellow, pink

Foliage: glossy dark green

Fragrance: mild



True Inspiration

Hybrid Tea Shrub™ with double peony type blooms.

Class: Hybrid Tea Shrub™

Habit: 5' X 4', Upright

Flower Size: 10 CM

Petal Count: 45-50, Double

Color: Pink Blend

Foliage: Medium Green

Fragrance: Peppery, Medium



True Passion

Pauline Merrell Award 'Best Hybrid Tea', 2016. Biltmore 'Best Hybrid Tea' Award

Winner, 2016. Heat Tolerant

Class: Hybrid Tea Shrub™

Habit: 5' X 3', Upright

Flower Size: 9 CM

Petal Count: Double 25-30 Color: Orange

Red Foliage: Green Fragrance: Medium, Peppery



True Friendship

Rose Hills Best Floribunda Award

Winner 2016 Habit: 3' X 3', Compact

Flower Size: 8 CM

Petal Count: 35-40, Double

Color: Yellow

Foliage: Glossy Green

Fragrance: Sweet, Medium



Creature Feature

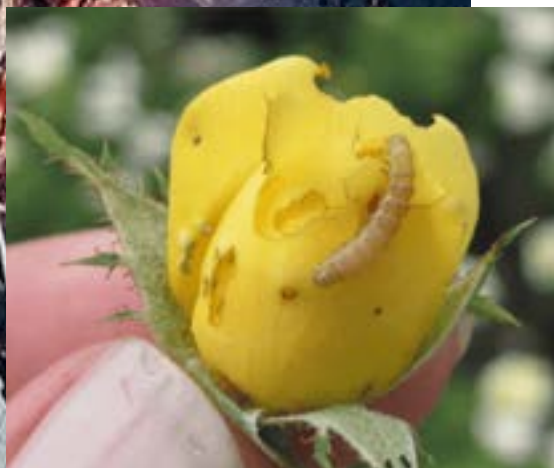
by Ryan Tilley, Master Rosarian
with some info and photos from Scout Horticultural Consulting, Rachel Delp, and Gardening Know-How



While writing the answer to the vegetable question above, I became aware that I had not written recently about caterpillars, specifically budworms. A majority of the time, budworms are just an occasional problem, but sometimes they can do a

lot of damage and it is good to know how to deal with them.

If you see a bunch of moths around your roses, it might be the beginning of a budworm episode. These female moths lay their eggs on rose buds. These eggs hatch into budworm larvae which are small caterpillars, often less than one inch long, and most commonly green with white or black markings. However, mature budworms can grow to more than 1.5 inches and there are also reddish and tan versions, as budworms can take on the color of the roses they are feeding on. Once the eggs hatch, tiny caterpillars (called budworms) crawl to developing flower buds and bore into the petals. They're using the petals as their food source. Budworms can be difficult to spot because they are most active at night, protecting them from birds and beneficial insects and making them more difficult to control.



Budworm infestations can devastate flowering plants rapidly, it is vital to apply control measures at the first sign of damage. For small infestations, handpicking at dusk, when they are most active, is the most effective control. In addition, insecticides containing neem oil and **Bacillus thuringiensis** (commonly called Bt or BT) can provide effective budworm control. **Bacillus thuringiensis** (Bt) is actually a naturally occurring bacterium, common in some soils, that causes disease in certain insects, most notably leaf and needle feeding caterpillars. It was first discovered in the early 1900's. Products with permethrin (a pyrethrin) or carbaryl (Sevin) may also be used. Complete spray coverage is vital and repeated sprays should be applied at 7 to 10-day intervals for optimal budworm control. One such product that I have used in the past is **Dipel**, which contains BT. But be advised that this product can wash off with rain so it may need to be reapplied more often.

Once you have gotten control of these pests, it is possible that the mature budworms fall to the ground and burrow down into the soil where it pupates for about three weeks and emerges as that wonderful female moth that can start the cycle all over again. Long hot summers favor their life cycles and there can be as many as seven such cycles in a growing season and you might not notice them until the petals unfurl and by then the caterpillar will have already moved on to another flower or pupated. The rose petals will look like they've been peppered with bird shot and you'll say to yourself, "I've worked on these roses all summer long through the brutal heat and now their flowers all look like s**t?"

Finally, as winters get warmer and warmer without a deep soil freeze, budworm pupae (other damaging insects) survive over winter in the ground and they will be munching on blooms the following spring. Isn't that wonderful news?

Click on our favorites



FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/BionicRoseGardener>



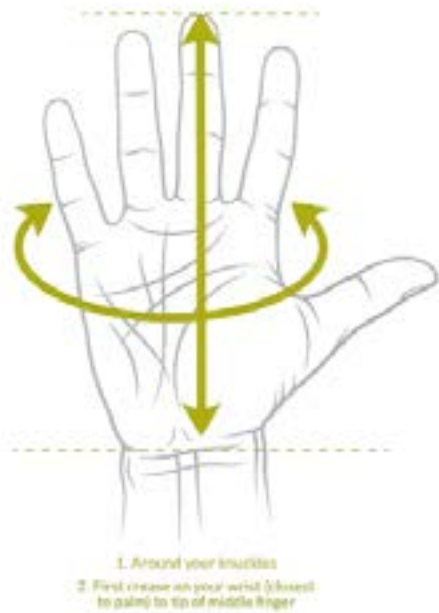
Bionic Rose Gauntlets make easy work of thorn covered plants. Plus, they protect your forearms from sun, dirt and bug bites. Machine washable, designed by an orthopedic hand surgeon, and manufactured by Louisville Slugger. Order your holiday gift gloves now for to avoid shipping delays.

<https://therosegardener.com/product/bionic-rose-gauntlets/>
or call Wendy Tilley at 404-771-9300.

Contacts

The Crazy Rosarian

Ryan Tilley- 770-377-8837
Ryan's email: Wtilley598@aol.com
Wendy Tilley- 404-771-9300
wendy@therosegardener.com



| MEN'S | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | LENGTH | CIRCUMFERENCE |
| Small | 6 7/8 - 7 1/8 | 7 3/4 - 8 |
| Medium | 7 1/8 - 7 3/8 | 8 - 8 1/4 |
| M/L (our own) | 7 3/8 - 7 1/2 | 8 1/4 - 8 3/8 |
| Large | 7 3/8 - 7 3/4 | 8 3/8 - 8 3/4 |
| XL | 7 3/4 - 8 | 8 3/4 - 9 1/4 |
| XXL | 8 - 8 1/4 | 9 1/4 - 9 1/2 |
| XXXL | 8 3/8 - 8 5/8 | 9 1/2 - 9 7/8 |
| XXXXL | | 9 3/4 - 10 |
| XXXXXL | | 10 - 10 1/2 |

| WOMEN'S | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | LENGTH | CIRCUMFERENCE |
| Small | 6 - 6 3/8 | 6 1/4 - 7 |
| Medium | 6 3/8 - 6 5/8 | 7 1/4 - 7 5/8 |
| M/L (our own) | 6 5/8 - 6 3/4 | 7 5/8 - 7 3/4 |
| Large | 6 3/4 - 7 1/8 | 7 3/4 - 8 |
| XL | 7 1/8 - 7 3/8 | 8 - 8 1/4 |