

Ryan's Summer 2023 Garden Journal

Excuse missing parts of my journal as I recover from hip replacement surgery and prepare for Africa trip.

June 27 - Spending way too much time trying to "raccoon proof" all of my young roses with a 30-inch fence with 2-3 lines of barbed attached. So far newly planted roses like *Moonstone*, *Clovie*, *Vibrant Vonie*, *Lemontini*, *Mister Lincoln*, and..... have been dug up every night! It has been impossible to keep mulch around them and the soil is drying out really every day even though I have been watering every day. Tried repellents, barbed wire, and moth balls but no luck. I put a trap out but have not caught any raccoons. Decided to call **Critter Control** and see what they can do.

June 29 - Finished up installing Home Depot green 30-inch green wire heavy-duty plastic-coated fence with the barbed wire attached to it. This is really a lot of hard work, and it does not seem to be working.

June 30 - Met with **Critter Control** guy and he is going to put 5 traps out while we are in Africa. Hate wasting money like this but I have no other choice lest my new roses get destroyed while we are gone.

July 1 - Finishing up watering everything really well as weather forecast says hot and dry, dry, dry rest of July.

July 28 - Back from Africa and no time to waste getting out and watering roses.

July 30 - Heading towards over 2 months with no rain. No need to do much spraying. The susceptible roses to powdery mildew indeed have some and a few roses that were really heat and water stressed have got some spider mites. I spot sprayed them with a pump-up sprayer. Soon though when it is not blistering hot, I will have to do a main season spray. But for now, I will play the waiting game. Too much risk of spray damage with temperatures up in the 90s and 100s for too little reward.

Aug 9 - Time to spray before it gets really hot in a couple days. Mornings are still pleasant so I will spray about 9 AM. So often it gets windy in the late afternoon which eliminates one of my favorite times to spray since the spray dries really fast which helps eliminate spray burn. In Atlanta, I often started spraying my roses around 6 PM and ending around about 2 hours before sunset weather permitting.

Aug 15 - Four straight days of 100 plus degrees have arrived. Got my overhead sprinkler system up and running.

Aug 16 - 108 degrees today! Along with spending time at the pool, spent most of the day making sure all of the roses get watered with the in-ground irrigation, soaker hoses, and Dramm pvc system. No time for any problems. This would have been the hottest day ever except for two years ago when it got up to 120 degrees!!

Aug 20 - We got a break from the super heat as smoke from wildfires is blocking out enough solar heating to bring the temperatures down to only around 88 - 90 degrees.

Aug 21 - My 2 bushes of *Mohana* have dozens of beautiful sprays that are great for cutting due to their extremely long bloom time on the bush and in the vase. I am talking weeks people! The bright yellow blooms often edged in coral are on the small side to be sure, but they last forever and have a moderate fragrance on a good fragrance day.

Aug 22 - Hurricane Hilary spun up some beautiful cirrus clouds with some low cumulus and dark blue skies. Meteorologists call this a "tropical sky" and it kept temperatures cooler the last few days. Great day to spot spray for powdery mildew for roses like *Sweet Mademoiselle*, *Double Delight*, *Neil Diamond*, *Liz's Charm* to name a few.

Aug 23 - Had to do some spot spraying for downy mildew on my *Pumpkin Patch* roses. So, I am spot spraying them with a product called **Orvego** that I sometimes rotate with **Stature**. **Orvego** has the same active ingredient as Stature (dimethomorph), but it also has ametocradin, which gives it a dual action against tough downy mildew. But I recommend using Stature since it is cheaper to apply on a regular basis.

Aug 24 - Return of the heat, so, I will wait a few days to spray again. A few roses have some powdery mildew just like last year in mid-summer, but it is nothing I am going to panic about. No other real problems so I will keep watering and

deadheading with some staking those “sneaky young fast growing canes” that a blustery afternoon could drop on the ground. My large apple tree had some heavy apple-laden branches that broke off and are now on the ground. A good reminder to check new canes often, especially those that have sprays and/or candelabra at the top of the cane.

Aug 25 - Another big cane of the fragrant hybrid tea *Tickled Pink* has died back. This is the second year in a row that *Tickled Pink* has regressed, and I may have to remove it soon if it does not put out a really nice basal break or low lateral cane to signify to me that it may renew itself if given more time.

Aug 26 - With rain in the forecast for each of the next few days, time to spray the usual suspects : **Eagle 20EW** for powdery mildew, **Mancozeb** for various leaf spots, **Banner Maxx** for blackspot and powdery mildew , and **Avid** for spider mites. I am not going to use **Conserve** for thrips at this time since my roses are about bloomed out. I will use **Conserve** again once the next bloom cycle begins, most likely in the middle of September.

Aug 26 Noon - Damn, had bit of mist roll in for an hour right in the middle of spraying. Often times, mist will not show up on the radar so it can catch me off guard like today. If the mist stays uber light, the spray may stick on the leaves as one of the chemicals, **Daconil Ultrex**, has a weather stick in it that will resist washing off, which is why it is sometimes better to spray **Daconil Ultrex** instead of the typical summer weather **Mancozeb** as my broad spectrum fungicide to combine with **Banner Maxx** which is a sterol inhibitor that penetrates the leaf and so cannot be washed off. Both **Daconil Ultrex** and **Mancozeb** reside on the leaf surface and can be washed off if the rain is heavy enough.

Aug 26 1PM - The mist got heavy enough that I had to stop. Checked the rain gauge and it showed less than .01". So, did the spray stick or did it wash off? Once the sun came out, I used up the remaining spray in my skid sprayer to re-spray as many roses as possible. About an hour after I finished the re-spray heavier mist arrived. Fortunately, by then all of the spray had dried on the leaves so some so at least a good chunk of roses were adequately sprayed. So, I think I am in good shape, but just to be sure I am going to shorten the time until my next regular spray. So the day after the rain stops, I will be out spraying again.