

# Ryan's May 2023 Garden Journal

**May 05** – Normally I would wait a few more weeks to plant my new roses, but with hip replacement on May 12, I had no choice but to get them in right now. Good thing I already had all the spots well prepared so all I had to do was dig, remove rose from pot, plant rose, water, and mulch.

**May 06** – It is imperative that I get these roses off to a good start so I will be watering every day for awhile. Next week it looks like we will have several days in the 90's while I am having surgery. Could have waited a few days if you ask me.

**May 8** – In many parts of the country, roses are starting to bloom, or blooming is in full swing and that means thrips. For a small garden, using a hand sprayer or aerosol can to spray only the buds and blooms every 3-4 days will eliminate them after only 2 or 3 applications. Conserve is the most Nature friendly product to use but not the best. For tough thrips, especially in warm/hot summer regions, I use **Safari, Malathion, Conserve, Orthene, or Overture** and rotate with **Conserve**. For large gardens, try using a pump-up sprayer with as much pressure as you can get and mist over the tops of the bushes. Also, remember that thrips like other shrubs like gardenia blooms as well so if they are close by, spray their blooms as well.

**May 10** – I am taking a calculated risk by not doing a main season spray before the surgery. All roses are putting out a lot of beautiful new growth and are more susceptible to spray damage at this stage. Even though the next 2 weeks of warm and dry conditions will be favorable for powdery mildew. So, I am utilizing risk vs. reward logic and have decided to hold off on the spraying and avoid the risk of spray damage in this hot weather.

**May 11** – With surgery tomorrow, I am giving all roses a really deep watering due to the upcoming heat wave while I am bedridden.

**May 12** - My big day. Wendy will be watering for a while.

**May 15 – 20** – Watering, disbudding, and staking take center stage with the Portland Rose Show 3 weeks away.

**May 21** – Even though there is a little bit of powdery mildew and an aphid or two here and there, I am not going to make a large-scale pesticide application unless the situation warrants it. A bit of spray damage can ruin an otherwise great bloom if it is entered in a rose show. For now, just spot spraying with **Eagle** for powdery mildew will have to do.