

Ryan's September 2023 Garden Journal

Sept 1 - Pleasant weather is finally here and it might just be here to stay. A stroll through the garden revealed why preventive staking is better than waiting for canes to blow over or snap off the plant. Fortunately, this *Randy Scott* cane did not break off. I immediately pruned it and fastened it to a stake.

Sept 2 - Time to spray for disease and mites. Normally I would add **Conserve** into my spray, but most of my roses are in-between bloom cycles with a dearth of blooms and buds, so I am holding off spraying for insects for now. I will simply spot spray any buds and blooms that pop up over the next week or so. I like using a Solo 2 gallon pump up sprayer and backpack sprayer because they have the best wand emitters to keep a nice steady fine mist which helps the spray to stick on the leaves.

Sept 8 - Took advantage of several mild days and cool nights to make another main season spray with an emphasis on powdery mildew prevention. **Eagle 20W** along with **Banner Maxx** should keep my roses mildew free for at least 2-3 weeks.

Sept 9 - Hadn't really noticed before, but *Elegant Lady* and *World War II Memorial* have quietly become behemoths with numerous large sprays and candelabras over 6 feet tall. It would have been tragic to have had a really windy afternoon break off those 6 foot canes, so I staked them immediately.

Sept 10 - Same thing with a bush of *Randy Scott*. This time I was lucky that the biggest cane was only blown over and not broken.

Sept 11 - In the past I have ignored the mediocre blooms on my one bush of a so-called *Dona Martin*, which has always been big as a Mack Truck. The bush has been a monster with scads of huge 8 foot cane and tons of blooms. However, it has taken a lot of time to stake and prune without any really good cut flowers. It is even too big for Mr. Shovel to dig out so I have offered it to anyone rose society member who wants it. Since it is such a good spot, I plan on plan on replacing with *Betty Curry* and her bright reddish-orange blooms.

Sept 12 - The **Portland Rose Society** is having their fall rose show and it comes at a terrible time for my rose garden as it is solidly in-between bloom cycles. Will there be any show-worthy blooms for me to show?

Sept 17 - Latest hot spell is over so it is time to spray **Eagle 20W** for powdery mildew and with cooler dewy nights **Stature** for downy mildew. Then I will use my regular end of summer spray of **Banner Maxx**, **Mancozeb**, **Conserve**, **Avid**, and **Floramite**. So far, the powdery mildew is less severe than last year, even on the roses that are quite susceptible to it, like *Sweet Mademoiselle*.

Sept 22 - With a week of rainy days ahead, I applied the appropriate pesticides for the wet weather ahead including **Stature** for downy mildew, **Systec** (granular form of **Cleary's 3336**) as a rotation for the **Banner Maxx** I applied last week, **Conserve** for thrips as the roses are chock full of buds for October bloom cycle, and **Daconil Ultrex** with its Weather Stick action as a rotation for **Mancozeb** I applied last week and **Akari** for mites as a rotation for **Floramite** and **Avid**.

Sept 24 - Always a good idea to cut blooms before the cool rainy weather starts. Lots of great blooms of *Snuffy*, *Lauren Leigh*, *Silver Cream*, *Le Petite Prince*, *Stiletto*, *Ring of Fire*, and *David's Love* to name a few.

Sept 25 - Just found out that my 3-gallon plant of *Silver Cream* was shipped today from K and M roses. I had been wanting to add another plant of this variety, but the plants were all on the small side to ship. When the 3-gallon plant was available, I pounced on it! I will plop it into my greenhouse over the winter and hope it is really big before planting it out next April.

Sept 27 - Finally got some nice blooms of the deep red rose, *Love's Promise*. I bought this rose for its supposed powerhouse fragrance and it sure delivered big time on that front. Blooms are on the small side, but I really don't have much in the way of fragrant reds so it is a welcome addition to the garden. As for my other reds, my 3 *Firefighter* bushes have pumped out long stem beauties, even if the blooms are a bit on the small side as well. My other fragrant reds include one new *Mister Lincoln and Lasting Love*, and 3 *Alec's Red*.

Sept 29 - I have been seeing some raccoon damage in non-rose parts of my garden. The ground has been rooted up like pigs would do, but the hostas and hydrangeas themselves are pretty much okay. They are obviously on the lookout for all manner of delicious insects, worms, and whatnot. Just like I did with my roses, I spread some granular insecticide in the entire area that was dug as well as another dose in the rose beds that were ravaged back in late June and early July. Looks like this chore is going to be permanent part of my rose maintenance schedule going forward in 2024. I have also kept the raccoon traps in place as a precaution. I have not smoothed out the dug area as I fear they might just dig it up again. I will wait a few weeks before I add a bit of mulch to make the area look good.

Sept 30 - *Pacific Celebration* continues its remarkable recovery from winter damage and has about a half-dozen nice blooms on long stems. Needless to say, I will pay extra attention to it when I put down my winter mulch.