



# *The Rose Arbour*

*Newsletter of the Valley Rose Club  
Volume 2 – Spring Issue 2011*

## *Editor's Comments*

Welcome to the new year of Roses! I know we are all looking forward to seeing the new roses we planted and of course our efforts from hybridizing and creating our own roses. The good, bad and ugly of winter will be showing up soon as we get to the chore of pruning our roses. Will this be an early rose year or as in the last few, later than we would like? The constant pruning of some of our roses to ground level I'm sure doesn't do them any good. I'm sure they really could use some of the stored energy from last year's canes to do their best for us this year. Although, I remember many years ago on a trip to Queen Elizabeth Garden in Vancouver after a rather cold winter, seeing beds of Roses which were obviously on Dr. Huey rootstock that had been pruned down to the bud union. Three months later when we saw them, I was shocked to see waist high canes with lots of lovely blooms. I really think they must have used a magic wand to revive the roses. But, we have been growing roses for over 30 years now, and every year by the month of June we have roses in bloom. I'm especially excited to see a few new roses we have growing in pots in the garage and hope I have made good choices.

*The 2011 All American Rose Selections* are a pretty yellow floribunda, 'Walking on Sunshine', and the changeable blend grandiflora 'Dick Clark'. Both of these may be available at some of the local nurseries this spring. Whether they will be good choices for our area remains to be seen, as it usually takes a few years to find out the roses that thrive best in our PNW climate.

*The 2011 U.K. Rose of the Year* is the disease resistant floribunda 'Joie de Vivre' introduced by Kordes. A compact grower with glossy foliage and soft apricot buds opening to a cream blush pink. Its compact habit makes it valuable for growing in containers.

The pictures of 'Joie de vivre' (Joy of Living/Life) I have seen look to me like 'Champagne Moment' except that it is much shorter and more compact in growth. Its disease resistance, even when surrounded by badly affected plants has earned this rose the prestigious title "Rose of the Year 2011.

Rose breeders are invited through Roses UK to enter what they consider to be their best varieties into the "Rose of the Year" competition. Trials are conducted throughout the UK in

different climates and soil conditions. The trial lasts for a two year period and judged both by professionals and amateurs with the most worthy variety being selected “Rose of the Year.” Selection is some six years in advance to allow enough time for the building of sufficient stocks before introduction to the public.

On a visit to Roses UK website, I was surprised how many “Rose of the Year” roses we grow in our garden.

‘Mountbatten’ 1982 - a tall floribunda with lovely yellow flowers which we brought from our previous garden. At one time we had the two generals, ‘Mountbatten’ and ‘Alexander’ next to each other, where they got along very well until ‘Alexander’ was lost after a couple of rather harsh winters.

Glad Tidings, 1989 - Kordes floribunda is still one of the best red floribunda roses we grow in our garden.

‘Melody Maker’ -1991 is still a favourite, especially for tree roses as it has a nice bushy growth habit and classic orange blooms stand out in the garden.

‘Sunset Boulevard’ - 1997 is another beauty with perfectly formed bright orange flowers that come in large sprays.

‘Fascination’ 1999 - a short growing plant that is never without bloom. It has been discontinued by Pickering Nurseries so it’s not easily available now. (you have to make your own)....

‘Great Expectations’ 2001 - a rose that goes overboard in the bloom production department. The plants are absolutely covered in beautiful pale pink ruffled flowers and is a tall grower. Lucky is the rose grower who can find one of these!

Others are ‘Simply the Best’ 2002, ‘Rhapsody in Blue’ 2003, ‘Champagne Moment’ 2006, ‘Tickled Pink’ 2007, ‘Absolutely Fabulous’ aka ‘Julia child’ 2010 and this year new to our garden is ‘Lucky’ , 2009 ‘Rose of the Year.’”

## *Miniature Rose Hall of Fame 2010*

Three miniature roses have been chosen for the 2010 Hall of Fame – ‘Grace Seward’ a pretty white single, ‘Fancy Pants’ and ‘Chelsea Belle’. As far as I know only one of these, ‘Chelsea Belle’ is available in the lower mainland of BC.



‘Chelsea Belle’ (‘TALchelsea’) The pretty red blooms are exhibition form with a white reverse to the petals. Chelsea Belle is a very vigorous strong upright growing plant with mid green semi glossy foliage. I have had this one growing in a large container for several years, and every year it is a beautiful, very vigorous, excellent producer of perfectly formed blooms. One of my all time favourite miniature roses.

Whether starting a new rose garden or updating an existing rose garden, now that fungicides are not allowed in some Cities and Municipalities, and for the sake of ease of care, it will pay great dividends in the long run to choose your roses wisely and use cultural practices that help to eliminate problems in the rose garden.

- Choose hardy, disease resistant cultivars.
- Choose an appropriate site (soil and sunlight).
- Leave enough space between the plants so that air can circulate and sunlight can reach them.

During the growing season

- Keep the plants healthy with annual pruning, adequate fertilizer and regular watering.
- Prune annually to allow air and sunlight to reach the centre of the plants and reduce the incidence of fungal diseases.
- Hand weed regularly. Weeds harbour parasites and compete with other plants.
- Avoid getting water on the leaves and handling wet plants.
- Keep an eye on your plants to identify problems early on.
- Immediately remove any diseased plant parts and disinfect your tools after each cut.
- Burn or place all diseased or infected plant material in the garbage. Composting does not always destroy all fungal spores or insect eggs.

In Fall

- Strip the leaves from your rose bushes and gather all fallen leaves from beds.
- Do not compost the leaves or use them as winter protection. Fungi overwinter in the form of spores on leaves and bark and in the soil.

## *The Year of the Deer*

For many years we have read about the problems of rose growers and deer. While we sympathized with them we never gave it too much thought.

We have lived in our current home on an acre for 16 years and while many wild animals such as bears, Coyotes, Bob Cats, Squirrels etc., are often seen, we had only seen a deer several years ago and had not seen one since. Our property is located in an area surrounded by bush so the location is quite deer friendly. For some reason this past spring the deer must have discovered a gourmet delight in all the new tender rose shoots.

They were quite brazen when dining and unconcerned at our presence. A large Doe and her yearling had to be charged and yelled at before they moved, and then only with a look of "what's the problem".

There are volumes of remedies for Deer problems but the only sure one that seems to work is a tall fence. To build a fence to encircle an acre would be costly so we looked for alternatives and came up with what is called a 'Deer Fence', and this was available in 100ft lengths 7 ft tall for a cost of \$20.00 at Lee Valley Home and Garden Products. These have spaces  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch apart.

We had quite a number of bamboo stakes 8 ft tall so they were ideal with 6 to 8 inches in the ground and about 7 1/2 ft high. These were placed in the ground at about 8ft apart by using a length of rebar, pushing it in to make a hole for the bamboo stake. We had a good supply of twist ties left over from garbage bags so these were used to attach the netting to the stakes (about 4 per stake-top to bottom). It is recommended that a space be left at the bottom to allow small animals to pass in and out. Do not leave too large a space as the deer are capable of "doing the limbo".

This fence is quite hard to see so it was also recommended that a ribbon or some other visible method be used to indicate a barrier is present. This fence seems to have remedied our problem since deer were present outside the fence in our neighbours' yard, but stayed out of our yard. Our only question now is "will we be visited next spring?" The fence will remain up just in case.

## *Candy Land – Large Flowered Climber*

One of the roses I purchased on a whim last year was the LCL 'Candy Land'. The rose did put on reasonable growth for a first year plant attaining 5-6 feet. The clusters of bloom were amazing and the plant itself was a picture of health with glossy thick almost leathery foliage. Needless to say I was very pleased to have chosen such a winner. I thought my instincts were finally paying off after all these years!! Unfortunately looking at the plant now ( early February)I know it will be pruned very low from severe winter damage. It is planted out on the corner of the property and no doubt was subjected to the early November freeze along with some wicked winds at the same time. I'm hopeful though that there is a nice strong root system and it will recover nicely. One spray of this rose in a vase would make my home a very happy one!



*Of course, our Valley Rose Club members are all familiar with how to prune all the roses in their rose garden, so the following rambling advice is for anyone not from the club who has ventured on to our web-site and is not familiar with pruning roses. As I have mentioned before in another time and place, when telling someone "how to prune", I am reminded that in his book "Classic Roses" Peter Beales says, "No subject provokes more friendly disagreement among my gardening friends than that of pruning." "So, relating some of my experience in this controversial area, will I'm sure, cause some eyebrows to be raised among those who hold other opinions." "I recall an occasion when as a very young man having just been taught to prune, seeing a neighbor pruning his roses with shears, I remarked precociously that if he wished, I would teach him how to prune his roses correctly." He simply carried on snipping and replied, "I am doing them the way I've always done them and my roses have always been the best in the village." "My pride being somewhat hurt, I let the matter rest; but for years afterwards I always felt a pang of embarrassment when passing his garden in summer, for indeed he did have the best roses for miles around."*

## Early spring in the Rose Garden

For many people, late February and into March is the time to prune their roses. Some rose growers have already pruned them in November and only re-prune where necessary. Others do their entire pruning in late February to early March feeling they can better see where the new growth is starting. The advantage of pruning in November is that rose material, i.e. canes, leaves, dead wood etc. are removed and disease spores are not left to over winter. Also, long canes left on the plant invite breakage by wind and snow and tend to loosen the root system. Both methods appear to be effective and convenience may determine your preference as well as the number of plants you have.

The tidying of rose plants and pruning is done just as new growth is beginning – about the time Forsythia is blooming in our part of the Country. Roses are shrubs that grow by a process of replacement and healthy plants are constantly sending up more basal canes, or laterals. These new canes take strength away from the older canes, which will become unproductive or they will eventually wither and die. When roses are not pruned, they will eventually become a mass of tangled useless wood. Pruning will force your plant's energy into new leafy growth and flowering shoots. It also controls the shape, size and symmetry of the rose bush and the plant is less susceptible to disease when opened up to allow better air circulation and better penetration of sunlight.

There are many types of roses, each requiring a somewhat different pruning technique. It is therefore very important to know what type of plant you are working with. For instance, a one-time blooming rose should not be pruned until after it blooms in spring. These types produce bloom on the previous year's growth and if major pruning is done in spring before it blooms, all of the blooming stems may inadvertently be removed. If you are not sure what type of rose you are dealing with, it would be best to remove only dead and diseased wood.

You can then observe the plant for the remainder of the season to determine its growth habit and when and where it produces bloom and what type of bloom it produces.

From these observations, one should be able to determine if a plant is a one-time blooming Rambler, climber, or Old Garden Rose, or if the plant is a modern repeat-blooming Hybrid Tea or Floribunda. Observing the plant for a season can mean the difference between a big beautiful flush of bloom or a plant with no bloom for two seasons.

Before you prune your roses, be sure you have the proper tools. A sharp pair of all-purpose bypass secateurs is best. Poor cuts lead to bruised stems and can result in stems dying back, or disease entering damaged areas. A pair of long handled lopping shears for thicker stems, a pruning saw for very thick stems, and you're all set to go....

Before you start to cut, remove any winter covering from the plant creating a basin to expose the crown so you can get a good look at the plant. First, cut away any dead, diseased, and twiggy growth. Growth that is less than the diameter of a pencil should be eliminated as it is too small to support decent flowers. Four to eight canes can be left, depending on the size and age of the plant. An older, vigorous plant can support more canes.

A new cane can be distinguished from an older one by smoother lighter green coloured wood and brownish thorns. Older canes will usually be duller in colour, and have creases and cracks in them. The canes you choose to keep may be all new ones if the plant has replenished itself generously during the past season. Generally, this is not the case and you will probably select a combination of old and new canes. Choose carefully so you will have a well balanced, symmetrical plant.

Some varieties of roses do not renew themselves by sending out new basal shoots. In this event, retain the best of the older canes. The best flowers are produced on the newer wood however, so some of the older canes may be removed to the bud union. When removing these older canes, cut close to the bud union and don't leave two or three inch stumps that will be subject to rot and disease. Proceed to shorten the canes that grew during the past summer by one-third to one-half, but do not cut into heavy old wood as this may cause die back. Always leave a lateral or branch of new wood on these old canes. Then, thin out the smaller branches at the top and open the center of the plant for better air circulation and light penetration. Make cuts at a 45 degree angle about one quarter inch above a bud eye that points toward the outside of the plant. The lowest point should be on the side of the stem opposite the bud, but not lower than the bud itself. Exceptions to this would be where the plant has grown too vigorously over a path or it is spreading and you would like to confine it and get greater height – then cut to an inside eye.

The above applies to Hybrid Tea and Grandiflora roses. Floribunda are pruned the same way except that they can be pruned more lightly – about one-quarter – with more branching left at the tops and slightly thinner canes.

### REPEAT BLOOMING CLIMBERS

These bloom on the current year's growth. In early spring, repeat blooming climbers should be shaped by shortening some of the canes to force new side growth. Flowers are produced on the side shoots or "laterals" that grow from old wood. After flowering, remove the end of each flowering lateral leaving about three to four leaf buds. Repeat bloom will occur on the short new growth. Four year old canes can be removed at the base of the plant after the spring bloom, making room for new basal growth.

### RAMBLERS AND ONCE BLOOMING CLIMBERS

These bloom on previous year's new growth and should not be pruned until after the spring bloom. The wood on ramblers must be at least one year old to produce bloom (two year old canes will, if sufficient new growth has been produced in the year) and will continue to bloom well for another year or two. Immediately after the third year of blooming, the canes should be removed at the base of the plant leaving a good combination of one to two year old wood for the next season. This also encourages new basal growth for future bloom. If this pruning technique is used it will prevent ramblers from becoming unmanageable brambles.

### SHRUBS AND OLD GARDEN ROSES

Many of these bloom on the current year's growth and can just be shaped up in early spring. The removal of old wood should be done periodically to make room for new basal growth. Shrubs and old garden roses that only bloom once in spring should be pruned after blooming. Canes should be shortened, laterals should be pruned back and three to five year old wood should be removed at the base.

All newly planted roses benefit from a very hard pruning, which encourages new growth from the base or near the base of the plant. If canes are left long, the first seasons growth will start from the top of the plant and will make it difficult to induce basal growth in succeeding years.

When you have finished pruning, rake up all debris to eliminate a possible source of insects or over wintering insects or disease spores. The final step is to give the plants a good spray with copper or another good fungicide.

While miniature roses seem to be losing in popularity, my personal experience with miniatures is that they are not fussy plants. Some years, time permitting I prune the miniatures much as I would a floribunda, while other years when pressed for time, they are severely pruned, and then there are years when old man winter dictates they be cut to ground level. Over the years, however, I have lost few mini's to winter damage. They seem to grow happily out of the soil every year. Happy Rose Growing!

Showing off Some home- made miniature roses – by Valley Rose Club members



**Miniature 'Danielle'**



**Floribunda 'Hambleton'**



**Miniature 'Corinne's Choice'**



**Miniature 'Hannah Brown'**



A members' new rose garden in raised planters