



The Rose Arbour

Newsletter of the Valley Rose Club
Volume 1 Issue 1 – September 2010

Comments from the editor

Unusually miserable cool, wet spring weather finally turned into sunshine and beautiful roses! It has been so far, a very eventful year for our new group and we look forward to lots of interesting, educational programs throughout the next year. We still have a few arrangements to make for our organization and we will spend the best part of the fall and winter months on those arrangements. It has already been decided that rather than an incorporated society, we would just carry on as a club. We aim to keep it simple so that our main focus is on growing roses. We have received the information necessary for the club to join the ARS as an affiliate member, and this will be presented at the October meeting.



On our recent garden tours, the one rose that stood out (in all gardens) was 'Julia Child'. This is a must have rose for every garden. Some of our members are busy building structures for their roses and we wish them well in their endeavour. We look forward to seeing these gardens next season.

It has been a great year for growth on the roses and even some of the doubtful plants have decided to grace us with lots of new basil shoots. Some gardens, (ours included) have been the best I've seen in a couple years.

This past rose season has been the most enjoyable I can remember in a number of years. We have had some great garden visits and good times together. This newsletter is really just an experiment until more decisions are made as to the direction of our new Rose Club. This is not necessarily the final format that will be followed, but in the meantime, I hope you find it worthwhile.

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The total lack of insect problems in the garden has left me a little baffled, since we haven't used ANY insecticides in our garden. We stay clear of any insecticide so that we don't end up with spider mites. Killing off all the predators will ensure a good crop of spider mites when the summer heat turns up.

Thrips have been the major nuisance this year, as it was last year as well. We are too lazy to do anything about them, but it may be time to consider doing something if we want to enjoy clean, pretty blooms all summer.

Fall in the Rose Garden

We will of course have roses until the plants are topped back for winter, but the last good flush will be enjoyed in September. Mildew is more than likely to find its way into the garden this month with warmer days and cooler nights. Most of us don't spray throughout the summer months and it may be a good idea to resume a spray program at least until we start stripping and cleaning up the garden for winter. We all know that when plants are healthy going into winter, they will emerge healthy in spring. The nice cooler days of September and early October is a great time to assess our garden for changes we wish to make for next season. It's always nice to try different roses so that when a plant has not performed up to our expectation it's the perfect opportunity to try something new.

Usually, by October instead of deadheading I just pluck off the dead blooms since it's too late for another crop of bloom. They say that by letting hips form, the plants will be more ready for winter. But, of course we know that not all roses form hips, and the canes will be reduced in height soon as well. The larger the garden, the earlier it's necessary to start the fall clean-up process.

If you're planning on new roses for fall planting, now is a good time to prepare the site for them. New beds created now will have time to settle and condition. Don't forget the golden rules when it comes to situating your roses. Sunshine, - 5-6 hours direct sun on a sunny day, easy access to water, away from shrubs and trees where the roots will rob your roses of moisture and nutrients. And, of course good drainage is essential so that roots are not standing in water.



Hybrid Tea Rose 'Glorious'
photo by Andre' Wasak

This is one of the nicest hybrid tea roses we have ever grown in our garden. The bush and flowers are really fabulous. The plant is upright and bushy with extremely lovely mid green shiny foliage. The flowers are of course to die for!

Multiflora understock

Multiflora canes will be available at the September meeting. New tree roses our members are experimenting with this year are – ‘Julia child’, ‘Double Delight’, ‘Sunflare’, ‘Peacekeeper’ and ‘Daybreaker’

We purchased a ‘Sunflare’ tree rose many years ago but lost it one winter. That was back when we were new rose growers and not aware that some West Coast winters were not kind to tree roses (standards). Now that we are older and somewhat wiser, we know tree roses must be protected over winter. As older folks often do, we have been reminiscing about our beloved ‘Sunflare’ tree and since it is no longer available anywhere in Canada, we managed to get a nice little stem to bud one.

Business

We have received a kit outlining membership in the American Rose Society as an affiliate club. We will be discussing this so we can send all the club’s details along with the annual affiliate fee.

In his article “Beginning of a New Rose Society” Dr. Wayne Shrader comments that the objectives of the ARS and local clubs is to encourage and promote the growing of roses. The success of the local club will depend upon how well it carries out this objective to the rose-growing public. Some local rose societies have met their death when the social aspect became so predominate that the primary obligation was lost. Therefore, from the very beginning, do NOT allow such small items as “coffee and doughnuts” to overshadow the program on roses.

Business for the next meeting will be election of officers.

Next meeting date is 1pm Saturday October 9th at Bill & Reiko’s Home

***Members who deliver landscape ties to your door step are always appreciated
Thanks!***

The Reasons for Winter Protection of Roses

Part I

Written by Val Winthrope

In order for roses to get through winter successfully they must go through a period of acclimation (fall) and then de-acclimation (spring). This process allows the rose to undergo certain chemical and physiological changes.

Roses that have the ability to do this have obtained it from their adaptation of their cold environment over millennia. Evolution plays a very important part in this scheme of things. So either a rose has super-cooled genes or it doesn't. This explains why some roses are hardier than others.

The Effect of Fall on Roses:

In fall, a number of conditions set off changes within roses that slow their growth. Decreasing temperatures and shortening day-length are two that start these changes. This triggers the production of abscisic acid, a general growth inhibitor. An increase in Abscisic acid also causes guard cells to collapse and close the stomata, the cells that allow the gases and water to escape the rose, slowing the release of water.

This is often called "super-cooling". Times of drought can also stimulate the production of abscisic acid, reducing expiration and increasing root development. (That's why it is recommended to stop watering in the fall, helping trigger the production of abscisic acid.) Since abscisic acid also promotes root growth, this makes it a good time for moving or planting dormant bushes in the fall.

In roses, the carbohydrates produced in photosynthesis are no longer needed for growth in the fall, so they begin to move from the leaves to the canes, in the form of sugars, leaving behind various waste products. Ethylene and abscisic acid then affect a section of specialized cells where the leaf attaches to the cane. These cells are sensitive to the hormones, and as the concentration grows, the cells disintegrate and the leaf falls, leaving behind a protective layer on the rose where the leaf was attached.

How Roses Prepare Themselves for the Freeze:

The next stage involves the rose preparing for freezing temperatures. If the rose did nothing, ice crystals would form within the plant cells, bursting cell walls or dehydrating plasma membranes. Once spring arrives, the cell tissues would begin to rot, resulting in the brown pith we find when pruning.

In preparation for freezing temperatures, plant cells develop a structure that compensates. In a normal winter, the exterior of a cane freezes first, with a thin layer of ice forming from water in the air. Then water between cells would freeze. As more water between the cells freezes, water within the cells is drawn out through the cells' permeable walls.

Those cell walls allow water to pass more easily than sugars and other solutes, and what remains within the cells becomes very concentrated, with a lowered freezing point, acting like antifreeze. The sugars that moved to the canes are taken up by the cells, and increase the initial solute concentration. Without the extra sugars, the freezing process would remove too much solution, and would result in cell dehydration and injury to the rose.

If the exterior of the cane warms up, during a very brief thaw, the water between the cells normally remains frozen, the concentration of the solution in the cells stays the same, and the cells would survive the temporary thaw. If the warm period lasts longer and the water between the cells thaws, water seeps back into the cells, diluting the solution and raising its freezing point. If a sudden cold freeze then hits, the diluted solution would form ice crystals, destroying the cell.

So, the plant cell faces two dangers from freezing temperatures: dehydration if enough sugars are not present to retain a liquid "antifreeze"; and ice crystal damage if water dilutes the "antifreeze" enough to raise its freezing temperature.

When spring returns, the rose begins to manufacture hormones that stimulate new growth. The new growth uses the store of carbohydrates in the canes until leaves develop, and the vascular system can deliver water from roots to the leaves.

With cells damaged, the carbohydrates are still available in nearby shattered cells, but with the vascular system destroyed, water cannot be pulled from the roots to the new leaves to feed photosynthesis, so the new shoots wither and die.

Why Extra Winter Protection Works:

The purpose of winter protection, therefore, is not to keep the bush "warm," but to moderate the rate at which the bush freezes and thaws. Frozen moist soil is more a problem when ice crystals freeze and expand, causing frost heaves, snapping roots. Mulch or winter cover would move this heave zone to the surface of the mulch or mound, well out of reach of the roots. If the water in the winter cover freezes, it would do so slowly, and as warm temperature or sun returns, it would thaw slowly, giving the bush time to adjust.

In spring the roses will begin to de-acclimate triggered by the day length getting longer and temperatures rising. This means their cells will slowly begin to accumulate water until they are back to full functionality.

In a Nutshell.....

Given the information I have given you, what then happens if you have fall, and then early winter when the temperatures don't continually get colder, but stay relatively warm and then all at once, dive to well below freezing?.....

OR

Winter arrives early, before the roses have had enough time to acclimate??

YOU GET WINTER KILL!!!

Whatever part of the rose that has not sufficiently shed water from its cells will die. It's quite simple; too much water left in a cell when it freezes, and it expands and the cell walls burst.

So what do you think happens when there has been a very warm early spring, but then winter decides it's not over yet and temperatures dive again to below freezing??

YOU GET WINTER KILL!!!

If temperatures dive early enough in the de-acclimation process, roses still have the ability to acclimate, but if it happens too late in the process, the rose can get to a point of no return, and die.

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'Floral Fairytale' is one of the Romantic "Fairytale" series from Kordes Roses. The very double flowers are produced in sprays of 4-6 blooms, on an extraordinarily healthy, bushy shrub with glossy dark green foliage.

"He who would have beautiful Roses in his garden must have beautiful Roses in his heart. He must love them well and always. To win, he must woo, as Jacob wooed Laban's daughter, though drought and frost consume. He must have not only the glowing admiration, the enthusiasm, and the passion, but the tenderness, the thoughtfulness, the reverence, the watchfulness of love."

-S. Reynolds Hole, A book about Roses, 1901



*Hybrid Tea Rose
'Paddy Stephens'*

We first saw this beauty in New Zealand and were fortunate to be able to import it from the UK years ago. This one we guard ferociously so that we don't lose it.



'Keep Smiling'

A hybrid tea from Fryers, introduced in 2005. Reminds me of 'Bright Smile' a floribunda we grew many years ago. This one really does make you want to smile. It is available from Pickering Nurseries.

I am a big fan of Des Kennedy, and think this is an appropriate article from Des for this time of the year. Enjoy!

Falling Down in Autumn

By Des Kennedy

While autumn might be a melancholy season in the garden, full of wistful farewells and sombre forebodings, nevertheless, for some it has a brighter side: namely, the stiff comeuppance it delivers coastal growers. Compared with the rest of the country -- basking amid crimson maples, brilliantly golden aspens and all the rest -- autumn on the coast is a comparatively colourless and lack lustre collapse into dreary grey.

In an exceptional year, our native big leaf maples might put on a decent show, but usually they turn a callow yellow, blotched with brown spots, then fall off miserably. Our omnipresent red alders don't even make the effort -- they seem to just throw down their tatty leaves in disgust.

This is hardly the "Miles and miles of crimson glories...Miles of shoreland red and golden," celebrated by poets elsewhere across the land.

But somehow I don't detect any great outpouring of sympathy from other parts of the country towards those of us who must endure this wishy-washy mediocrity of a fall. Sometimes I suspect those east of us are snickering at our insipid autumn show.

Not surprising, really. I don't think I'm breaking confidentiality in disclosing that the coastal grower, while perhaps admired from afar, may not necessarily be loved. I suppose the chummy notes written in February to celebrate the first daffodils, then mailed to blizzard-battered friends on the prairies or back east, haven't helped. The loose talk of roses still blooming at Christmas. The slightly swaggering tone when describing marvellous semi-tropicals hardy enough for our yards.

All of this might easily be misinterpreted as smug self-satisfaction, not likely to endear us to frost-bitten gardeners elsewhere. There was, for example, a noticeable lack of empathy from points east during the great "snowstorm of the century" that buried Victoria last winter. It seemed more of a joke to some observers, the prevailing attitude seeming to be "Serves them lotuslanders right -- it's what the rest of us have to put up with every winter."

Perhaps pale and pithless autumns on the coast are nature's way of balancing the scales, of bringing to the coastal gardener just a smidgeon of humility.

But just as a horse may be led to water but not made to drink, a gardener may be brought to the trough of humility without becoming humbled. A more likely response, as we know, is the redoubling of efforts to overcome our shortfalls. Gardeners are like people who endlessly take self-help courses and seminars to try make things better.

This is certainly the route Sandy and I have chosen to surmount the mediocrity of a coastal autumn. Let the native trees insist on being drab if they want -- we'll bring in trees from elsewhere to create a panorama of gold and crimson glory that would make any Ontarian weep.

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