



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

Rosebuds

March/April 2012

E-mail: bgrs@insightbb.com

March 3:
Trip to Nashville
Lawn & Garden Show
April 6:
Wake Up Your
Roses
WCEO 6:30 pm

Roses Lose Bloom as Hobby, Industry by Debbie Arrington, The Sacramento Bee

Editor's Note: I read highlights of this in the March 2012 issue of Rose Reflections, a publication of the Sacramento & Sierra Foothills Rose Societies before reading the full article at <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/02/12/4256980/roses-lose-bloom-as-hobby-industry.html>. The article is copyrighted, so I also am only including highlights. Be sure to go to the website and read the full article; it is of concern.

Future generations may never know the beauty of Diana, Princess of Wales, sniff Catalina in the sunshine or fall for Beloved. . . .

Our desire for the carefree – no-iron shirts, no-wax floors, and now low-maintenance yards – has brought California's rose industry to a crossroads. "At some point, it becomes a

self-fulfilling prophecy. (Landscape) roses will be all you have; the beautiful, unique hybrid teas will be gone," said Charlie Anderson, president of Weeks Roses, the only major company still creating new varieties of full-size roses. The flagging economy has compounded the rose industry's troubles.

Two years ago, rose giant Jackson & Perkins, which had annually shipped 10 million bushes nationwide, filed for bankruptcy protection. Many of the hybrid roses the company created – such as Diana, Catalina and Beloved – may soon disappear from the mass market as the supply of those bushes dries up.

"Roses are viewed as an extravagance and they're still trying to shed that stigma," said Seth Taylor of Capi-

tal Nursery. "People have a very specific thing in mind when they think of a rose – it's full and lush and romantic. That's your traditional rose, what people love," Taylor said. "The single-petaled shrub roses are gaining a foothold with the public, but when my customers look at those flowers, they say 'That's not a rose.'"

Most of the nation's rose bushes originated in the Central Valley. But unlike wheat or tomatoes, it takes several years to produce a single crop of rose bushes. Hybridizers typically will test 400,000 seedlings to find one or two new varieties. Once selected, a new hybrid will be developed for seven to 10 years before it's released into the market. When ready for sale, field-grown bushes are 2 years old." . . .

Continued on page 4

TENARKY—From the Winter Workshop—by Mary Ann Hext, CR



Another informative district workshop was held February 17-19 in Franklin, Tennessee. The workshops offered a variety of information for Tenarky rosarians. Bob and Ann Jacobs, Ben and Pauline Matus, Claire Campbell, Kathy Dodsdon, and Mary Ann Hext represented BGRS.

From the Friday night meal and speaker to the CR school on Sunday, rosarians were able to obtain a wealth of rose information thanks to excellent speakers obtained by our district director, Sam Jones. Friday night, Cindy Shapton entertained us with her recipes for rose

petals. Saturday, speakers included interesting and informative presentations from Whit Wells on hybridizing roses, Robbie Tucker on what is new at Rosmania, what is available and how to use it, Richard Anthony and Kristine Vance on growing and showing roses, and a panel discussion where we could ask questions of the speakers.

We also heard from Dianne Sommers, a candidate for ARS vice-president. The din-

ner speaker was Keith Zary, award-winning hybridizer for Jackson & Perkins. He spoke about his new employer Gardens Alive and the changes that have taken place in the rose industry over the past few years.



BGRS members at Tenarky District Workshop Banquet

All About Pruning *by Dr. Tommy Cairns, Beverly Hills Rose Society*

Introduction

Like all fruit trees of the Rosaceae family, roses require an annual pruning to re-invigorate the plant before it produces a new harvest of blooms in the spring. The job is best performed after the chance of frost has disappeared from the calendar. To ignore the pruning process will allow the plant to enlarge in size but some new stems, being so thin and weak, will be unable to support the flowers. The result is a bigger bush that spreads along the ground. Moreover, the previous year's foliage can be a source of fungal infections from spores that survived the winter. Hence, roses require an annual cut back to ensure attractive and productive plants year after year. This article is primarily concerned with pruning outdoor roses.

The Process

Of all gardening practices, pruning seems to create a sense of uneasiness because of a lack of appropriate logic and understanding. The art and technique of rose pruning is not a mystery. It is remembering to apply a few basic principles derived from practical experiences gathered over hundreds of years. Pruning now-how provides an annual opportunity for the gardener to correct, adjust and modify the growth patterns to increase flower production, and influence the plant architecture.

Historically, emphasis has been misplaced in that not performing the right steps will result in failure. Failure to follow the directions carefully will only translate into an awkward over-all bush shape. However, the rose bush will still perform in the spring. Following the basic logic of why certain functions are performed can be a mechanism to mastering the technique. The advice offered

here has been directed towards pruning rose bushes in temperate climates that are at least one year old. While some measure of education can be learned from reading books and attending public pruning demonstrations, it is the practical aspects that will ultimately teach the finer points of rose pruning. Experimentation will offer guidance in which varieties can be pruned hard (canes of 2-3 feet or less) and which ones lightly (canes of 4 feet).

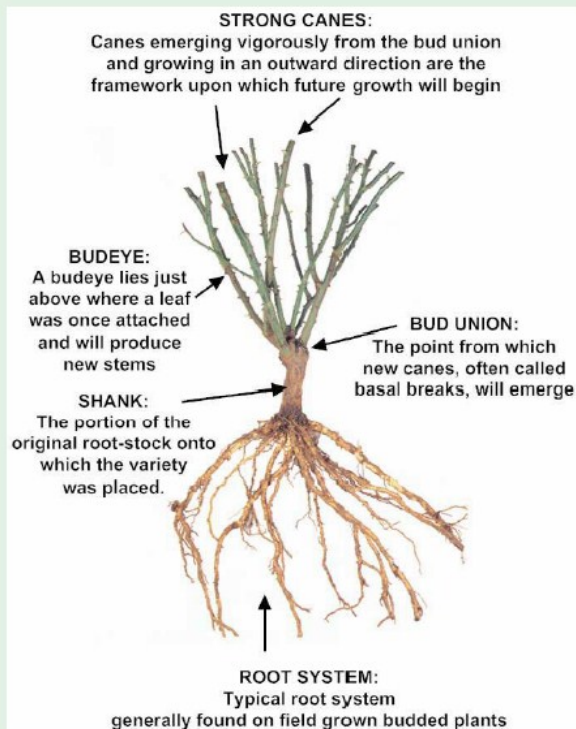
This basic understanding of rose varieties and their characteristics will enhance the enjoyment of rose growing, bringing a degree of satisfaction and pride. Approaching rose pruning like an artist can result in creating the optimum bush shape.

In warm climate zones, roses rarely experience the extended freezing conditions of winter that occur in temperate or cold climates. Rose growers in these warm climate zones are more preoccupied with the principles of correct pruning and dormancy. Practice of regulating the shape can enhance the landscape ambiance of the rose garden, ensuring a vigorous first bloom that makes the effort all worthwhile. Pruning, if approached logically, can encourage new basal growth from the bud union - usually regarded as strong evidence of good health. Removal of old wood and damaged or diseased parts can allow a recuperative process to take place for increased growth.

This removal of branches and sometimes old canes serves as a

form of dormancy in warm climates, since it cannot be achieved naturally. It is a healthy habit to allow rose bushes a period of nonproduction.

Anatomy of a Rose Bush



Pruning does permit a time period where the plant processes are slowed down and then redirected to produce that first magnificent spring bloom.

Equipment

Above all else, investment in a pair of high quality pruning shears is mandatory. One manufacturer even has a special hand grip designed for left-handed people, swivel handles, and a model with removal blades for maintenance. For miniature roses, there are smaller versions of these pruning shears which rely on a smaller straight edged blade surface. For removal of large woody canes at the bud union, a pruning saw will allow access for flush removal.

All About Pruning *(continued from page 2)*

For cutting large diameter canes, a pair of lopping shears with 30 or 45 cm handles can facilitate the cutting without placing too much pressure on the hands. Again, attempts to cut large diameter canes with pruning shears will require a lot of extra strength. The lopping shears with

long handles solves the strength problem and make the cut clean and sharp. Invest in a small wire brush (about 5 cm wide by 75 cm deep) to help remove loose bark away from the bud union.

Such treatments can often encourage basal breaks and stimulate new

growth, since growth often finds it impossible to break through the heavy tree-like bark encountered on older bushes. Finally, save on profanities while pruning by buying a good strong pair of leather gauntlet gloves or hand gloves that are puncture proof.

<p>Locating the dormant eye by looking for a small circular swelling pimple at the junction where a leaf</p>	<p>Locating the dormant eye (stem rotated 90 degrees to accentuate the exact location of the spot)</p>	<p>Making that all important cut to promote the new growth in the correct direction away from the center of the bush</p>	<p>Emerging new growth after approx. 3-4 weeks providing stems bearing flowers</p>

<p>Pruning cut made too close to developing eye</p>	<p>Pruning cut made too far above the eye causing partial die-back</p>	<p>Pruning cut made too far above the bud eye causing severe die-back almost to the junction</p>	<p>Pruning cut made causing damage to outer epidermis and therefore permitting potential infection</p>

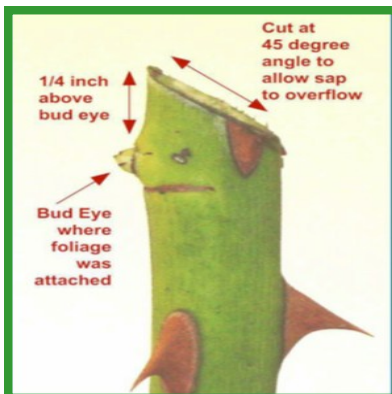
All About Pruning (continued from page 3)

Cutting Technique

By far the most important technique to master in pruning roses is the correct angle and direction of the primary cut. The final pruning cut should be made at approximately a 45° angle, about 0.5 cm above a leaf axle where there is a dormant eye. If the bush has foliage present, the cut location is easy to find.

However, cuts are often made further down canes where there is no foliage to guide to the appropriate cut. Under these circumstances look for the dormant eye on such canes by locating where foliage was once connected. The eye is normally visible as a slight swelling above the surface of the cane. Making these primary cuts correctly is the real key to success in pruning. The cut should be made in such a way that the new growth eventually emerges from eyes that naturally point away from the center of the bush. This deliberate planning of new spring growth patterns gives the rose bush a pleasing overall circular shape that spreads from the center outwards. Such cuts should avoid the new growth from being directed inward and colliding with other stems.

The logic behind making the cut slope down and away from the eye is that the excess natural sap that will rise from the inside of the cane to seal the cut naturally can pour down the opposing side of the cane and not interfere with the developing eye.



Pruning of Different Rose Classifications

Hybrid Teas & Grandifloras

Growth habit of hybrid teas and grandifloras is such that by winter they are generally 2.5 – 3 meters tall and looking very lanky. The height of the canes remaining after pruning on an established bush can be as tall as 60 – 120 cm in some instances. In general, about 4 to 5 major canes

can remain with an average height of 90 cm tall. Removal of older canes is a trigger mechanism to the rose bush to attempt to promote basal breaks or new canes in the spring. This regenerative process is fundamental to the health of the bush and unless performed carefully, the rose bush will gradually become non-productive.



Floribundas

Since floribundas are mainly for garden display, many older canes are allowed to remain to permit a dense development of inflorescence. Therefore, the number of canes remaining after pruning is much greater than that recommended for hybrid teas. Two main reasons drive this strategy. First, there are considerably fewer

potential dormant eyes for first growth because of the length of the canes. Second, the flowering habit emphasis of floribundas is to produce large numbers of flower clusters but not always necessarily on long stems. Based on these logical parameters, the pruning of floribundas does not necessitate the removal of all growth to leave only 3 or 4 main canes. Leaving a greater number is advised.



All About Pruning *(continued from page 4)*

Climbers and Shrubs

Climbers will generally not flower profusely unless the canes are trained into the horizontal position. Cut the ends of these long established canes to about the place where the canes are slightly larger than pencil thickness. Then, rather than remove each side stem that has flowered, cut them to the lowest possible five leaflet, i.e. about 2-4 cm from the main cane. This process will cause the cane to flower along its complete length for a terrific spring display.

Old Garden Roses

When attempting to prune old garden roses, avoid treating them as modern hybrid teas and floribundas. For maximum bloom production, pruning should be more of a light grooming than a severe pruning. Prune only last year's growth. After a few years, however, this practice makes for a very lanky bush. Therefore, each year prune back some of some of the oldest canes to promote basal and post-basal breaks.

Miniature Roses

First of all, the majority of miniature roses are grown on their own roots, i.e. no bud union and therefore no suckers. Because precise pruning when applied to miniature roses is very labor intensive, the majority of rosarians prefer to take garden clippers and trim off the tops at no greater than 30 cm above the soil level (height varies according to growth habit of the variety). However, after such treatment it is wise to remove, on an individual plant basis, any twiggy growth and open up the center of the plant to air circulation and light penetration.

General Guidelines

1. Always prune cut to good healthy tissue easily recognized by the green bark on the outside of the cane and white pith core revealed after the cut is made. If the central pith is not pure white, it is an indication of necrosis (i.e. dead or dying tissue).
2. After the cut is made, a drop of wood glue can ensure a quicker recovery as well as provide an instant protective barrier against cane borers. Normally, the sap will rise containing a natural polysaccharide, pectin, which hardens to form a protective barrier.
3. Prune the center of the bush to open for maximum air circulation and light penetration. Creating the environment for good air circulation is crucial to avoid micro climatic conditions suitable for fungi growth.
4. Plan to remove all growth on main canes that is not capable of sustaining a reasonable thickness of stem. The removal of stems no thicker than a pencil will ensure stronger straighter stems to support large blooms.
5. If suckers are present (i.e. growth from the root structure), remove them from as close to the main root cane below the bud union as possible. Failure to remove suckers from the shank of the understock may result in their re-occurrence.
6. Remove old canes that appear woody by sawing them off as close to the bud union as possible.
7. After pruning has been completed, remove any remaining foliage from the canes and clean up around the bush discarding all foliage as trash. Last year's foliage may contain dormant spores of various fungi and their retention can lead to infections.

After Pruning

The following recommendations are offered to help reduce the potential for disease and encourage vigorous growth.

1. To ensure the destruction of all insects and fungi, apply a dormant spray immediately after pruning. Do not wait one or two weeks to perform this spraying since in that space of time some eyes may have developed and such a spraying could damage them. Spray immediately after pruning when there is no development of the eyes. A return to the old fashioned "oil and sulfur" spray technique may be a wise decision after pruning. A combination of horticultural oil and a lime-sulfur preparation should aid in the destruction of the spores (including both powdery and downy mildew) residing in the soil and on the immediate surface and sub-surface of the canes.
2. After brushing the bud union with a wire brush to remove the old bark, cover the bud union with about six to ten inches of the surrounding mulch. This protective mound of mulch keeps the bud union hopefully moist and therefore receptive to basal breaks and hence new canes. Additionally, this mound can protect the bud union from mild frost conditions and wind chill factors.
3. Avoid fertilization until about three or four weeks after pruning. Then apply one to two cups of solid rose food formulation around the base of the mound covering the bud union and then uncover the bud union. The mulch then covers the rose food and provides a clean landscaping surface to start the year off.

Roses lose bloom as hobby, industry *(continued from page 1)*

I observed dramatically fewer roses in the nurseries this year," said T. J. David, co-founder of the World Peace Rose Garden in Capitol Park. "The financial ills of the rose growers will cause a slowdown in the number of new varieties of roses that are available for sale," he said. "Since growers make plans years in advance, it may take a year or two to see the full impact." . . .

Said (Jolene) Adams of the (American) Rose Society: "Roses are not the first thing homeowners think of when they want to plant a garden. Competition with other choice plants is fierce. . . . The industry is going to have to change – and supply roses that the customers can use in the landscape."

Most major rose growers have gone bankrupt or consolidated with other wholesale nurseries.

Weeks Roses, in Wasco near Bakersfield, survived its bankruptcy and is now owned by Indiana-based Gardens Alive! On 1,000 leased acres, Weeks will harvest about 3 million bushes this year. During grafting and

harvest season, it employs almost 400 people.

Jackson & Perkins, acquired by South Carolina-based J&P Park Acquisitions, no longer develops and grows new roses. Before bankruptcy, the company farmed 5,000 acres in Wasco with 20,000 bushes per acre. Without buyers, many of those bushes were burned.

Once a breeder goes bankrupt, its roses usually disappear with it. Rose patents – good for 18 to 20 years – may be sold, but budwood and mother plants are lost. Many Jackson & Perkins roses are now on the endangered list.

"Some will be preserved," Anderson said. "But a lot of varieties were lost; there was no budwood to collect (to create new hybrid bushes). Most will just disappear into the ether."

Weeks procured all of the new roses that Jackson & Perkins had in its research pipeline, Anderson said, as well as budwood for a dozen best-sellers including the pure white Pope John Paul II and deep red Veterans'

Honor. Those roses eventually will be sold under Weeks' label. . . .

Then came the Knock Out, a series of disease-resistant landscape roses created by Fresno-based Star Roses. "Knock Out was a game changer," Anderson said. "People don't even see Knock Out as a rose any more; it's a landscape plant." . . .

Knock Out and other easy-care rose series . . . have supplanted hybrid teas in nurseries. . . . "People are looking for low-maintenance, something to be part of a landscape, rather than the standard hybrid teas. They want shrubs, ground covers and floribundas," said Taylor of Capital Nursery.

. . . "Ask people to name a favorite rose and they say Mister Lincoln or Double Delight or Peace," Anderson said. "Those roses are 30, 40, 50 years old. What about new roses? Today's roses are really superior – they bloom more, they're disease-resistant – but people don't know the names."



**PRUNING DAY
AT
BGRS
PUBLIC ROSE
GARDEN**

APRIL 7, 2012

Meet at 9 a.m.

Bring your pruners!

**Contact
Kathy Dodson
or
Bob Jacobs**

ROSE GARDENING 101

**Bob & Ann Jacobs
BGRS
Consulting Rosarians**

Saturday, April 21

9:00 a.m. - noon

Rain Date: April 28

**Jacobs Home
Seminole Way**

**Register through
Community Education**

Rose Tips from Ann Jacobs, CR

I do not like to spray with chemicals so I was reading up on ways to spray flowers, herbs and roses without chemicals. These are a couple old time remedies that have been passed down.

Tip: Old-Time Tonic for treating black spot is: 2 teaspoons baking soda; 3 drops liquid soap; and a gallon of water. Mix together and spray on plants and roses. Be sure to pull off affected leaves and put in a plastic bag and send off in the trash. Reapply in 3 to 4 days to be sure spots do not reappear.

Another tip I have used to keep pests away is to plant herbs near our rose bushes. For instance, lavender drives away aphids, also plant sage, thyme, dill and garlic. My mother always wanted a row of small marigolds along the border of her garden. I plant a row of the marigolds (red and yellow ones) each year. Do they help? I think they do.

President's Corner *by Kathy Dodson, CR*



There's nothing like a trip to the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show to get you in the mood for spring. We saw daffodils, tulips, spring shrubs, and many landscaped settings that I'd love to have in my yard. Then there were the many booths with vendors selling anything you might need in your backyard, from furniture to plants to yard art. After making the rounds at the show, we stopped for a nice lunch in Goodlettsville, TN at the Chef's Market. Thanks to Brenda and Sam, Pauline and Ben, and Ann and Bob who also made the trip.

It seems like we're going to have an early spring. I haven't pulled the mulch off my roses yet, but the leaves are definitely coming out. I want to wait until around the first week in April to prune my roses; and hopefully, they will bloom for our rose show. Keep your fingers crossed that we don't have a late killing frost.

Thanks to everyone who is working on ads for the rose show. Try to turn those in at our April meeting.

Our meeting on April 6 will be at 6:30 at the Warren Co. Extension Office. Bob and Ann will do the program on "Waking Up your Roses." Maxine and Ann will have light refreshments.

We need new members, so think of someone who is interested in their yard or growing flowers and bring them to our meeting.



BGRS members at Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

Watch for Aphids *by Mary A. Hext, CR*

While I was at Bob Jacobs' house last week, we noticed aphids on one of his bushes in a pot. With the warm weather and new tender growth, Bob says we need to be on the lookout for pests and need to spray much earlier than we normally do.

ARS Trial Membership Available



The ARS is offering a four-month trial membership for existing local society, non-ARS members. The \$5 fee offsets processing and mailing costs. ARS does not make money on this offer. Four-Month Trial Members receive:

- Free advice from Consulting Rosarians.
- Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just 3 uses.
- Free online access to four quarterly bulletins, a \$45 value.
- 2 issues of American Rose magazine, \$16 value.
- Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners.
- A four-month trial membership is valued at \$86 for only \$10!

Visit www.ars.org for more information and to take advantage of this offer.



BGRS Rose Show May 19

- Our rose show schedule is available on our website: www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org and on the Tenarky site: www.tenarky.org
- Make plans now to enter. There are categories for novice exhibitors in horticulture and arrangements.
- Please purchase or sell an ad to help with expenses. Contact Kathy Dodson for information.
- Mark your calendars to help with the rose show set up on Friday afternoon, May 18
- Volunteers are needed to help with the many rose show jobs. Contact Bob Jacobs or Kathy Dodson to help.
- If you would like to clerk at the show, contact Kathy Dodson.

E-mail: bgrs@insightbb.com

Bowling Green Rose Society

c/o Mary Hext
1997 Browning Road

We're on the Web!!

www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org

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REMINDER

2012 Dues are Past Due!

If you have not paid, please send your 2012 dues to our treasurer:

Ann Jacobs
1609 Seminole Way
Bowling Green, KY 42103
ASAP!

IMPORTANT DATES - 2012

- March 1-4: Nashville Lawn & Garden Show
- March 2-4: Louisville Home, Gardening and Remodeling Show
- May 19: BGRS Rose Show
- June 1-2: Regional ARS Arrangement Workshop & Show—Cool Springs, TN
- June 27-29: ARS National Miniature RS & Conference - Columbus, OH
- TBA: Tenarky District Rose Show & Convention
- Sept. 26-30: ARS Fall National Convention and Rose Show - San Ramon, CA
- TBA: Nashville Rose Show

2012 BGRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President.....	Kathy Dodson 270.842.3475 k.dodson@insightbb.com
Secretary.....	Brenda Coffey 270.842-8255 b.coffey@att.net
Treasurer	Ann Jacobs 270.781.2592 r.jacobsa@insightbb.com
Member at Large	Richard Hudson 270.781-7039
Past President	Bob Jacobs 270.781.2592 r.jacobsa@insightbb.com
Publications	Mary Ann Hext 270.781.8171 mhext@insightbb.com