



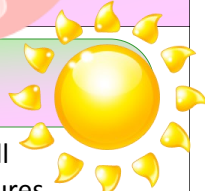
A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

Rosebuds

April 2013

E-mail: bgrs@insightbb.com

Meeting
April 5
WCEO
6:30 p.m.
Program:
Kathy Dodson
Refreshments:
Hudsons



Where is Spring? Where is the Sun? - by Mary Ann Hext, CR

As I sit at my computer typing this article, I can look out the window and see a gray sky with random snow flakes falling on my rose bushes. Unbelievable! It is March 26. Two days ago, we had rain, hail, and then snow all in one afternoon. The temperatures have been below freezing in the evenings and in the low 40s during the past few days. It seems like we haven't seen the sun in at least a week! Last year at this time temperatures had been in the 70s and even the 80s for many days and I had nearly finished my spring pruning and fertilizing timed to produce the first flush of roses for our May rose show.

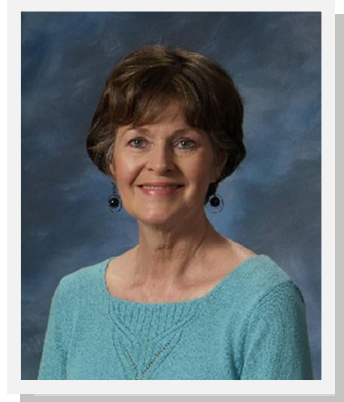
I walked around my yard when I got home from school this afternoon and noted the new growth on the rose bushes somehow survives the extreme changes in temperatures. Only two weeks ago, we had three days of weather in the 70s with sunshine but very

strong winds that kept blowing against the campaign signs and corrugated plastic sheets that I use for winter protection; then the rain and snow returned. Happily, I did find that my forsythia bushes are beginning to show a few yellow petals so surely spring is just around the corner.

Our local television weatherman states that this March has been one of the coldest ever for our area. He is predicting sunshine later this week and maybe we will see the 60s by Easter weekend. If he is correct, then next week (spring break for me), I will begin uncovering my roses and pruning them back, getting rid of all the dead wood and small canes. After that I will apply my Mills Magic Rose Mix, then moving the dirt back up around the base of the roses and leaving my alfalfa hay lying close beside the bushes. Who knows, we

could have another spell of freezing temperatures and more snow!!!! When I feel sure there will be no more hard frosts, I will remove my hay and other protection and hope the warm weather will help my roses have blooms for our rose show.

In Memory of Yvonne Wright



9/8/48—3/9/13

President's Corner by Brenda Coffey

"The first day of spring is one thing and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month." I recently read this quote by Henry Van Dyke and so far this year it seems very appropriate. Seventy degrees one day and then 40 for the high the next. This must seem very confusing to our roses. I've already seen new growth, but will NOT be removing the protective winter cover for a while. I usually remove everything - sometimes gradually- by the end of March or beginning of

April. Then it will be time to hit the ground running to hopefully have my roses in prime condition for the Rose Show on May 18.

The next two months' programs will be preparing each of us for the rose show. At the April meeting Kathy Dodson will be presenting a program from a judge's perspective on - The Do's and Don'ts for Competitive Exhibitors. In May, Mary Ann Hext will present a program on - What Exactly is a Rose Show? Clear your calendars so that you will be able to attend these informative programs.

Improving weather makes April one of our first busy months for working outdoors again. With that in mind, on April 13 everyone is needed to help at Riverwalk to get our public rose garden cleaned out, pruned, fertilized, etc. Our April meeting will also be a busy one with several items of new business to be considered including discussing some possible changes to the by-laws.

I'll leave you with this thought from Roland Browne -"I don't know whether nice people tend to grow roses, or growing roses makes people nice."

See you April 5.

About Rootstock *from Heirloom Roses*

By far, the most common way to propagate roses is through grafting, a practice in which a bud-eye or cutting of a rose is inserted into a rootstock (or under stock, as it is often referred to) of another variety. This is done by growing a mature rootstock plant, cutting T-shaped holes in an area of the bark, placing a bud into the cut, and wrapping securely until it sets roots into the bark. Once the graft takes, the upper branching of the rootstock is cut off, leaving only the grafted buds to grow and form a new bush.

This method of propagation is fast and inexpensive compared to growing rooted cuttings. However, it comes at a price. The place where the bud has been added, called the crown or bud-union, is a weak area on the plant. A hard, freezing winter can easily damage the crown, leaving only the rootstock to grow. Rootstock has tendencies to sucker and revert to its natural state, creating a constant battle in the rose garden. Rootstock suckers must be continually pruned out to maintain the original rose.

Many people are unaware that the underground portion of their rose may be different from what they see above ground. That is, until an unusually cold winter kills their hybrid tea, and in its place grows a rampant climber with single, white flowers! Gardeners with grafted roses should be aware that if left unchecked, the rootstock (usually more vigorous) has the ability to strangle out the original rose bush.

Grafted roses also have a shorter life expectancy than own-root roses; over time, a grafted rose will outgrow the bud union and need to be replaced. The bud union can become quite large over time, creating an unsightly "battle of the bulge."

Grafting has been the primary method of producing roses ever since the first Hybrid Tea rose was introduced in the late 1800's. 'La France'

had a beautiful bloom but the plant was weak. By budding it onto rootstock, it took on more vigor and budding soon became the method of producing the modern rose. This type of propagation provides more instant gratification (being sold at a larger size than own-root roses). However, the decreased winter hardiness and disease resistance, tendency to sucker, and the rise of rose virus within commercial rootstock has made the industry rethink propagating roses the old-fashioned way. For hundreds of years, home gardeners have been propagating their own roses by taking cuttings and growing them on their own roots. With Heirloom Roses, gardeners can enjoy the many benefits own-root roses have to offer without having to worry about rootstock.

Some roses used as rootstock are:

- **Fortuniana**—It is mainly used in warmer parts of the country. Fortuniana is very vigorous, does well in sandy soil but not extremely cold hardy. It is tolerant to nematodes which are pests that invade the roots and are common in Florida.
- **Manetti**—A light pink Noisette used extensively at companies in California. Manetti has more flexible roots that do not break as easily as Dr. Huey
- **Multiflora**—Has a tendency to pick up salts and is not happy in alkaline soil. This particular rose is very susceptible to virus
- **Dr. Huey**—The most commonly used as rootstock; it has a long budding season; they store well when bare-rooted and does well in all parts of the country.
- **De La Grifferaie**—This rose is used for "standards" or "tree roses" as an inner stock between Dr. Huey and the grafted rose
- **Odorata**—A rose variety used often when the graft is done the same time the rooting of the plant takes

place. It is very prone to sucker and crown gall.

Beware of Imposters!



There are a number of rootstock plants used depending on the company growing the rose and where in the country it will be sold. If one of your roses is behaving differently and growing out of control, you probably have an imposter – it has reverted to rootstock. The most commonly used rootstock is Dr. Huey (above) it has a long budding season, stores well when bare-rooted and does well in all parts of the country



Two flowers on the same bush? The real rose is in front; the single pink bloom (behind) is rootstock



Rootstock is easy to identify early in the season just as plants begin to leaf out.

April 2013

April and the Rosarian by Dr. Kent Campbell (from BGRS archives)

The sequence of chores we face in April lays the groundwork for the whole summer of successful blooms. It matters little if you feed and then prune or vice versa. What does matter a great deal is that you begin everything with a clean bed, and end it all with a good, thick, clean mulch.

1. Remove any winter mulch, or at least very, very carefully rake or wash it and any hilled up dirt away from the plant. I use a gentle spray of water around the base of plants because quite often new basals will be peeping out of the warm ground. They break off very easily, and there goes a new long stem with a potential blue ribbon blossom on the end when it reaches its full growth. Dig all unwanted grass from the beds and douse them with *Preen*, even up close to the base of each plant. (You may wish to feed before doing the *Preen* because you must “rough” the food into the ground a bit.

2. At this point, I usually feed, because the pruning takes several days

to complete. You can feed, even if it is a bit cold, because the plant will not use the food until it is ready. At one time, I mixed my own “spring start-up” fertilizer. The literature is full of different formulas. But close inspection reveals a basic grouping in all of them. Start with 3 parts 10-10-10 garden mix; add one part 45-0-0 nitrogen; add one part gypsum, add one part bone meal or blood meal; and one half part magnesium, and finally one-half part, or less, of pelletized lime. (The chances are slim that your beds are “sweet” enough. To be sure, check your pH.)

Eventually I learned that the easy way to do all this is simply apply *Mills Magic Rose Mix* as per directions. After I do the Mills, I apply Monty’s liquid every week or two. With Month’s you need to add a big spoonful of magnesium

at least once before the show. Other possibilities for the short-term feeding sequence are *Peters*, *Mirical-Gro*, and *Mills Easy Feed*. I apply the solid food again in July. Some individuals I know use *Osmicote* twice a year, which is very expensive.

3. Pruning has been discussed at length. April 1 is 55 days from the show. I will begin sometime that first week. Remember, CUT TO THE WHITE!

4. Apply the mulch of your choice as you finish pruning. Avoid straw, hay, and the ground leaves from WKU. Straw and hay are full of seeds and you will be digging unwanted grass from your beds. Who knows what is in the ground leaves WKU provides? Besides, that is quite a sour additive to your beds.

Have a great spring!! I, for one, am more ready for it than I can ever remember!



BGRS Public Garden Report by Ann Jacobs, Consulting Rosarian

Bob and I drove down to the Public Rose Garden. All the roses look very good. New growth on all of them. There is plenty of mulch. We need at least one small rose bush and the climber that we have purchased. We really could use two floribundas to fill in a space. The ‘Nicole’ bush looks good.

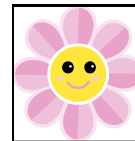
Rose Tips

- If you’re growing roses in pots, use your solid or liquid fertilizer at one-half strength twice as often as roses in the ground, as watering flushes the fertilizer from the potted soil more quickly. Remember to water the rose well the day before fertilizing so there is less chance of burning the tender roots.
- Be gentle with your miniature roses, they can be sensitive to chemical fertilizers, so it’s wise to fertilize them at half-strength.
- Monitor your rose bushes after pruning to determine the shape. Always prune keeping an open space at the center of the bush to allow for airflow. This will also help to prevent spider mites.
- Be on the lookout for rose rosette as it is becoming more prevalent in our area.
- Remember that black spot is much easier to prevent than to get rid of. Begin spraying the roses in your garden that are susceptible to blackspot as soon as there are new leaves on your bushes.
- Don’t forget your tetanus shot!!!!

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Bowling Green Rose Society

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We're on the Web!!

www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org

LABEL



BGRS Rose Show

- 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 Ann Jacobs 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.

IMPORTANT DATES - 2013

- **Feb. 28-March 3: Nashville Lawn & Garden Show**
- **March 2-4: Louisville Home, Gardening and Remodeling Show**
- **May 18: BGRS Rose Show**
- **Sept. 20-22: ARS Miniature Conference, Winston-Salem, NC**
- **October 5: Tenarky District Rose show, Louisville, KY**

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