



Volume 2, Number 10

ARS & YOU, 2008
Editor, Jim Delahanty

Page One: News:

- **Don't forget to Vote** on the Bylaw amendments explained on page 12 of the September-October 2008 *American Rose*. One amendment would permit members to access ballots through the ARS website; the other would permit the Board of Directors to cast electronic ballots when not in session. The paper ballots must be received at ARS HQs by November 30, 2008.
- The last two pages of the **2008 ARS Guide to Rose Publications** were inadvertently omitted from the September-October 2008 *American Rose*. The complete document can be found on the ARS website at: <http://www.ars.org/pdf/2008ARSBookGuide.pdf>. The missing two pages will be printed in the January/February 2009 *American Rose*.
- The deadline for entry in the ARS Photography Contest nears—entries must be postmarked by the last Friday in November. For complete rules visit <http://www.ars.org/Contests/photo-contest.html>. If you have any questions, call Paul Colombo, Chairman of the Photography Contest at 313.881.5127 or email him at pjcolombo1@comcast.net.

Page Two: Views: Rose Rosette Disease: Ann Peck writes on the current state of the scope of the disease and the implications of recent research. Ann is a retired organic geochemist; she gardens in Tennessee after sojourns in Virginia, Texas, and New Orleans.

Rose Rosette Disease, Sadly

By Ann Peck

Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) continues to spread throughout rose gardens and among wild roses. Hot and dry summers seem to have increased the speed of spread. In areas where the wild *Rosa multiflora* population is not a RRD reservoir, other roses develop RRD when the vector mites come in on puffs of wind.

RRD was supposed to kill wild multiflora quickly, but it remains an invasive unwanted weed throughout much of the continent. The fast demise of the wild roses doesn't happen in warmer climates where some massive clumps of infected roses can persist for six and seven years. Similarly, garden roses can remain sick with RRD for years. Even though attempts are made to remove RRD infected canes when the disease is

first sighted, often those efforts are too late as the disease moves through phloem into the roots and back out via the xylem to other canes.

SPREAD

In the Midwest RRD has spread farther north in Iowa than predicted. It has also appeared in Nebraska where it had not been common. It has spread as far north as Madison, Wisconsin and was seen last year in one of the southern tier counties of Michigan. Chicago, Illinois sees more of it each year.

In the east, RRD has appeared in Somerset County, New Jersey private gardens. One of 2007's least expected outbreaks was in New York City at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Other Mid-Atlantic states continue to suffer with it as well.

RRD has moved into South Carolina and northern Georgia. I've seen it in gardens below Montgomery Alabama, and northern Mississippi. People in northern Texas as far west as Fort Worth have seen the disease in their gardens. However, RRD doesn't appear to be a problem yet in the Mississippi River Delta; I wonder if that's due to the aerial spray program that is a multistate effort to control Boll Weevils. That eradication program is about over, so time will tell.

In the western US, for the past half century there have been scattered reports of RRD in Wyoming, Utah, the mountains of California and New Mexico. In Canada it has appeared recently in southern Ontario and there are historical reports in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

The reports above are from published literature as well as my evaluation of images sent to me. Where the roses were sick and in gardens, they have been removed. But seldom were the owners able to find the infected roses that were the source of the infection. General eradication of nearby multiflora, both healthy and the infected, has been one result of efforts to eradicate the disease.

DISEASE VECTORS

Until recently, there were two acknowledged disease vectors. The eriophyid mite *Phyllocoptes fructiphilus* was one; the other was grafting of infected buds onto target plants. More recently Laura Jessee completed a PhD at Iowa State looking at other potential insect and arthropod vectors on multiflora populations in Iowa. Two papers in *Weed Science* document her findings. And a paper by Golino *et al.* discusses the transmission of rose viruses by root-to-root grafts within beds of cultivated roses. I think the Golino paper strongly suggests a third vector for the spread of RRD as we have seen some patterns of the spread of RRD in private gardens that are consistent with root to root spread. For this reason, I now strongly suggest that people take care to remove all roots left behind when they remove roses with RRD. In my garden I have seen new, RRD infected bushes come back from where we removed sick roses.

ANSWERS

There is no cure for RRD.

Education about the symptoms is the place to start. Too often, I receive emails from people who have found my website, and are just floored that such a disease exists that they have never heard of.

IF rose growers are vigilant and react quickly to the appearance of RRD, the spread of the disease within a garden can be avoided.

ETC.

References above (by author) can be found in the bibliography of my E-Book at <http://www.rosegeeks.com/>. The twelve chapter E-book also has an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions). Pictures of Rose Rosette Disease can be found at: http://www.ars.org/About_Roses/disease_rosette2.html

ARS has a PowerPoint program about 'The White Menace' that links plantings of multiflora to the spread of RRD. PowerPoint programs are linked from the Members Only page.

Page Three: Re-Views: Rose Show Schedules: Brenda Landers-Smith discusses another possibility for rose show schedule adaptation.

"Rose Angel" Class by Brenda Landers-Smith

'Happiness never decreases by being shared.'

While exploring new and efficient ways to transport leftover roses from our rose shows, I had an idea for a new horticultural class for our rose show in 2007. It was a new class that was added to our rose show schedule in 2007, which is now entitled the "Rose Angel" Class. Due to the success and positive feedback about this new class, it is now a permanent part of our rose show schedule.

The purpose for the class was to offer exhibitors the opportunity to provide an entry in a disposable container, which is judged for a trophy. The entry is made up of the exhibitors' "leftover" blooms. We give additional time after the closing of entries in other classes for exhibitors to create a bouquet and enter it. After the show, all the entries are donated to various community facilities. The entries are already in an arrangement, thus easier for the volunteers to transport and deliver to the recipients. From the exhibitor, to the volunteers who transport the roses, to the recipients at care facilities, it is a win-win situation!

The class description follows:

Class 57 'Rose Angels' – All of your roses not entered in other classes arranged in a disposable non-returnable container, i.e. a milk carton, coffee can, etc. Roses will be donated to a local Hospice Center and transported by California Coastal Rose Society 'Rose Angels.' Thank you for your participation!

Award: Keeper Trophy

The first year was a huge success. Four SUV loads of roses (the show roses and exhibitor leftovers), including the Rose Angel entries, were delivered to various care facilities after the rose show. Recipients included Brighton Gardens in Carlsbad, Carlsbad by the Sea Retirement Community, Aegis of Shadowridge, the Life Care Center of Vista, the San Diego Cancer Center in Vista, and the oncology department of Tri-City Medical Center. A couple of volunteers from the California Coast Rose Society contacted each facility in advance to obtain permission to bring the roses. On delivery day, residents and staff were delighted to receive the roses, and commented on how special they looked and, especially, how nice they smelled.

The roses ended up everywhere, in dining rooms and hospital rooms. We were rewarded by the smiles on the faces of the residents and staff, whose lives were brightened by the presence of the spectacular blooms.

After the 2008 rose show, the CCRS is happy to report we are currently applying for an ARS "Rose Angel" Certificate to help other societies promote this program, which partially evolved from the 'Tin Can' class concept in a variety of rose shows. This new class has been a wonderful addition to our show, bringing more meaning and sense of community to what at times is seen only as a competition. Our hope is that we will touch many with the beauty of the rose. (Two pictures of an Angel Rose entry can be found at http://www.ars.org/Members_Only/ARS-You-Angels.html .)

Members of the Local Society Relations Committee welcome comment and feedback regarding the issues addressed in this monthly email. A list of committee members can be found on the ARS website.

ARS & You is archived on the ARS website at Member's Only/ARS & You - links are on the left menu bar.