



Shenandoah Rose Society Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

A Society of the Colonial District
Chartered by the American Rose Society

Volume 11 No. 5 June 2008
Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond



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June Meeting

The June meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, June 8th, 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton. The program will be *Stump the CRs*. Bring your rose problems and our CRs will provide the answers.

The Rambling Rosarian

by Charles Shaner

We have been fortunate this spring with rain, an essential our roses need. We will be getting into the dry season very soon which means time to water. Keep in mind, roses need the equivalent of 1 to 2 inches of rain per week. If nature does not provide it then we must make it up.

I have tried all kinds of watering systems from mist systems, soaker hoses, making my own system, to drip systems. I have yet to find one that I really like although some have been close.

Last year, I went from bush to bush with an open-ended garden hose applying 15 seconds of water per bush which translates to roughly one gallon of water per bush. Doing this every third day kept my roses in excellent shape and no water was wasted because all the water was put directly at the base of the plant.

I grow about 175 bushes. I water about 1/3 of them each day which, with this method, takes about 1/2 hour per day. It worked very well.

I do my liquid feeding the same way. I mix my water soluble foods in a 32-gallon trash can. I purchased a small sump pump with a garden hose connection and pump the water soluble foods through the garden hose. About 15 seconds per bush gives about one gallon, the same as watering.

To use this method, I attach a water wand to my garden hose and take the nozzle off the end leaving an open end. The wand is about three feet long so it works very well in reaching across my rose bed and I can put the water at the base of the plant and not have to bend over.

This is one of the advantages of attending Society meetings and especially District meetings. You pick up so many new ideas and methods for making rose growing easier. Rose people can be very inventive.

Pest control is another item that needs to be taken care of. More and more rose people are turning to organics and getting away from the chemicals. There are some very good organic alternatives out there and they work.

Sevin® is now banned from by garden. I will never again use it. Two years ago I had Japanese beetles so bad I brought out the Sevin® dust. I got rid of the beetles but I also got rid of my beneficial insects. After that, I had aphids I could not control. Early this spring I was at Milmount Greenhouses and they had a bag of 1,500 ladybugs. I purchased a bag and turned them loose in my garden. The results – no more aphids!



I have not sprayed at all this spring. I do not see critters on my roses but I have seen just a little black spot. I will spray with Neem oil for that. Neem oil is

an organic made from the seed of the Neem tree. It has been around for thousands of years and insects have not become immune to it. Neem oil is good as both an insecticide and a fungicide and is safe enough to be used indoors. I was doing some checking on the web and found where you can order Neem soap, Neem hand lotion and even Neem toothpaste. That should tell you how safe it is and it will not kill beneficial insects. Some of the CRs in the District have tested Neem oil extensively and found that it works very well up into the fall. It seems to start losing its effectiveness somewhere about mid fall.

Drying Roses for Fun

by Barbara Gordon, Mountain View, CA

Cutting and preparing for drying

Cut roses when blooms are buds and/or in their prime after the dew has dried off (usually in the afternoon).

Methods of Drying

Air Drying by Hanging: Gather long-stemmed roses (4-6), wrap a rubber band around the stems and hang upside down in a warm, dry, dark and well-ventilated place for 1 to 2 weeks with space between blooms.

Electric Dehydrator: Commercial food dehydrators set at the lowest temperature of 95 to 100 degrees dries roses very well. Place as many fresh roses on racks without touching. Run for 8 to 24 hours depending on bloom size. Blooms will shrink about 50% and color will change more than silica gel, but vivid colors and no silica gel dust to remove are the advantages.

Drying with Desiccants:

* Just Silica Gel: Silica gel is not toxic, but avoid inhaling it because it can irritate your sinuses. Colors that come out close to the original when dried in silica are white, light pink, yellow, lavender, and blue (non-roses). Darker colors, such as red, deep pink, and orange tend to turn out even darker. Choose a container that is at least 1-2 inches larger in diameter than the roses or other flowers you are drying. Start by pouring a 1" layer of silica on the bottom of the container. Place your blooms face up on this bed, filling the container, starting with the spaces between the blooms. Do not pour silica directly on the blooms. As you fill the spaces, the silica will hold and support the shape of the blooms. As you fill the spaces, the silica will eventually spill into the spaces between the petals. Cover the final

layer of blooms with 1-2 inches of silica gel. The rose stems should be about 1 inch long. Roses dry in 7-10 days.

* Sand (1 cup) with borax (2 cups) or cornmeal (2 cups) or silica gel (2 cups)

* Borax (1 cup with 1 cup cornmeal) takes about 2-8 days. Watch out for bugs that eat the cornmeal.

Drying with the Microwave

* Microwave only: Arrange thin blossoms loosely between paper towels. Dry for a minute or two then cool. Dry only a few flowers at a time. Roses may lose too much color and become too brittle and hard to handle. Always put a little cup of water in the microwave when drying roses.

* Microwave and silica gel: Containers that have been used in the microwave with silica gel should not be used later for food preparation. Make sure the silica gel is dry and bright blue (250 degrees in oven or one minute in microwave on high). Select a non-metal container large enough. Follow number 1. Microwave for one minute. Cool for 30 minutes. Check to see if rose is dry. If not, return for one more minute. Use a small, soft brush to remove the silica gel when cool.

* Drying leaves in a microwave: Open a folded paper napkin once so it will have two thicknesses. Put a few small leaves or one large leaf on 1/2 of the paper napkin and fold the other half over. Place a microwaveable mug or small plate on top of the napkin and leaf "sandwich" to prevent curling. Dry on high a minute at a time. Remove from microwave and let stand to cool for 20 minutes.

* (Cleaning the microwave: On your highest setting, bring a cup of water with a dash of lemon juice to a boil. Change the temperature setting to "low" and boil for 3 minutes. Thoroughly dry the inside of the microwave and its door. Your oven will be shining clean and the kitchen will smell fresh!)

Supplies and Tools

Glues, clippers, toothpicks, floral foam, Styrofoam, glue gun, sprays to seal and preserve roses (plastic, acrylic, lacquer), floral tape and wire, boxes and tins, cans (tuna & sardine), baskets, boards, wooden spoons, containers and vases - Use these for arrangements.

Wires for stems

Cut a wire and push it through the base of the flower or rose (calyx). Floral tape the whole false stem. Wiring enables the stems to bend, and also lengthens a stem.

Sealing Dried Roses

Covering roses with a clear plastic spray, acrylic or lacquer will preserve their colors, make them more durable and moisture-resistant. Some sealers may be brushed on the blooms. Even a thin coat of melted paraffin wax at a cooler temperature will protect the blooms (dipped or painted on the petals).

Projects for Dried Roses

Arrangements, decorations, pictures, hand-held or pin-on corsages or bouquets, wall hanging, jewelry and ornaments, topiary trees.

Storage of Dried Roses

Place them in sealed, tight containers such as cookie tins or Tupperware is best. Add a small amount of silica gel if storing them in plastic bags.

Good Roses for Drying

Dark Red: Christian Dior, Dolly Parton, Candy Apple, Old Smoothie, Olympiad, Mountie, Royal Canadian, Acey Deucey, Old Glory, Don Juan, Mercedes, Beauty Secret, Red Minimo, Black Jade.

Pink: Prima Donna, Century Two, Electron, Perfume Delight, Lancome, Miss All-American Beauty, Pink Peace, High Jinks, Winsome (mauve) Dainty Bess buds, Queen Elizabeth, Dicky, Heidi, Tiffany, Simplicity buds, Dick Koster, Bewitched.

Orange: Fragrant Cloud, Prominent, Marina, Impatient, Bing Crosby, Tropicana, Ole, Carrot Top, Starina, Holy Toledo, Little Jackie, Joycie, Julie Ann, Trumpeter, Apricot Nectar, Brandy, Margo Koster, New Year, Las Vegas, Orange Sunblaze.

All medium and deep yellows

Blends: Touch of Class, Sheer Elegance, Milestone, Color Magic, Cary Grant, Mon Cheri, Kristin, Child's Play, Apricot Mist, Helen Boehm, Whoopi, Debut, Double Delight, Paradise, Sea Pearl, Purple Tiger, French Perfume, Monet, Desert Peace, Nicole, Redgold, Jean Kenneally, Millie Walters, Pin-stripe, Ring of Fire, Roller Coaster, Stars 'n' Stripes.

(This article taken from the ARS Website)

The SRS Store

Our inventory in the SRS Store keeps growing. We have several items available at a good price to our members.

Mills Magic Rose Mix--20 lb. bag--member price \$17, non-member \$20; Contact Raymond Shaner 540-248-2301

Messenger--Mix for 1 gallon--member price \$2, non-member \$3; Contact Charles Shaner 540-294-2875

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