



Shenandoah Rose Society Shenandoah Rose Ramblings

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

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Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond*



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March Meeting

The March meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be the Pre-Spring District meeting held at Holiday Inn in Staunton March 14 and 15. All members are urged to attend. You can still get your registration in to Meredith Yeago if you have not already done so. This is going to be a highly educational weekend. We have some excellent speakers and some we have not herd before. We are the host society. It would be nice if we had the largest society attendance at the meeting. If you need a registration form one may be downloaded from either the SRS web site www.shenandoahrosesociety.org or the district web site www.colonialdistrictroses.org. Plan to attend – it will be well worth your time.

Dues – Last Call

This is the last call for dues renewal for 2008. It is still \$12.00. If you get your dues in to Meredith Yeago this month, your membership in Shenandoah Rose Society will not lapse. Continue your member ship and show support for America’s flower.

Colonial District Web Site Wins Again!

www.colonialdistrictroses.org

The Colonial District web site has won King of District Web Sites for the second straight year. The web site is entered into the contest with the American Rose Society and judged by a panel of judges over the summer. The competition is

stiff and the judges can be very critical. The feed back helps to make the web site better and shows where improvements need to be made.

Pruning Made Easy

By Meredith Yeago

Pruning and grooming the rose plants is probably the least understood part of growing pretty roses by the average rose grower. Proper pruning is the least expensive way to improve the quality and fun of growing pretty roses.

The first question is “When do I do my spring pruning?”. The best time is right after the last hard freeze (25 to 32 degrees F) in your location. This date will vary from location to location. The reason is that when a rose is cut back, that is its signal to start growing and start putting out tender new growth. If those tender new primary buds are lost, the plant will have to depend on secondary buds to survive and require most of the summer to recover.

A late freeze in 2007 caused the loss of most of the spring and summer good blooms for a lot of the valley rose growers. It is preferable to prune a few days, or even weeks, late rather than too early and lose the primary buds to a late freeze.

The rest of the pruning process is as easy as one, two, three.

1. Remove dead and diseased wood using a sharp bypass pruners to cut dead and diseased canes back to healthy green wood. This procedure may result in cutting some canes back to ground level or to the bud union.



2. Cut out twiggy growth – canes smaller than a wood lead pencil will not produce quality blooms. The one exception is to leave some of this growth if that is all you have left, hoping the plant will survive.
3. Shaping the plant – If you want to grow those specimen, exhibition type blooms, most groomers in this area cut the remaining canes back to 10 to 18 inches. If table roses are your choice, cut the canes back to 18 to 24 inches or maybe 30 inches. Leave 4 to 6 of the largest, most healthy canes. Be sure to seal the cuts with your preferred sealer to protect against the cane borer. Many a good cane has been ruined by the borer.

Continuous grooming while cutting blooms or deadheading is one of the most effective and easiest way to improve the health of the plant and quality of the blooms. Keep the non-productive growth cut out and limit the number of the bud stems per feeder cane to produce the type of blooms desired – specimen or table size.

Pay more attention to and spend a little more time pruning and grooming this year and you will have a better crop of pretty blooms to share with your friends and neighbors!

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

I am always amazed at how much people misunderstand the rose. The rose is a flower that has probably been with us since the beginning of time. It has endured many cultures and climate changes, has been the envy of civilizations, adored by the Romans, made into perfumes and used in food.

I continue to get questions about how long a rose can be expected to live. The best answer I can give is “that depends on what kind of care you give it and what you are growing”. The oldest known living rose in the world is estimated to be 1,000 years old. I don’t think our modern hybrid teas would make it that long but with the proper care should go many years.

I have had comments such as “I thought all you did was stick it in the ground and forget it”. If you are any kind of a rosarian or flower person, you would know that does not work. All plants need water and food of some kind.

Is rose growing difficult? Not really. You spend time on doing other things and hobbies. It

just takes a little time as does anything else. The more you learn about growing roses the more efficient you get in your work with them. I got the idea of mixing my liquid feeding in a trash can and pumping it through a garden hose from a district meeting several years ago. A \$50 submersible pump that will attach to a garden hose will save you a lot of time and put the food right where you want it. It also saves the back and a lot of carrying.

Spraying still takes its time but there are a some small trick that will help it out. I forget from one spraying to the next (especially when alternating sprays) how much to put in. I have to stand there and try to find it on the instructions and sometimes do a mathematical calculation to figure it out. A simple solution – calculate how much to put in your sprayer and write it on the side of the container with a china marker (grease pencil) and you will not need to look it up the next time.

Speaking of spraying, it is time to get that sprayer out. I have already given my roses a spraying of oil, lime and sulfur. This spraying helps to control fungi and insects that wintered over in your roses. This is stinking stuff but it works. Reminds me of rotten eggs. Sulfur is the one thing that fungus or anything else cannot get immune to.

You will learn many “tricks of the trade” at the Pre-Spring meeting. Plan to attend.

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 \$15, 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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