



Shenandoah Rose Society

A Society of the Colonial District

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Serving the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and beyond

On the web www.shenandoahrosesociety.org



May Meeting

The May meeting of the Shenandoah Rose Society will be held Sunday, May 24, 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. If you have blooms, bring some to the meeting for us to see. For the program we will have a discussion on winter and spring problems you may be having.

The Rambling Rosarian

By Charles Shaner

If you have finished your spring pruning by the end of April, you are a little ahead of me. If you haven't started, they are not going to wait on you! I have good new growth and it would appear at this point, all my roses made it this year--no losses. By the end of April, I have new basal breaks as much as 18 inches in length. I am also seeing some aphids.

The ladybug is a natural predator of the aphid. Last year I purchased a bag of ladybugs from Milmount Greenhouses and released them in my garden. This spring I am seeing ladybugs everywhere. So far, the aphids I am seeing are not many, so the ladybugs must be doing their job.

Weeds are a big problem for me this spring. If it weren't for the weeds, I would be finished with my pruning. As many as there are surrounding my roses, hand pulling is the only option. Howard Jones said in our meeting that he uses Preen to help control his weeds. I think it may be worth a try. Preen stops the seeds from germinating.

If you are planting new roses, now is the time to get them in. Potted roses may be planted any time but should not be left in small pots over a long period of time because of becoming root bound. Roses may be grown in pots if the pot is at least 10 gallons or larger for hybrid teas and at least 5 gallons for miniatures. Boxed roses should be taken out of the box and treated as a bare root rose.

When I receive bare root roses, I like to pot them for about six weeks. This gives them time to develop a root structure and get the initial extra care they need. Boxed roses tell you to plant box and all. This does not work very well. The idea is the box will decompose before the root structure develops. This does not happen and the plant becomes root bound.

Always remove the rose from the box and treat it as a bare root rose.

Watering and feeding time is here. A feeding program was published in the April newsletter. If you follow that program you should have good roses with plenty of blooms. Watering is always necessary. We have been having some rain but it isn't enough. Working my roses, I am still turning up dry ground. 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. Roses are heavy feeders and drinkers.

Treat your roses well and they will reward you with plenty of blooms.

ARS Rose of the Month

Love

by Kay Tyler

This rose has always been special to me--my Mom got the bush as a Valentine's Day gift from my Dad in the early 1980s. It was a very romantic gift and impressed a very impressionable 10-year old at the time!



I moved this rose (along with a few others) to my own garden when my parents' house was sold a few years ago, and it seems pretty happy in the yard, next to *Pristine*. They are my

two "big" roses; all the rest are shrubs and miniatures.

Love is a pretty bi-color grandiflora. It has red petals with silvery white on the back side of each one. My climate is warm most of the year so the 30--35 petals have no problem opening for me. The rose also has a mild fragrance on soft, moist days--very "rosey". The only drawback to *Love*'s embrace is the thorns--lots of them!

This rose was hybridized by William Warriner who worked for J&P. It was introduced in 1980 and

won many prizes--notably the Portland Gold Medal for being an excellent rose in the test gardens in Oregon.

The bush blooms a lot with each bloom about 4 to 4½". Sometimes the bush will give me a small spray of three blooms but it mostly blooms just one on a stem. The rose seems to be tough--it doesn't get any of the diseases I recognize--but it is only growing with one other rose, so maybe the diseases don't know where my yard is.

The rose brings back memories for me--so I prune it on Valentine's Day and make sure it is well and happy and ready for the Spring to come.

Photo courtesy of Sharon Kardos, 2007

Pruning Roses: 101

By Nanette Londeree

There seems to be a lot of mystery surrounding rose pruning, as well as lots of "rules" to follow in order to do it correctly. If I have learned anything over the last decade of pruning hundreds of roses, it is that roses are very forgiving. If you cut too high, too low, at an inward facing bud rather than an outward facing one - in the long run, it really will not make a lot of difference. If the resulting growth does not grow in the fashion or direction you desire, cut it again to correct it. Once you realize that there is not too much one can do wrong, it makes the whole job much easier.

A few lessons learned by this rosarian (the hard way):

1. Do not prune old roses (once-bloomers) in the winter or spring. The blooms on the old roses are produced on current growth. If you prune them now, you are pruning your spring flowers away!
2. Do not prune newly-planted roses--they need to get established before you remove any growth (other than dead wood).
3. Prune first year roses (those you have grown for one season) lightly. They may not have developed a lot of top growth the first season, and need all their canes to continue to thrive.

Now for a few general pruning tips:

1. Invest in a good pair of shears and keep them oiled, adjusted and very sharp! Do not use anvil-type shears because they bruise the bark. If you use loppers, make sure they are also the pass-through type. A small pruning saw is a necessity for large canes and for getting into places that cannot be reached with shears or loppers.

2. Wear good, strong, durable gloves. They should be sturdy but flexible. It is also beneficial to use gloves with gauntlets that cover the forearm. Wear hard-finish clothing such as denim and wear long sleeves.
3. Remove every leaf from newly pruned bushes; diseases tend to carry over in winter on old green leaves left on the bush. Once pruning is done, it is an excellent time to do a dormant spray; this will reduce insects and disease in the upcoming season.
4. Pay attention to where you are placing your hands. Roses don't stick you; you stick yourself on the roses! Experienced pruners rarely get severely scratched but it is a good idea to check to see if you have had a tetanus shot in the last 10 years.
5. Start at the bottom of the bush but look at the top before cutting. Do not let the "decisions" about what to cut make you tense or slow you down.
6. The cane will tend to grow in the direction the top bud is pointing--cut to an outside bud on upright bushes and to an inside bud on sprawling bushes. Cut about ¼" away from the bud. If cut closer, the new growth may break off. If cut longer, an unsightly stub will remain.
7. Cut back to good healthy wood. Discolored pith (interior of cane) may indicate frost or disease damage, and while such a cane may bloom, it will usually die back come summer. At best it is a poor framework for future growth.
8. Remove about one-third to one-half of the volume of the plant, leaving healthy canes, and the center of the plant open.
9. Large canes can be cut easily with sharp shears if they are bent slightly away from the cutting edges of the shears.
10. Do not worry if the cut cane bleeds; there is no evidence to show that it is harmful to either roses or grapevines. It is not necessary to seal cuts in climates where there are no destructive cane borers.

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