



A local, nonprofit organization affiliated with the American Rose Society (ARS) and dedicated to the study, enjoyment, enhancement, cultivation and promotion of the Rose.

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2009 and 2010 ARS Bulletin Contest Gold Medal Winner

March 2013 Volume 6, Number 3



Tyler, TX, Rose Garden

March 19th 6:30 p.m.
RRRS Meeting
Denison Library, Denison, TX
Dr. Steven George
The Exciting World of EarthKind Roses

Come join us at The Olive Garden, 5:00 p.m.
At the back of the restaurant
For a relaxing and fun dinner

President's Corner

Wanted: More Garden Room for more Roses!

The other day, when the temperature was warm and the sun bright and cheery, I walked among my gardens and wished for more rose planting space. I also realized that I was probably going to have to replace my dianthus borders. Then a wonderful idea occurred to me, which I want to share with you—**miniature roses**.

Miniature Chinese roses were introduced to Western rosarians around 1810. Later they were almost lost to cultivation until some miniature roses were discovered during World War I in a remote Swiss village growing in window boxes.

Miniature roses are bred to stay small in size while extremely hardy and profusely repeat bloomers. They work well in a border and are especially nice as specimen plants.

There are several different types of miniature roses:

- ❖ Bushes which are usually 24 to 36 inches tall
- ❖ Climbers with a vertical growth habit can be trained up against a support.
- ❖ Trailers with a cascading habit, which are wonderful in baskets, pots, and over garden walls or window boxes.
- ❖ Micro-mini are the smallest of the miniature roses (6 to 12")
- ❖ Miniflora is a miniature rose that is a slightly larger plant (2 ½ to 4 ½ ') with a larger bloom.

Today there are hundreds of miniature roses of all colors and some are very fragrant.

Surely you can find some place for several petite roses in your garden. A whole new world of roses can open up for you.



Innocence



Sorcerer



Sun Sprinkles

Jackson & Perkins Miniature Roses

At our next meeting, March 19th, Dr. Steven George will speak about how to grow beautiful roses with a 70% reduction in irrigation, no fertilizer, few if any harsh pesticides on the plants, no deadheading, and little pruning. He will explain the details of the Earth-Kind Environmental Soil Management Program.

Dr. George is a Professor and Landscape Horticulture specialist and National Coordinator of the Earth-Kind Rose Program.

Miniature Roses for the Texoma Area

By Bill Cashin

Consulting Rosarian

For a low rose border, I would heartily recommend **June Laver**. It's a yellow miniature rose that only grows about 18 inches tall. It blooms profusely with perfect yellow show type quality blooms that last for days in a small vase.

For a specimen miniature rose, I recommend **Fair Hope**. FH will grow about 2 to 3 feet tall and has white blooms. I have a row of about 15 Fair Hope bushes growing along my back fence. These two varieties are just covered with hips during the late fall and they both make excellent seed parents if anyone wishes to use them for hybridizing.

For a climbing miniature rose I grow, actually it grows even if I don't help it, or give it any encouragement, is **Jeanie Lajoy**. JL was hybridized in 1976 and in my garden it has grown over the top of our seven foot fence. JL is rated a 9.0 in the Selecting Roses hand book.

Another miniature I really like that grows well in our area is **Rainbows End**. It never gets taller than 2 ft. and its blooms are deep yellow with red borders.

Our favorite trouble free minifloral, by a country mile, is **Power Point**. PP grows about 3 ft. tall and this is how it is described, very accurately I might add, in some rose journals, "A strong upright grower with dark green foliage and showcases mini-flora blooms. The pinpoint centers of this fire engine red bloom give it the look of a true winner. Lots of bloom power with a mild fragrance, for display garden and the show table - A must for everyone's garden!"



Color Magic



Child's Play



Secret

Consulting Rosarian Corner ***Jerry Haynes***

Most of us have rose bushes that have begun growing and leafing out. It is time to prune!

Roses will survive almost anything that Nature throws at them. However some roses are more susceptible to freeze damage than others. Roses with Chinese ancestry are more tender than others. Generally, most roses can stand an overnight low of 29 degrees without damage. Most of the roses hybridized by Dr. Griffith Buck of Iowa are hardy down to 25 degrees or more.

According to NOAA there are no 'blue Northerners' forecast for the foreseeable future, but weather along the Red River is tricky...

Forsythia bushes are usually, but not always, the signal to prune your roses. When the forsythia forthsizes, forsooth – its time to prune

We start our rose growing season by pruning roses to reinvigorate and shape bushes.

□ Decide which roses are not performing well for you and shovel-prune them. Even two otherwise identical roses from the same grower may not perform the same. Like people, each rose is an individual entity.

- Sharpen your pruning shears and loppers. Spray with WD40. Wipe your tools down with germicidal wipes between pruning rose bushes to avoid spreading disease, particularly Rose Rosette Disease
- Look at your bush before you start to see what kind of pruning and shaping needs to be done.
- Remove the Five D's – **D**ead, **D**amaged, **D**iseased, **D**inky and **D**irectionally-challenged.
- Remove twiggy growth. (Dinky) Anything smaller than a pencil diameter should be pruned.
- Remove crossing canes. (Directionally-challenged) Helps to promote air circulation and cane damage from rubbing against each other.
- Remove 1/3 - 1/2 of old growth by making cuts at a 45 degree angle selecting an outside facing bud eye.
- Remove Diseased canes...those are the ones that have purple splotches or split areas.
- If you find a cane borer tunnel while pruning, keep cutting the rose cane back until you are below the cane borer damage.
- If you have an older rose, consider removing canes either to the ground in the case of own root roses or to the graft in the case of grafted roses. Make sure you prune back to creamy pith to ensure growth in that part of the graft.
- Be gentle pruning brand-new roses. Just prune lightly to stimulate new growth.
- Once-blooming Old Garden Roses are pruned after blooming...not before, or you will lose this year's spring flush of blooms.
- Seal larger canes with a dab of water proof glue. White school glue is highly water soluble and not good for sealing.
- Once you are done pruning, spray your roses for Blackspot. (use Neem oil as a green substitute for more toxic chemicals)
- Fertilize and water after pruning.

What good Rosians will be doing in March

Dr. Kent Campbell

Rosebuds

Bowling Green Rose Society

March is an “in-between month.” It is unruly, neither winter nor spring it seems. The folk lore is “in like a lion, out like a lamb” or, heaven forbid, vice-versa. Also, March and early April usually provide short cold “snaps” to interrupt the gradual warming into spring. My grandma called them strawberry winter, blackberry, winter, and dogwood winter depending on what was in bloom.

Even though it is impractical to try to plan very far ahead, there are certain very important chores facing us. In this order, we must prune, feed, spray, and mulch. At the same time we should check the pH in our rose beds, and plant any new bushes we acquire.

Above, I mentioned that first comes pruning. This is the key to the entire summer, in regards to growing outstanding roses. The timing of spring pruning to have blossoms at their peak for a certain date is a very inexact science. It is, roughly, 45 to 55 days. Successful exhibitors in the mid-south say that at forsythia bloom or dogwood bloom is the “right” time to begin your pruning. My guess is that we are looking at the end of March and/or very early April to begin. March 25 is 55 days before our 2014 show

(*edited*), so do not become impatient and start too soon, even if in your pruning you have to cut out some new growth! If weather or other problems delay you, it is better to be a bit late than a little early!

Since spraying, feeding, and mulching will come in April, I will hold that discussion until the April issue of *Rosebuds*. Here, it is important to finish the subject of pruning.

In an effort to be in the peak of my first bloom cycle at show day, I begin cutting about 55 days prior to the show, depending on the weather! What I am going to say about method is for Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, miniatures and mini-floras, and floribundas. Shrubs, species roses, old garden type roses, climbers, and roses on fortuniana root stock require a slightly different approach, and will be discussed separately.

With the first group above, you should cut out all dead canes, all canes smaller than a pencil, and all canes of any size growing across other strong canes. This should open the bush, much like a deep bowl. Then cut the long, strong canes, a few inches at a time, down to white centers. As you cut, always cut at a slight angle, and to an outside bud. Do this to all canes on the bush and then re-trim the longest ones until all canes on the bush are the same height, even if you are cutting canes with white centers shorter. (Nature loves the strong and does nothing to assist the weak!) You should end up with a bush of only strong canes about 12 to 16 inches high. Small minis and mini-flora bushes, of course, should only be cut back to about half their height. But, they can go deeper into the canes if needed to get to white. Many rosarians maintain that it is important to seal the cut on top of the large canes with nail polish, Elmer's Glue, or orange shellac.

I usually prune in the order that it takes plants to mature to their bloom cycle. Floribundas require the most time to produce the sprays you seek; start with them. Next do the minis and mini-floras as their bloom cycles last the longest. Finally, do the H-Teas and Grandifloras, from dark-colored, heavy petaled ones first to the light colored ones with a smaller number of petals last.

Species roses such as Chinas, shrubs, and polyanthas require a light trim and shaping. If there are unruly or unproductive canes, they should be removed. Too severe a cut-back really slows these genres in development. The same is true for bushes on fortuniana roots. They, however, seem to produce more dead wood than other bushes. I have two H-Teas on fortuniana that have produced massive, top heavy, bushy roses. The expert at our Nash-ville workshop last week told me to thin them out aggressively, as they are loaded with small canes and cut them back to about half their height. This I will do.

Climbers and Old Garden Roses are very special cases. I have none of these varieties and hesitate to give advice about them. Essentially, I have read that one should wait until after the first bloom cycle to do any trimming of climb-ers, as they bloom on one year old wood and you will be able to tell which canes these are. Then cut out old non-productive canes.

This article was first written by Claire Campbell and published in *Rosebuds*, the Bowling Green Society newsletter in 2012, then edited by Dr. Kent Campbell for the 2013 March issue of *Rosebuds*.

Antique Roses for the South

*By Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas*

Overshadowed by modern hybrids, old roses have been neglected in this century; but now there is a renaissance afoot to restore the older varieties to their place in the garden. Their historic interest, color, fragrance, and form should make old roses as indispensable to today's gardens as they have been for centuries. Many gardeners will attest that the best thing about old roses is that many of them provide all these landscape values without becoming a maintenance burden.

The American Rose Society defines the term "old rose" to be varieties introduced prior to 1867. Others consider any variety that has been in cultivation for 75 or more years, or varieties having old rose characteristics of flower form, color, and fragrance, to be old.

Why Old Roses?

Long before its extensive hybridization, the rose had survived cheerfully in the gardens of history. Early rose cultivars retained the resilience and fortitude programmed by nature, but these qualities have sometimes been neglected in modern hybrids developed primarily for showy blooms. Unlike modern roses, which often grow poorly without many hours of devoted attention, most old roses will give today's busy home owner an appreciated rest from much of the heavy fertilizing, spraying, and nurturing demanded by their younger cousins. Some old rose varieties actually prefer a minimum of pruning. And, as specimens found in old cemeteries and abandoned home sites attest, many have survived even without any care from human hands.

Old rose varieties tend to be stable, long lived, and sturdy, especially when grown from cuttings. Many show a strong resistance to black spot and

other diseases. The unforgettable “true rose” fragrance lives in its undiluted form in old roses; such richness and diversity of fragrance are not found in the modern hybrids. Old roses have an inherent beauty of form, a quality which does not diminish over the years. This makes them especially useful as landscape plants.

Colors in old roses tend to be more muted and pastel than in modern hybrids, but many collectors acquire a preference for the softer hues. Some varieties display handsome foliage, while others set attractive hips in the fall which can be harvested for their Vitamin C content.



Rosa 'Hermosa'

Landscaping with Antique Roses

Roses were historically planted for garden display as much as for cut flower use. Species roses and early hybrids were more shrub-like, and tended to be more insect- and disease-resistant than their modern cousins. Old roses occur in many shrub and vine sizes, making them truly versatile plants.

A brief look at some of the ways old garden roses have been used in landscapes of the past can suggest possibilities for today's gardens.

Trellises and Espaliers

Trellises can be attractive structures themselves, and with the addition of climbing roses, the effect can be spectacular. Ready-made trellises are usually skimpy and out of scale in the landscape. Treated pine, redwood, cedar, or similar long-lasting woods are appropriate for trellis construction. Sometimes a frame can be built, then 4- by



Rosa 'Crepuscle'

8-foot modules of prefabricated trellage used to finish the design.

Roses can be used for espaliers on the walls of various structures. It is important that roses receive plenty of sunlight and have good air circulation. Walls limit both of these important commodities, and may result in problems with mildew, blackspot, and spider mites. Select varieties that have some resistance to these problems, to increase your chances for success.

Climbing roses trained around windows or over doorways can be especially attractive. In England, roses are sometimes trained on a wall, and allowed to grow on trellage placed on the roof. Only the hardiest roses, however, can **tolerate** the sun and radiated heat of our Texas summers.

Consider some of the species climbers and exceptionally hardy hybrids such as '**Cecile Brunner**', '**Lamarque**', '**Lady Banks**', '**Fortuniana**', and '**Zepherine Drouhin**'.

Hedges

Rose hedges can be quite beautiful, but are best used sparingly because of their relatively high degree of maintenance. They are best when shaped periodically but not clipped as one would treat boxwood or privet hedges. Sunny locations and good air circulation are needed to successfully grow rose hedges. Relatively low hedges of 3 to 4 feet can be maintained with some of the Polyantha and China roses. '**Marie Pavie**', '**La Marne**', '**Old Blush**', and various red Chinas are good choices.

Hybrid Musks are useful where 5- to 7-foot hedges are appropriate. '**Ballerina**', '**Penelope**', '**Cornelia**', and '**Belinda**' are good prospects. For really large hedges, some of the species roses are good. The white or yellow form of **Lady Banks** makes huge mounding plants 15 to 20 feet in diameter and 12 to 15 feet tall while requiring little maintenance.

Thorny roses such as '**Mermaid**' and '**Cherokee**' may be used to form an impenetrable hedge while affording habitat for various bird and animal species.

Staggered plantings, rather than straight rows, are more appealing if sufficient space is available. Roses for hedges may be spaced as closely as 2 feet apart for small types and 10 to 12 feet apart for **Banksias**, **Mermaid**, etc.

Although it is usually best to use only one kind of rose in a hedge, interesting effects can be created by using several types. When this is done, it is usually more satisfying to use three or more of a kind together.

Specimen Roses (wild roses)

An occasional large rose specimen in a shrub border can be effective. Also, a number of specimens can be used in a lawn area. Large specimens can also be used to screen unsightly areas or to cover dead trees, stumps, etc.

Some roses have a distinctive weeping form. The '**Swamp Rose**' is a good example, and can be used effectively as a single specimen.

Arches and Pillars

Arches can be among the most dramatic garden features. Logical locations are at the entrance or exit to a garden area where a path runs beneath. It is critical that the arch be in scale with its surroundings, and be built of compatible materials. Ready-made arches sold by mail are often too small to fit into most settings. Sufficient height and width must be allowed to accommodate the drape of the rose or other vines used.

The foliage of the rose is equally as important as the flowers. Stiff-caned woody climbers are not nearly so effective on arches as they are on fences and walls. For arches, consider Noisettes, climbing Teas, and various ramblers.



Rosa 'Prospero'

An example of the modern David Austin roses which closely resemble antique roses but have continuous bloom

Pillars of roses can be used to frame a garden or as specimens. The pillars themselves are often made of rustic woody limbs, allowing stubs of branches to support the vines. Victorian gardens sometimes connected pillars with chains on which rambling roses were trained.

Three rustic posts may also be arranged teepee-style and lashed or nailed at the top, to provide an interesting effect when covered with roses. An umbrella-shaped trained rose can also be interesting, and is achieved by training a climbing form, such as 'Cecile Brunner', up a central column and out over an umbrella-shaped support.

Pergolas

A garden pergola can also be called a covered alley. Such structures are fairly common in large formal gardens, and can sometimes be used in today's residential landscapes. In small gardens, pergolas can be shortened to 2 or 3 posts, making them deep archways.

Pergolas are most effective on level ground in straight lines. They can be arranged in a cross, with each path leading to separate gardens.

Pergolas may be constructed of rustic timbers, iron, finished wood, or a combination of brick and the previously-mentioned materials. I have also seen them created from concrete designed to look like rustic timbers. The path beneath can be grass, stone, brick, or gravel.

Ever-blooming roses may be alternated with once-flowering types or a single variety for maximum impact. Most ramblers or climbing roses are appropriate for use on pergolas.

Banks and Ground Covers

Loose shrubs and trailing roses are sometimes used on banks and other sunny locations as ground covers. Keeping such plantings weed-free while they are becoming established is often a challenge. Heavy mulching can help. Some of the Wichurianas and other ramblers may be used in this manner. Certain of the species roses, such as the Banksias, Swamp Rose,

and *R. Fortuniana*, can be very effective when allowed to tumble over a wall, especially if there is a pool of water below.

Mixed Borders

One of the most traditional and effective uses of old garden roses is in wide borders mixed with small flowering trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. Groups of three or more of a variety are usually more effective than single specimens. Care should be taken to allow enough air space around the roses for good circulation, which will help prevent foliar diseases. Teas, Bourbons, Polyanthas, Chinas, Hybrid Perpetuals, Hybrid Musks, Noisettes, and many of the species roses all lend themselves to use in mixed borders. By carefully combining roses with other ornamental plants, striking combinations that can produce color over most of the year can be easily achieved.

Joe Abernathy Shears Sharpening Service

\$5.00 donation to the RRRS

Remember pruning your roses with sharp blades means a better cut.
This contributes to the health of your roses.

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Consulting Rosarians are rose growers who have met the qualifications set by the ARS and are there to help you with your rose growing questions. Call on them when you have a need!

Disclaimer – The advice and information presented in *Roses on the Red* are believed to be true and accurate, but its Editor, the Red River Rose Society nor any Member thereof can accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. The Red River Rose Society makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

Subscriptions are available through membership in the Society. Membership is available to any person interested in growing roses. The newsletter is published 10 times a year and is emailed to all members. Monthly meetings are held in the Denison Public Library, 300 W Gandy, Denison, TX 75020 (903-465-1797) at 6:30pm.

Dues are \$20.00 per household per calendar year and checks made out to the River Red Rose Society can be mailed to **Meg Mayes, Hospitality, 618 Edwards, Denison, TX 75020.**