

Roses on the Red

Red River Rose Society

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

<http://redriverrosesociety.com>

<http://www.ars.org>

2009 and 2010 ARS Bulletin Contest Gold Medal Winner



Innocence

President Message

I hope you have enjoyed this spring as much as Jerry and I have. The roses have been spectacular. I hope you have been out and about your yard with your camera and plan to share your pictures with the RRRS newsletter. I will start a brag page in this newsletter and hope to have at least one picture per month.

Speaking of the newsletter, June's will be the last newsletter for the spring. There will be another one the beginning of September with the fall news. We will have no meetings in July and August.

If you have heard the weather prediction

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is of a hot dry summer, so have I. Remember, your best defense is mulch. At least 3 ½ to 4 inches is considered to be the recommended amount to make a difference with the blistering heat. Place this mulch close to the canes, but not touching them as the damp mulch can weaken the canes for insects to penetrate. The mulch will help all our plants that we labor around, including our trees. We want to keep all the trees we have healthy, to provide shade for the relief that all living things like and need.

Take care of yourself this summer.



On June 18th at the Denison Library
the RRRS will meet at 6:30 p.m.
Sandra Haynes will speak about
The Fragrant Garden
Please join us at 5p.m. for dinner
at the North Grill Rig
in Denison off of 75.



Rose of the Month

Lafter

Lafter is an upright shrub, Hybrid Tea that can grow to eight feet. It has lovely green leaves. The flowers are a blend of yellow, apricot, and pink. They are four inches across and have a strong fragrance. Lafter was bred by Brownell with Wichuraiara and Tea cross, Dr. W. Van Fleet, introduced in 1948.

Lafter is often grown as a hedge and pruned to five feet tall. It has a beautiful spring flush but is not a consistent repeat bloomer through the summer. It does have a minor flush in the fall.



Lafter is a great rose for the Texoma area. It is heat tolerant and draught resistant. It is a great cut rose for the house or as a bouquet gift to a friend. Sometimes hard to find, but worth the effort.

Look at My Roses



Ron Cummingham and Blush Noisette



Carole Mainwaring's Dick Clark

Consulting Rosian Report – To seal or not to seal

Sandra Haynes

Cane borers drill into mature canes where you have pruned. The cane borer larvae is laid on your roses usually in the spring and the insect then flies off. The larvae enters the cane through a pruning cut and continues to eat the center of the cane, burrowing down, leaving the cane a hollow tube. The cane will wilt and die. Many gardeners seal the pruned canes with non-water soluble glue and some even add food coloring to determine which canes are sealed and which are without glue. If you have only a few roses to prune then this is no problem. But if you have many roses and many, many canes to prune, this will probably slow you down a lot and add hours of work. If you are like me you question yourself – to seal or not to seal.



For the answer, first look at your roses and determine how many roses have been infested with cane borers. If not very many, then skip the sealing step. On the other hand if you have experienced a severe cane borer attack, then I would start pruning with my rose gloves, pruners, and glue. Another remedy is to inspect the larger canes and look for holes in the end of pruned canes. If you find a hole, with your pruners continue to cut the cane past the borer where the center of the cane is white and healthy looking. Your vigilance with pruning off the damaged canes will take care of your cane borer problem.

Reminder: in hot weather, do not prune your canes, just cut the spent bloom off below the sepal unless you find a cane bore.

FIRE ANTS

by Jerry Haynes

Fire ants are a variety of stinging ants with over 280 species worldwide. The Fire ant that has taken over all of the southern states is *Solenopsis Invicta*, which arrived in Mobile Alabama in 1930 on a freighter from South America.

Genus: Solenopsis

Species: Invicta

Well over five billion dollars a year is spent trying to combat fire ants in the USA. About half of the US population in southern states gets bit by fire ants each year.

A typical fire ant colony produces large mounds in open areas, and feeds mostly on young plants, seeds, and sometimes crickets. Fire ants often attack small animals and can kill them. Unlike many other ants, which bite and then spray acid on the wound, fire ants bite only to get a grip and then sting (from the abdomen) and inject a toxic alkaloid venom called solenopsin. For humans, this is a painful sting, a sensation similar to what one feels when burned by fire—hence the name fire ant—and the after effects of the sting can be deadly to sensitive individuals. The venom is both insecticidal and antibiotic.

First aid for fire ant bites includes external treatments and oral medicines.

- External treatments: a topical steroid cream (hydrocortisone), or one containing aloe vera. Also, regular toothpaste can be a quick and simple relief. A simple solution of half bleach and half water applied

immediately to the area can reduce the pain, itching and, perhaps, pustule formation.

- Oral medicines: antihistamines.

Victims who experience severe or life threatening allergic reactions to fire ant insect stings should visit a doctor or hospital immediately upon contact as these reactions can result in death. These more severe reactions include severe chest pain, nausea, severe sweating, loss of breath, serious swelling, or slurred speech.

Fire ants nest in the soil, often near moist areas, such as river banks, pond edges, watered lawns and highway edges. Usually the nest will not be visible as it will be built under objects such as timber, logs, rocks, pavers, bricks, etc. If there is no cover for nesting, dome-shaped mounds will be constructed, but this is usually only found in open spaces such as fields, parks and lawns. These mounds can reach heights of 40 cm (15.7 in). The mounds that the fire ants live in can also be as deep as five feet.

Fire ants are not picky eaters. They are omnivores and will eat almost any plant or animal material, including other insects, ground-nesting animals, mice, turtles, snakes, and other vertebrates, young trees, seedlings, plant bulbs, saplings, fruit and grass. When foraging for food, the oldest and most expendable 20% or so of the colony's workers explore within 50 - 100 feet of the nest in a looping pattern.

Even though worker fire ants can chew and cut with the mandibles, they can only swallow liquids. When they encounter liquid food in the field, they swallow it to one of their two stomachs. One stomach saves food to share with the colony and the other one is to digest food for themselves. Solid food is cut to carrying size and brought back to the colony for "processing." Fire ants prefer protein foods (that is, insects and meats) but will feed on almost anything and everything.

Colonies are founded by small groups of queens or single queens. Even if only one queen survives, within a month or so the colony can expand to thousands of individuals. Some colonies may be polygynous (having multiple queens per nest). Large colonies may have up to a half million ants.

A queen is generally the largest individual in the colony. The primary function of the queen is reproduction; she may live for 6-7 years and produce up to 1,500 eggs per day. Many fire ant colonies will have more than one queen.

An established nest can have up to 8 inactive sub-queens that will flee the nest if threatened, which is why poisoning a nest may not completely rid a property of the ants.

Male drones mate with the queen for the sole purpose of producing offspring. Their lifespan is approximately three days.

The workers are sterile females who build and repair the nest, care for the young, defend the nest, and feed both young and adult ants. The worker ants also go find supplies to build up the colony.

Fire ants will cause actual damage to your garden, and you should do your best to get rid of them. They're harmful in a lot of ways. First off, as you experienced, they will bite you whenever you try to tend to it or harvest any vegetables you plant out there. Second, fire ants will damage many kinds of plants that can be food for them. They will often eat the buds of plants or tunnel through the roots of others. They will eat seeds or pods or anything with nutrition. Third, fire ants use aphids for food, and will protect them from predators and actually cultivate them. Aphids can cause serious damage to plants, even if the ants themselves don't.

The big problem, though, is that many insecticides and baits cannot be used in gardens. You need to read the instructions carefully before trying to use them there - especially if you are going to eat something coming out of it. Some baits can't be used in gardens themselves, but can be sprinkled just outside it. Some, like Green Light, are safe to use there.

There are also some natural remedies that, while not foolproof, might be your best bet with a garden. First of all, put out baits in any other parts of your yard where you find nests. It doesn't really help to just get rid of them in one place, because they'll start another colony there all over again.

The Two Step is a proven method of reducing imported fire ant populations in heavily infested home lawns and ornamental turf. Briefly, it is the: 1) once or twice per year broadcast application of a bait product, and waiting several days to a week before; 2) treating nuisance mounds using an individual mound treatment such as a dust, granule, bait or drench insecticide. Otherwise, wait for the bait treatment to take effect. This method reduces the over-reliance on use of individual mound treatments and is suitable for treating larger areas.

Broadcast Baits for Fire Ant Control

These products are designed for the homeowner and are widely available in retail stores, garden centers and farm and ranch supply stores (Wal-Mart, Lowe's, Home Depot, CoOp, Tractor Supply, etc.). They are sold in small containers with enough material to cover a home yard up to a few acres. For areas larger than about 10 acres, it is usually much more economical to purchase a professional or agricultural product in 25 lb. bags.

- Amdro
- Amdro Fire Strike
- Amdro Yard Treatment
- Amdro Ant Block
- Conserve-containing products (Green Light, Payback, etc.)
- Over 'n Out
- Spectracide Once and Done

The Texas two-step approach to get rid of fire

The currently best proven approach to effectively manage fire ants is called the Two-Step Method. This approach works best in fully infested areas (five or more mounds for each quarter-acre of yard) or where there is little or no concern for preserving native ant species.



Two-stepping includes broadcasting a bait insecticide over your entire yard sometime between late August and mid-October, and then

treating individual, problem mounds with an approved mound drench, granule, bait, or dust insecticide.

Step One: Baits

Fire ant baits consist of pesticides on processed corn grits coated with soybean oil. Worker ants take the bait back to the colony, where it is shared with the queen, which then either dies or becomes infertile. Baits currently available include Amdro, Siege, Logic, Award, Ascend, or Raid Fire Ant Killer. Baits are slow-acting and require weeks to months to achieve 80% to 90% control. Bait products can be used to easily treat large areas effectively. They contain extremely low amounts of toxins. For best results:

- Use fresh bait, preferably from an unopened container.
- Apply when the ground and grass are dry and no rain is expected for the next 24 to 48 hours.
- Apply when worker ants are actively looking for food, usually in late afternoon or in the evening. To test, put a small pile of bait next to a mound and see if the ants have found it within 30 minutes.
- Apply baits with hand-held seed spreaders. Don't apply baits mixed with fertilizer or seed.
- Baits can be applied anytime during the warm season. When applied in late summer/early fall, ants are still foraging and it's easier to predict weather patterns. Then the bait can take effect over the winter while you're indoors. Re-apply baits once or twice a year. (see Tackle Fire Ants in the Fall).

Step Two: Individual Mound Treatments

Chemical. With dust products, no water is needed and they act fast. However, they leave a surface residue. Liquid drenches generally eliminate mounds within a few hours and leave little surface residue after application. Granular products are relatively fast acting and usually require putting granules on and around the mound and then sprinkling 1 to 2 gallons of water on without disturbing the mound. Closely follow directions on the label.

Organic. Pouring 2 to 3 gallons of very hot or boiling water on the mound will kill ants about 60% of the time. Otherwise, the ants will probably just move to

another location. Very hot or boiling water will kill the grass or surrounding vegetation that it is poured upon. Other natural or organic methods include mound drench products containing plant derived ingredients (e.g. botanical insecticides) and biological control agents.

Control Methods

Fire ants can't be eliminated entirely because it's not possible to treat all areas that are infested. Thus the goal of current integrated pest management programs is to suppress fire ants as much as possible with biological control methods and use insecticides only where it is economically and environmentally justifiable to do so.

There may not be one "best" method for fire ant control, especially in large areas. The objective should be to find the method or methods that are cost effective and environmentally sound. In areas The bait you apply determines how quickly ants will be controlled and how long the effect will last. Faster acting bait products include indoxacarb (works in 3-10 days), hydramethylnon (works in 7-14 days for mound treatments and in 2-3 weeks when broadcast), and spinosad (works in several weeks). They may need to be re-applied more often than slower acting and longer lasting products such as abamectin, fenoxycarb, methoprene or pyriproxyfen, which work in 1-2 months when applied in spring and 6 months when applied in fall.

Products that combine fast- and slow-acting ingredients, such as hydramethylnon plus methoprene (Extinguish® Plus, Amdro® Firestrike), may control ants better because they act quickly and last longer.

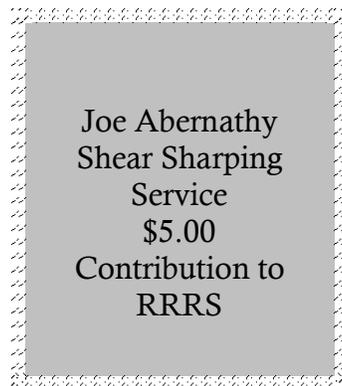
With this approach, a contact insecticide is applied to the lawn and landscape surface This is more expensive than other control methods but it may be more effective in smaller areas because ants that move into treated areas will be eliminated as long as the chemical is active. Granular products are best applied with a push-type fertilizer spreader and must be watered in after treatment.

Granular fipronil products are slower acting but longer lasting; only one treatment is permitted per year. Faster-acting contact insecticides, such as pyrethroids eliminate ants on the surface for months but may not eliminate colonies nesting deeper in the soil.

Individual Mound Treatments

Although treating ant mounds individually is more labor intensive and may use more insecticide than other methods it is a suitable approach for small areas with few fire ant mounds (fewer than 20 per acre) or where you want to preserve native ants.

Faster acting baits products (hydramethylnon, indoxacarb, spinosad) can be used to treat individual ant mounds and are ideal for treating inaccessible colonies like those nesting under sidewalks, in plant beds and at the bases of tree trunks. Some mound treatment products are available as liquid drenches, injectable aerosols, dusts or granules that are watered into the mound. Ants are killed only if the insecticide contacts them, so proper application is essential. These treatments are most effective when ants are nesting close to the mound surface (as they do when the temperature is mild). Colonies should not be disturbed during treatment. If you use a watering can to apply insecticide, do not use the can later for other purposes.





Mary Rose

Old Rose Hybrid

David Austin Roses

By Sandra Haynes

Many of us have and love David Austin roses. In the 1960's Austin began to hybridize roses. He wanted to combine the form, fragrance and disease resistance of Old Garden Roses with the repeat blooming and wide color range of Hybrid Teas and Floribundas. He named these new roses English Roses. Now Austin has divided his English Roses into four groups. Each group is different from the other and will probably make choosing an Austin rose easier. These roses all have the Old Garden Rose form, are fragrant, have a variety of color and are disease resistant. But each group has its own characteristics and breeding.

The first group is **Old Rose Hybrids**. They are the original English Roses. They have many of the characteristics of the Old Garden Roses (albas, centifolias, damasks, gallicas). They are mostly small shrubs with soft shades of pink, crimson, and purple. They repeat bloom through the summer. They have a strong old world type fragrance. Some examples of the Old Rose Hybrid group are Gertrude Jekyll, L.D. Braithwaite, Lady of Megginch, Mary Rose, Munstead Wood, Princess of Alexandra of Kent, Sophy's Rose, Tomora, The Dark Lady, and William Shakespeare. The Old Rose Hybrids are considered the perfect rose to use in a mixed border.

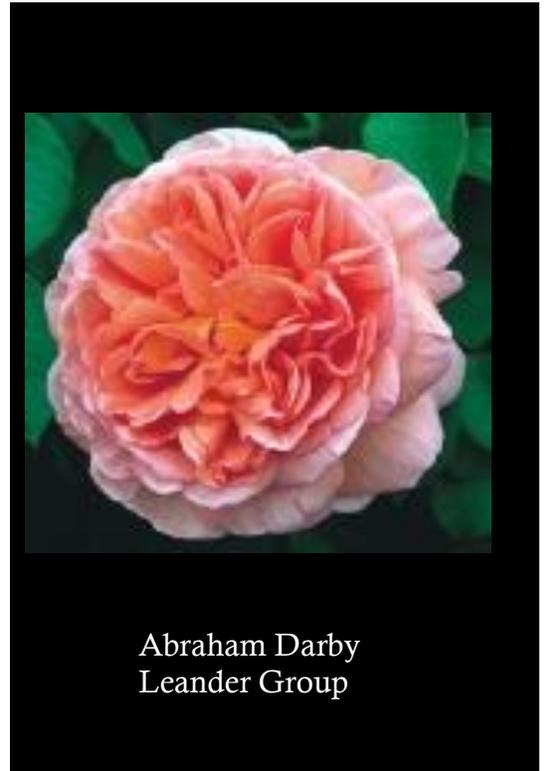
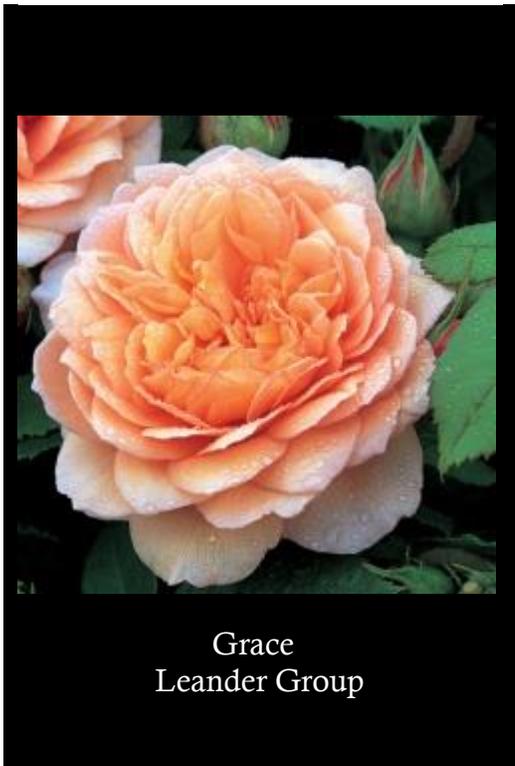


Princess Alexandra of
Kent
Old Rose Hybrid



L.D. Braithwaite
Old Rose Hybrid

The second group is the **Leander Group**. These roses are more like the modern roses in character, although the rose has the form of the old garden rose. The bushes are usually larger with elegantly arching growth. The flowers are larger and sit prominently on the branch, quickly catching your glance. They are repeat bloomers. Leander roses have a larger variety of colors including rich yellows, dark flame shades, and bright pink. Their fragrance is strong and varied, sometimes Tea Rose, Myrrh, or Old Garden Rose, with a hint of fruit such as raspberry, lemon or apple. Some examples of the Leander group are Golden Celebration, Abraham Darby, Benjamin Britten, Crown Princess Margareta, Grace, Pat Austin, Huntington Rose, Carding Mill, and Jubilee Celebration.





Golden Celebration
Leander Group

The third group is **English Musk** roses. The original English roses were crossed with Noisette roses to create this group. The English Musk roses are like the Noisette roses, lighter in color and form. The bush

looks dainty and charming. Their colors are soft yellow, apricot, blush, and peach. Some are missing a strong fragrance, but some have a musk scent combined with other scents. Some examples of the English Musk are Crocus Rose, Evelyn, Graham Thomas, Heritage, Lady Emma Hamilton, Molineux, Queen of Sweden, Scepter'd Isle, The Generous Gardener, and Charlotte.



The Generous Gardener
English Musk



Evelyn
English Musk



Charlotte
English Musk

The fourth group is the **Alba Rose Hybrid**. This is the latest group of roses from the David Austin collections. Their breeding is between English roses and Alba roses. The Alba Rose Hybrids have the characteristics of the Alba Roses. Alba roses often matured into tall graceful shrubs. The growth is light and airy and the flower color extends only from white through medium pink. The Alba Rose Hybrid growth habit is also light and airy and at this time the flowers are confined to pink shades. These roses work well in formal plantings and in wild and free areas of the garden. The only English Alba Hybrid I am aware of is The Lady Blush, a 2013 Introduction rose.



The Lady Blush
English Alba Hybrid

The climbing English roses are not really a separate group they are just taller varieties of the four groups. Rosians often prefer to have the climbing roses looking down on them, nodding gracefully at the gardeners with their fragrance drifting down. Most of these roses can be pruned to a shrub or to climb up a wall, trellis, or pillars. These climbers often do better in our Texoma area in partial shade or they do the best shaded from the afternoon sun.

All of the roses that I have featured are considered good roses for hot dry climates, but there are many more roses in each group that you might want to try in your garden.

Here are the other 2013 Introduction roses.



Wollerton Old Hall – English Musk



Fighting Temeraire – Leander Group



England's Rose – Old Rose Hybrid



Queen Ann – Old Rose Hybrid



Lady Salisbury – Old Rose Hybrid

For more information: www.davidaustinroses.com

David Austin Handbook of Roses, 2013



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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 4 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 Harriet Stewart, 801 Holland Drive, Denison, TX 75020.