



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

*Red River Rose Society, November Newsletter*

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*President Message*

*Sandra Haynes*

*The weather is cool, the flowers are giving us the last hurrah of the season and it makes your heart glad to have our gardens. If you belong to the same group, The Procrastinator's Club, as I do, this is the time to walk around*

Mr. Lincoln  
Photo by David Austin



*your garden with a paper and pencil to list what must be done before the first frost and what can be put off for several weeks.*

*Claude Graves gave a very informative program on Rose Rosette in October and while the epidemic has not reach Sherman and Denison, Jerry and I are starting to find we have lost several roses to the dreaded disease this summer. That is a little depressing.*

*Fortunately, our program in November will be special. Mike Shoup will present his*

*program entitled **Empress of the Garden**. His pictures are a rare delight. Jerry and I saw his program last spring and I encourage you to come. It will be a wonderful way to start the fall and winter festivities. Mike will bring copies of his book for signing.*

### ***Did you Know?***

*The middle name of Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon, was Rose. She enthusiastically grew roses at her estate, Malmaison, and sponsored and supported bringing roses from all over the world and hybridizing new roses. She had all the roses known in the world in her garden when she died of pneumonia from dampening her petticoats on a cool day as she showed her garden to the handsome Comte du Nord (actually the Czar of Russia).*

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The Red River Rose Society  
Will meet at the Denison Public Library  
November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
Mike Shoup of the Antique Rose Emporium  
Will give an illustrated talk on  
**Empress of the Garden**  
Please join us for dinner at the  
**Tuscan Slice**  
306 US Hyw 82 Sherman  
**903-771-4350** [tuscanslice.com](http://tuscanslice.com)

## **Consulting Rosarian Report**

By Jerry Haynes

### **GETTING YOUR ROSES READY FOR WINTER**

The average first freeze date in North Texas is November 15. Most roses need winter protection of some sort. Here are pointers to consider depending on where you live and what roses you are growing!

Late October to mid-November is the time to put your roses to bed in zones 7b and under. The aim is not too soon, nor too late, but just at the right time. This is a time that most rose growers detest -- winterizing the roses. It's not enough for us to have to acknowledge that there will be no more blooms until spring but the actual job of putting our babies to bed is not an easy one especially if you've a great number of them, and if you live in a cold climate! Here are some

guidelines to help you understand what is needed to get your roses through the process.

For a rose to survive winters, not only does buying a hardy variety come into play but the process of acclimation and de-acclimation is crucial! (Rugosa roses are the most hardy and Tea roses are the least hardy.)

One year you plant a hardy rose that is said to survive to zone 4 (you're zone 7b-much warmer) and the next spring you've had massive cane damage and you're left wondering "why?"

In order for hardy plants to get through winter successfully they must go through a period of acclimation to cold (fall) and then de-acclimation to cold (spring). This process allows the plant to undergo certain chemical and physiological changes.

Plants that have the ability to do this have obtained it from their adaptation of their cold environment over millennia. Yes, Evolution plays a very important part in this scheme of things. So either a rose has super-cooled genes or it doesn't. This explains why some roses are hardier than others.

Acclimation occurs in late fall as the plant responds to the shorter day length (less & less sunlight) along with colder temperatures. If the days continue to get shorter as they do and the temperatures continue to get colder by early winter the plants have shed enough water from their cells so that they can withstand freezing temperatures without perishing. Some call this "super-cooling".

What then happens if you have a late fall into early winter when the temperatures don't continually get colder but stay relatively warm then all at once dive to well below freezing, OR Winter arrives early before the plants have had sufficient time to acclimate? This happens when there is a very early hard freeze. A 'hard freeze' is when temperatures dip to 28 degrees Fahrenheit.

The answer is that you get winterkill. Whatever part of the plant that has not sufficiently shed water from its cells has died. It's quite simple; too much water in a cell and when it freezes it expands and the cell walls burst.

In spring the plants will begin to de-acclimate triggered by the day length getting longer and the temperatures steadily rising. This means their cells will slowly begin to accumulate water until they are back to full functionality.

So what do you think happens when you've had a very warm early spring but then winter decides it's not over yet and temperatures dive again to below freezing?? Winterkill also. If this happens early in the de-acclimation process the plants still have the capability acclimate but if it happens late in the process, the plant can get to a point of no return.

Something similar to this can happen if you leave your rose cones on without propping it up in warm days of early spring. It gets warm enough in there to fool the rose into thinking its spring and it de-clematises and breaks dormancy. When a really cold spell descends it's past the point of no return and the plant dies.

So you see that Mother Nature will have the last say every time and we humans just have to acknowledge and accept it

### **Do's for all Roses in General**

You have probably read this before, but it simply has to be acknowledged; " A hardy rose has to be a healthy rose!" Don't expect to ignore your roses all year and then have them come through winter without dying or at the least having lots of winter damage. Even roses rated as 'hardy' are no exception to this rule. (Most of the Buck roses are considered 'hardy' because they were bred in Iowa, where winter temperatures usually get down to zero or colder.)

If plants go into winter weakened from lack of water or nutrition, ravaged by insects or diseases that have gone unchecked, then you can count on casualties. It's a little too late now to do much except make sure they are watered well before winter's complete freeze-up. If insects have damaged them and/or disease attacks, then spray them with lime sulfur/dormant oil in November before the temperatures go below 10 degrees nighttime temperature. This will help kill and suffocate over-wintering insect eggs and disease spores.

Clean up all fallen rose leaves and debris from the rose bed. These will harbor disease and insects. (This is especially important if you've had a disease or insect problem)

Prune off any damaged or diseased canes back to healthy wood. Dab a bit of wood glue (Tightbond III) on the wound to prevent cane borers from entering. With this exception, pruning is best done in the spring for cold climates. Nature can do her own pruning and we get what's left!

If it is common to have high winds in your area, it's a good practice to tie the canes together so that they will not rub together or tear off with the wind.

If you have made a well or dug around the base of each rose to hold water then this must be removed as it will continue to hold water that will turn to ice and can certainly do damage to the crown of the rose. Bark splitting and even death of the plant can occur if water freezes and thaws here over the winter. While you're at it, mound up the soil over the plant base so that the water will run away from it.

Hybrid teas, Grandifloras and floribundas are not very hardy in zones below 7. In order for them to have a fighting chance of surviving, their bud union or graft needs to be at least two inches below the level ground surface. This graft is very tender and the whole rose can perish if it is damaged by freezing and thawing during winter. Cut back the canes to around a foot tall. (These will most likely die back anyway in colder zones) and mound them up as high as you can with earth. Once this is done, add enough leaves to each bed to reach the tops of the cut-off canes. The leaves insulate the roses from temperature fluctuations that are so hard on them. To keep those leaves from blowing away, you can put down a layer of evergreen boughs.

- This is an excellent time to apply Kelp Meal fertilizer. (September is best but up until early Nov. will do) This is a high-potassium, natural fertilizer. One job that potassium does for plants is that it builds up the plant in times of stress This is also a good time for compost to be added. Leave the manures for the spring. (You don't want all that good nitrogen leaching away with the melting snow.)

If you're unsure how hardy your rose is or if you've just planted it then by all means mound it up as high as you can with earth, not mulch. Earth insulates much better than mulch or compost!

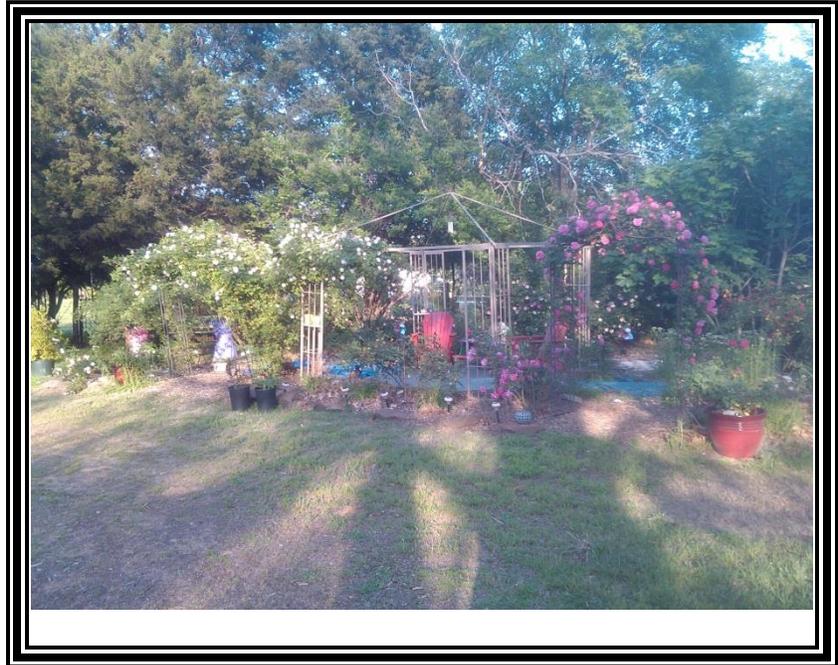
Following these simple precautions will help your roses survive over winter!

# In My Garden

Sue Zanne Peterson

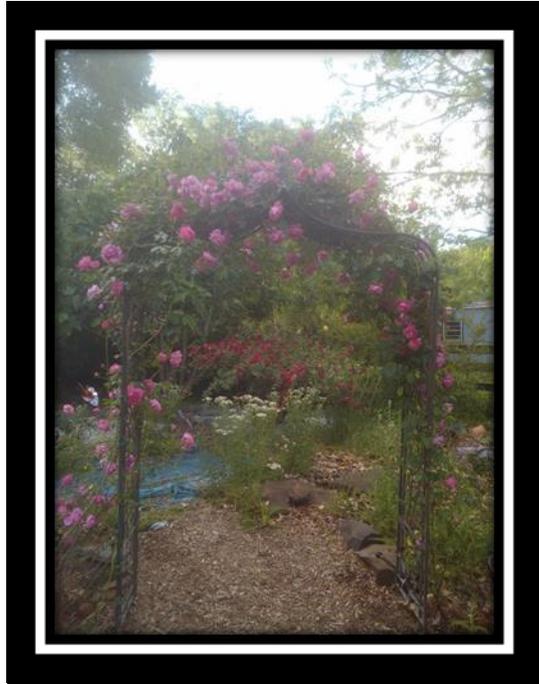
Sue Zanne has been expanding her garden and the results are very lovely. This is definitely a place to relax, meditate, and enjoy the roses. Sue Zanne is a true natural gardener and we can all admire her results.

The white rose on the left is a Cecile Brunner. The pink climber on the right is from a cutting Sue Zanne took from a friend's garden. The friend



inherited the home and rose from her grandmother. Neither the friend nor Sue Zanne know the name of the rose, but it is a many pedaled rose with a strong old fashion rose scent.

Looking through the trellis are several other with many places to pause and admire the roses.



The Mystery Rose



## **In memoriam – Roses I Have Loved and Lost...**

I thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday and days before that too. I think of you in silence, I often speak your name. All I have are memories and your picture in a frame...

The first rose I ever had was Mr. Lincoln. I had just moved to Cincinnati, Ohio to develop a new training program in jet engine manufacturing for General Electric. Bill Kennedy, one of the aeronautical engineers I was working with, was also President of the Cincinnati Rose Society. Bill gave me a Mr. Lincoln and told me how to plant it, fertilize it and take care of it. He and his wife Elaine were our mentors in roses. We quickly became good friends, and when the Spring Cincinnati Rose Show came along, I entered the only rose that I had. Elaine showed Sandra and me how to groom it for the show. To our delight, our rose was selected for the Court and won a blue ribbon and a nice silver traveling trophy!

I was hooked! Over the next 4 or 5 years, I bought and planted 450 roses, including several more Mr. Lincolns, in our backyard. When we sold that house and moved to San Antonio, to teach at the University of Texas - San Antonio, I dug up and potted that first Mr. Lincoln to take it with us, but it did not like the terrific heat of south Texas and died that first summer.

When we were thinking about retiring, we wanted a cooler climate and were talking about moving to Colorado, but then our granddaughter was born and it seemed like a better idea to move to north Texas. We bought over an acre to have room for lots of gardens. In 20/20 hindsight, we built far too many gardens. As we get older and more decrepit, we can't take proper care of the 32 different garden beds we built to hold our 150 roses.

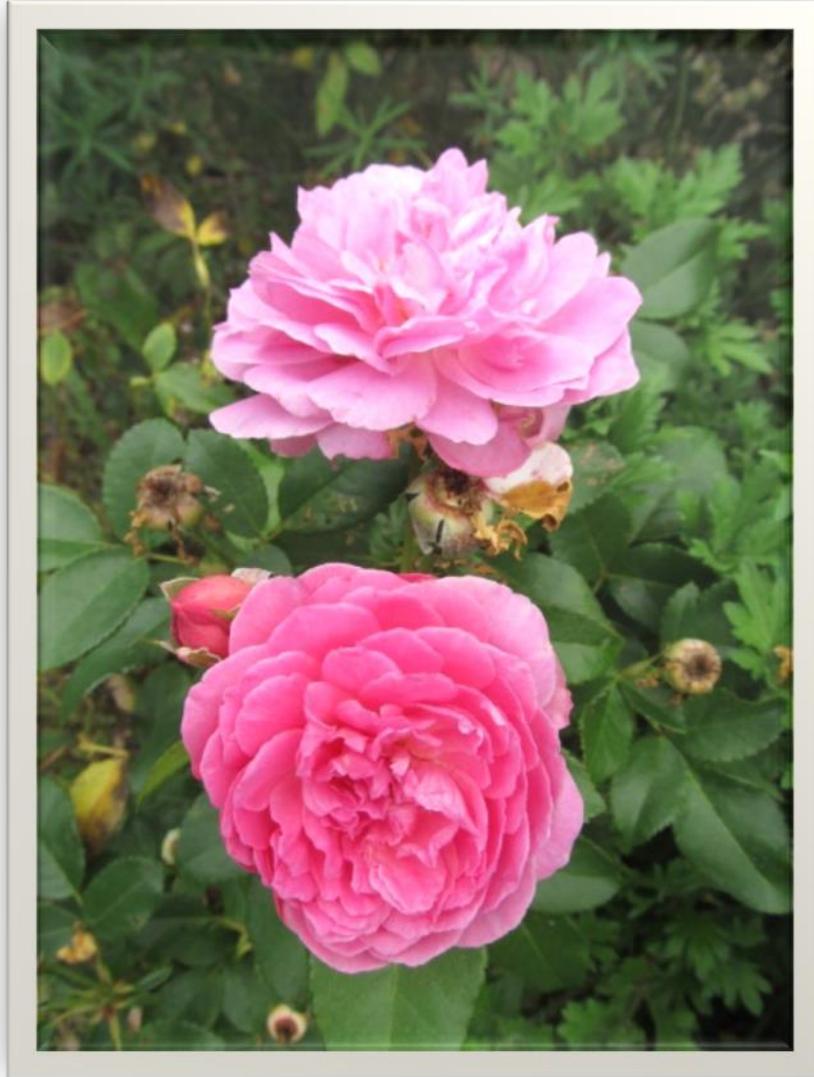
And then Rose Rosette Disease came along...

I had propagated dozens of cuttings from Eisenhower Birthplace Park, including a Climbing Pinky. I planted it next to our backyard gate. The rose soon developed into a lovely cascading bush 10 feet tall and 20 feet in circumference. It looked gorgeous in full bloom. Last spring I noticed a cluster of misshapen growth. Oh no, it was Rose Rosette Disease, and I cut the cane back to the ground. This year there were more witch brooms of RRD and I reluctantly dug it up and bagged the branches for the landfill. We also had to dig up and dispose of a Lovely yellow Lowell Thomas that Sandra had planted in a rose garden just outside a large bay window in her bedroom. She and I liked to sit with our morning coffee and look at her beautiful roses.

This year, so far, we have lost a Ballerina, a Julia Child, a Mutabilis and a Starina. They are lost but not forgotten...

# Rose of the Month

Orchid Romance



Orchid Romance is a lovely pink to lavender rose with dark green foliage. It is considered an easy to grow rose of about 4 to 5 feet high and 3 feet in width. The fragrance is strong and citrusy. The rose blooms in clusters throughout the seasons.

# The Red River Rose Society

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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!

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**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 Red River Rose Society can be mailed to Harriet Stewart, 801 Holland Drive, Denison, TX 75020.