

7 Deadly Sins of Rose Gardening

- 1. **Neglect**. Hopefully, readers of these pages have not, and will not, commit this most prevalent sin. Walk down any street, road or lane and you will find numerous gardens with some roses growing and blooming despite being unpruned, unfed and uncultivated since the day they were planted. Other gardens will show the bountiful reward that the rose supplies in return for your care.
- 2. Greed. Many beginners, whether rose growers or general gardeners, commit this sin. By overindulgence in the catalogues or seeking 'bargains', they create beds of mixed varieties, usually one of each or in pairs. No thought is given to the overall effect of mixed planting (size, shape, colors, growth habit) when the beds are mature and in full bloom. If it is necessary to have mixed varieties, be wary of habits of growth.
- 3. **Over-indulgence**. The sin of over-indulgence includes over-feeding, excess spraying, etc. Roses like balanced diets. Generally, a balanced rose fertilizer after spring pruning, again after the first flush of bloom, and again in late August to early September to assist maturing of the stems is sufficient. The bushes need assistance in the fight against pests and diseases, but they do not require unapproved 'cocktails' and they need the correct amount at each application. Too much of any good thing can turn it into a bad thing.
- 4. **Thoughtlessness**. Rose growing is not a stereotyped practice. A regular inspection of plants and beds will usually indicate when something is wrong. The American Rose Society's publications, and our local society newsletter, will help you if in doubt or, if you are still uncertain, ask a Consulting Rosarian.

5. Untidiness. This sin is committed mainly during the autumn (summer in Louisiana) when thoughts begin to wander away from gardening towards indoor activities. It is a willful, sinful act to leave your bushes in unkempt beds, partic-



ularly if the beds are smothered in infected, fallen foliage. During the busy summer, removal of nonflowering growth and spent blossoms must be attended to.

- 6. **Possessiveness**. As the beginner becomes more involved in our wonderful hobby, this sin is often committed. Planting more and more rose bushes is fine, but not to the exclusion of other plants. A whole range of other flowers and plants will complement the roses and many are happy to share the same bed and environment. A visit to the gardens of many of our local members will provide a wealth of ideas to prevent this sin.
- Envy. The sin of over-indulgence in others' gardens or exhibits at rose shows. Combat this by committing less of the first six sins and tending your roses with love and care – you can grow them equally as well.

Article copied from Rain Drops, the newsletter for the Rainy Rose Society in Washington, editor Sue Tiffany, winner of this year's Gold Medal Newsletter Award. The article was originally prepared by Dick Squires, DHM, and reproduced from the February 1986 issue of The Rose, the quarterly publication of The Royal National Rose Society (Thanks to The Florosia, East Bay Rose Society, July 2018, Jolene Adams, editor.)



President's Corner by Ricky Lockhart

Well Rose Society Friends, believe it or not, it's time to get roses ready for fall. The rain has slowed down and the beetles are about gone. Now is the time to get ready to grown some good, beautiful, fall roses.

Don't be afraid to cut back to get good canes. Also, don't forget that now is the time to fertilize and spray really well. Ron Daniels will be our guest speaker for the August meeting which is on Sunday, August 11. He will present his new program. Please be sure to attend as I am sure you will receive some very good information on roses. Hope to see everyone there!



October 4-6, 2019

2019 ARS National Miniature Conference & Rose Show Tenarky & Deep South Districts Fall Rose Shows

Registration, Agenda, Rose Show Schedules at

www.musiccityroses.com

Pruning for Fall Rose Shows by Mary Ann Hext, CR

If you are planning to attend any of the fall rose shows or just want to have gorgeous fall roses for special events, August is the time to start thinking about when to prune. We have several rose shows then that are within driving distance this fall: Kentucky State Fair rose show, Louisville Rose Society show, Nashville Rose Society show, Louisville Rose Society show, ARS Miniature National Conference and Rose Show, Tenarky and Deep South District rose shows, and Huntsville-Twickenham rose. Dates for these shows are on page 6.

Pruning roses is not an exact science as there are too many variables such as temperature, rainfall, amount of sun, the variety of rose, and where to cut. But with all these rose shows, you are bound to have roses for at least one or two of them. Trying to time blooms for a specific date depends on temperature, weather conditions and partly just luck.

Some exhibitors suggest pruning half of the bush one week and then the rest the next week, but this has not seemed to work well for me. Some exhibitors have more than one bush of their favorite exhibition roses and are able to prune the bushes a week apart so they will have roses for each show. I have two or three of some of my favorite roses, so I normally use this method. The experts tell us that the average bloom cycle for our hybrid teas, grandifloras, and floribundas is 42-54 days. Some can even tell you which roses are at the high or low end of this range of days. Our minis and minifloras have a shorter cycle which is normally 35 to 42 days. I have a few roses with single petals and they repeat a little quicker than this. It seems the more petals the rose has, the more days it takes to repeat bloom. Also, the further down the cut on the stem, the longer it will take to re-bloom. OGR's just need to have their tips pruned as they don't require severe pruning to promote blooms.

So plan now as we are approaching the time when you should determine which fall rose shows you will attend and exhibit and mark your calendars for the best prune dates. Go to <u>www.tenarky.org</u> for rose show schedules.

Roses in Review 2019—New Procedures for Reporting

It is time for the annual Roses in Review (RIR), the American Rose Society's annual survey of roses. Results from the "Garden" evaluations are used to compile the ratings in the American Rose Society (ARS) publication *Handbook for Selecting Roses*. Participation in the RIR process is open to EVERYONE! Membership in the ARS or a local rose society is **not** required, so please invite your family and friends to participate.

The link to the online entry form is https://www.rose.org/roses-in-review-2019. The process for 2019 has been greatly simplified. Please watch the video or download the instructions. Please read the directions carefully to learn how the system works.

Roses in Review will close at 5 PM

(PST), September 26. Any paper forms submitted must also be in the hands of your district coordinator by that date. We urge you to use the online system - it's easy and it saves from having to re-type written forms. Please take the time to report on all the varieties you grow on the **Roses in Review** survey list.

- Watch the instructional video
- Download the instructions
- View/download the list of 2019 roses
- Begin reviewing roses

A broad base of participation is needed to make this project worthwhile. We need your evaluations, whether you grow one of the varieties on the survey list, or dozens of them. We welcome evaluations from you whether you are new rose-grower, a "garden" rose-grower or a seasoned veteran grower, whether you grow roses for your landscape and garden, or if you also grow them to exhibit or arrange. Results of the survey will be included in the January/February 2020 issue of *American Rose* magazine and will determine ratings in the **ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses** as well. For these results to be meaningful, we need everyone to participate. So please, take a few minutes of your time to evaluate your new roses.

A reminder to all Tenarky Consulting Rosarians and Rose Show Horticulture and Arrangement Judges that you are encouraged to submit a RIR survey. There is a check box available if you do not grow any of the listed varieties.

THANKS to DAN and Cindy and BOB and ANN for maintaining BGRS PUBLIC ROSE GARDEN



MONTHLY IN-CLUB COMPETITION—JUNE - NOVEMBER

The competition shall consist of **ONE entry in each** of the following classes: One bloom per stem, except for sprays. Groom and fill in tags as if entering a regular rose show. Judges will comment on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice. The top scorer in horticulture and arrangements will be recognized at the December meeting.

- Class 1—1 Single Bloom Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora
- Class 2—1 Single Bloom Miniature
- Class 3—1 Single Bloom Floribunda
- Class 4—1 Floribunda or Miniature Spray
- Class 5—1 Specimen, Any Other Type
- Class 6—1 Rose in a Bowl—any type of rose exhibition or open bloom
- Class 7—Arrangements—Oriental Manner (choice of style—large or small roses)

DID YOU KNOW? by Mary Ann Hext, CR

As my roses are being devoured by Japanese beetles and I am unable to keep up with picking them off, I considered trying to spray them. I read an article on Integrated Pest Management in the July issue of a newsletter I received and these sentences convinced me to not spray for the beetles:

"Are pest populations or damage at an acceptable level? You must decide this before you resort to applying chemicals. Every pesticide application kills a greater percentage of beneficial insects than plant eating pests. It takes longer for the good guys to recover. Research has revealed that gardeners make the overall problem worse through routine insecticide applications. A healthy population of beneficial insects keeps potential pests in check. There are times when a pesticide application may be necessary. Read the label carefully to make sure that the product is intended for the problem. Follow ap-



Japanese Beetles on 'Strike It Rich' which is their favorite rose to devour in the Hext garden

plication directions to the letter. Use the least toxic chemical possible. Every container label indicates the level of toxicity: Caution, Warning, or Danger. The most toxic carries the "danger" designation."

I also realized that the beetles will be gone in a few weeks, I will cut back all the damaged bushes for the fall rose shows, so I can surely put up with them a little longer and not worry about possible harm to all the pollinators in my Monarch Waystation.

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How to Prevent and Treat Blackspot from Heirloom Roses

Blackspot is a fungus that affects rose bushes. Black spots appear on leaves which enlarge over time and make the foliage around the spots yellow. The leaves will go from green to yellow and then drop to the ground. If left untreated, it can defoliate the entire plant. The disease spreads by rain or overhead watering and can affect other nearby plants. Heirloom Roses' Head Grower, Don Merrick, provides some tips on how you can prevent and treat Blackspot.

- 1. Plant disease-resistant roses: There are many varieties that have strong resistance to Blackspot and other fungal abnormalities.
- 2. Find the right spot: Plant roses in an area that gets 6-8 hours of sunlight daily. They also need good air circulation. Space them out to give good air movement and prune out some of the inner branches to allow more air movement into the center of the plant. Also, plant them in a spot that has good drain-



age. You can also add well-composted organic matter into the soil to make the soil friable and well drained. This will also encourage an abundance of beneficial organisms.

- 3. Water correctly: Too much water and water at the wrong time of day will encourage the outbreak of Blackspot. The best rule of thumb is to water when the soil is dry to the touch at about 2-3" below the surface. If it is during the cooler spring months, a deep thorough soaking once a week is sufficient. If it is raining, check the soil to determine if watering is necessary. During the hotter summer months, it will be necessary to water more frequently and deeply.
- 4. Keep the foliage dry: If using an overhead sprinkler, it is best to water mid to late morning, giving the roses a chance to dry off during the day. The best method to keep foliage dry is to water the soil only. This can be accomplished by using any of the excellent drip systems or soaker hoses on the market. Also, avoid standing water around your roses and keep the area around your roses debris free. Blackspot spores will fall to the ground and stay in the leaf matter/ mulch at the base of your roses. Avoid splashing water as the spores can reattach to the undersides of the leaves when they are carried by splashes of water.
- 5. **Prune properly:** Remove any weak or damaged branches to keep your roses happier and healthier. Cleaning up the debris is paramount to keeping Blackspot at bay. All trimmings, debris and dead leaves need to be removed and destroyed immediately.
- 6. Know you enemy: Recognizing the disease quickly allows you to nip it in the bud. Look for circular black spots that are serrated in appearance on the surface of the leaves. Always check the lower leaves, as they will become infected first. Upper leaves will be yellow and fall off easily. Roses with Blackspot start to grow less vigorously and blooming will be reduced or stop all together.
- 7. **Treat immediately:** If your rose has been affected, remove all infected leaves from the rose and the ground. Do not compost these leaves. Keep the ground surrounding your roses free of leaf debris and weeds. Then, apply the right type of chemical controls at the right frequency and duration during the most critical times.
- 8. **Prevent early:** An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If you can get ahead of the game and have your roses sprayed before there is noticeable damage, then your problems will be reduced or possibly eliminated. It is a good idea to spray a fungicide once every 7-14 days during the growing season. There are many different chemicals to use and there are several organic sprays that can be used with fairly good success. It is vitally important to change up the chemistry, or alternate chemicals throughout the growing season to avoid chemical resistance by the fungus.
- 9. **Clean your pruners:** Another good tip is to disinfect your pruning tools with Lysol disinfectant spray every 15-20 minutes. A 10% bleach solution is also a great way to keep the spores at bay.

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We're on the Web!! www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org

Join the ARS for just \$10 4-Month Trial Membership



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IMPORTANT DATES

- September 21: Louisville RS Rose Show at Sutherlands Hardware Store
- September 28-29: Nashville RS Rose Show at Belmont University
- October 4-6: ARS Mini National and Tenarky District Conventions and Rose Shows hosted by Tipton County RF in Franklin, TN
- February 14-16, 2020: Tenarky Mid-Winter Meeting, Franklin, TN





Ricky LockhartJuly 1Joyce CoxJuly 2Ron DanielsJuly 4Ben MatusAugust 16

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