



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society, Bowling Green, KY

# Rosebuds

August 2020

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Next Meeting  
August 9—2 p.m.  
Clearfork Baptist  
Church  
Program: TBA  
Refreshments:  
Dan & Cindy Wernick

## Do you grow 'Iceberg'? By Linda Jansing, Master Rosarian

'Iceberg' is a great rose. There is no "good" news and "bad" news with this rose. It is all good news.

This white floribunda was bred by Reimer Kordes in 1958 and it was the first floribunda in my garden. The snow white blooms aren't particularly large, about 2" and they have between 17-25 petals. The blooms are abundant and often displayed in sprays. The pointed buds open fast exposing the pretty yellow stamen.

One of the nicest traits of this white rose is that it doesn't rain spot which is almost unheard of for white roses. 'Iceberg' is medium bushy, upright and grows to about 5' tall with glossy light green foliage. The plant is winter hardy and very disease resistant. 'Iceberg' can even tolerate a little shade. The pure white bloom also has a mild honey fragrance and the bush is almost thornless.

When we visited Los Angeles a few years ago, I noticed that in that warm climate, 'Iceberg' is often used as a hedge. I saw several homes displaying these beautiful white roses and they were outstanding.

I'm not sure I have ever known another rose with this many positive attributes but if you still aren't convinced, just look at the photo.



*Editor's Note: This article appeared as "Rose of the Month" in the August issue "Rose Leaves", newsletter of the Louisville Rose Society and is used with Linda's permission*

### 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 will be recognized at the December meeting.

**Class 1—1 Single Bloom Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora**

**Class 2—1 Single Bloom Miniature/Miniflora**

**Class 3—1 Floribunda, single bloom or spray**

**Class 4—1 Shrub—this includes David Austin shrubs**

**Class 5—1 Specimen, any other type of rose**

**Class 6—1 Rose in a Bowl—any type of rose, exhibition or open bloom**

**Class 7—1 Arrangement—*Oriental Manner (choice of style—large or small roses)***





## President's Corner *by Ricky Lockhart*

Since we are still unable to meet at the extension office, my church has approved for us to meet in the fellowship hall until the extension office opens again. We will meet in the front room of the Clearfork Baptist Church fellowship hall which is large enough for social distancing. Each of us will be asked to sign a waiver when we arrive at the meeting. Mary Ann is going to try to plan some kind of presentation for us and we will also discuss late summer rose care.

This location should work well for some of us who live in this area. We will be required to clean the area after each meeting.

We will have our in-club competition (information on page 1). See you on Sunday, August 9, at 2 pm.

### BGRS AUGUST MEETING

**Clearfork Baptist Church**

**303 Clearfork Church Road, Rockfield, KY 42274**

**Sunday, August 9 at 2 p.m. – light refreshments prior to the meeting**

**Program: TBA & Late Summer Rose Care**

**Please bring a mask.**

**We will be in large room so we can have social distancing.**

## August in My Rose Garden *by Mary Ann Hext, CR*



Finally, we have drier and less humid weather with more comfortable temperatures this first week of August. I started this morning on my plans for this month. My roses are quite stressed from the hot humid weather.

1. I am again back to my "spraying for black spot routine" since it has returned with near daily showers and hot humid days for the past two weeks. Blackspot hates hot dry summer days, and since I only had a few of those at my house since mid-July, it quickly returned. I will spray the bushes and ground around them with Mancozeb every three days for three weeks and mix another fungicide in it on my regular two week spray date. If the weather is hot and dry, I may get it under control sooner. However, when we start having cooler nights, it may return especially if we continue to have so many afternoon rain showers.
2. I will apply granular fertilizer again this week to improve the late summer blooms.
3. I will continue to deadhead. Removing the spent blooms is important to the health of the bush when the humidity is high to reduce botrytis. The dead blooms can develop the gray mold that can spread to surrounding good blooms. Deadheading also improves the appearance of the bush.
4. In mid-August, I will prune back some of the bushes to get longer canes for the blooms. Even though there are no fall rose shows, I am hoping to be able to share roses with the veterans in the nursing homes soon and also take photos for future rose photo shows and contests. I will be sure to remove any damaged, disease, and canes that are crossing over others. After this pruning, I will fertilize once more with liquid feed.
5. I will continue to check the moisture in the beds and water as needed. During July, I only had to water twice due to the amount of rain we had, and that was a day before my regular fungicide spray date. It remains to be seen what our August whether will be this year, but many times it is hot and dry, so be sure to keep your roses hydrated and keep an eye out for spider mites..

## The Value of Alfalfa by Dr. Gary Rankin, MR, Carolina District

My first memory of the word "alfalfa" will probably date me, since the first alfalfa that I remember was "Alfalfa" from the "Spanky and Our Gang" comedies. Alfalfa was a tall and lanky youngster with a freckled face and a wisp of hair that stood straight up at the back of his head. He was not too bright and his pants were too short, but his heart was usually in the right place.

When we started growing roses in the 1990s, I learned about the other alfalfa - the food for rabbits and roses. Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) is a member of the pea or legume family and is native to western Asia and eastern Mediterranean regions. The first record of alfalfa was in a book written by the Emperor of China in 2939 BC. The Greeks cultivated alfalfa starting around 500 BC for animal food and for some medicinal applications. Arab tribes named the plant "alfalfa", which means "father of all foods". Now alfalfa is widely grown and provides an important food source for many animals including horses, cows, rabbits and other domestic animals. Why is alfalfa good for roses? As a fertilizer, alfalfa is 5-1-2, providing a good source of nitrogen, calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc, vitamins (A, D, B1, B6, E, K and U) and triacontanol, which is a fatty acid growth stimulant. Because of these beneficial components, alfalfa can provide roses many of the substances that they need to grow as well as stimulating growth.

Alfalfa can be used in many ways. Alfalfa meal can be worked into the soil around rose bushes. Normally one cupful per large rose bush and about one-half cup for miniatures is recommended. Alfalfa meal is also contained in many commercial organic products (e.g. Mills Magic Mix) because of its beneficial components. Alfalfa pellets can be used instead of the meal by again working the pellets into the soil around roses. The pellets will soon break down with watering or by rain to slowly release the trace minerals, triacontanol, and other important nutrients. Alfalfa pellets come in many sizes, depending on the animal for which they were intended. Alfalfa pellets for horse feed are much larger than similar pellets for rabbits. I usually buy pelleted rabbit feed that contains alfalfa for this purpose, as well as for making "tea".

Alfalfa "tea" is another good way to provide the nutrients contained in alfalfa to the rose bush. In essence, by making a "tea" you are extracting the nutrients from the alfalfa product (meal or pellet) with water, much as you extract your tea bag to make a cup of Earl Grey or Constant Comment. To make alfalfa tea, put about eight to ten cups of alfalfa meal or pellets into a 30 gallon plastic garbage can, almost fill the can with water, cover and let bake in the sun for three to five days. Stir daily to make sure that the extraction process is well underway and to disperse any organic matter that has risen to the top of the water.

Eventually, the water extract will take on an orange color and the fibrous organic material will settle on the bottom of the garbage can. Now you are almost ready to give the roses a drink of your "tea." Since I usually make alfalfa tea in the early and late summer, the water often gets very hot in the covered garbage can. For that reason, I try to put out the tea early in the morning.

But if I have to put out the tea after work, then filling the garbage can to near the top with the cool water from the hydrant helps cool down the tea and prevents damaging tender roots. I learned this lesson the hard way, by filling the garbage can up all the way at the beginning and burning some roots on my bushes when I applied the tea in the late afternoon without adding cooler water first. Now, I always leave room to add 5 or more gallons of fresh water to fill the can and cool the contents before applying morning or afternoon.

You can also fortify your alfalfa tea by adding additional ingredients before serving your tea. Water-soluble fertilizers, fish emulsion, and/or Epsom salts can be mixed with your tea to fortify the brew. Simply use the normal amount you would use in a regular fertilizer concoction or a little less to create the "drink of champion roses"! As with a regular fertilization program, give a gallon of the tea to large roses and about one-half gallon to miniature and mini-flora roses. Be careful not to stir up the organic material on the bottom as you dip out the tea. (continued p. 4)





## The Value of Alfalfa *(continued from p. 3)*

After you have served the tea to your roses, the garbage cans should still have most of the fibrous material and a few gallons of liquid left in the bottom of the can. You can refill the garbage can with water and get a second extraction a few days later. After applying the second extract to your roses, you will need to dispose of the fibrous material. Some rosarians work the fibrous material into the soil of the rose garden as a soil amendment. However, you can also apply the alfalfa tea or the fibrous remains to other flowers. Our perennials especially like the leftovers, so we use all of the material, extract and solids.

So, if you see me carrying bags of rabbit food out to my car, rest assured that I haven't gotten an Easter Bunny. I'm headed home to make tea!

Howard Walters' Thought for the Month: "The trouble with good advice is that it usually interferes with our plans."

*Editor's Note: This was an ARS 2007 Award of Merit article. Alfalfa Meal can be purchased at some local feed stores, on Amazon, and from Beaty Fertilizer.*

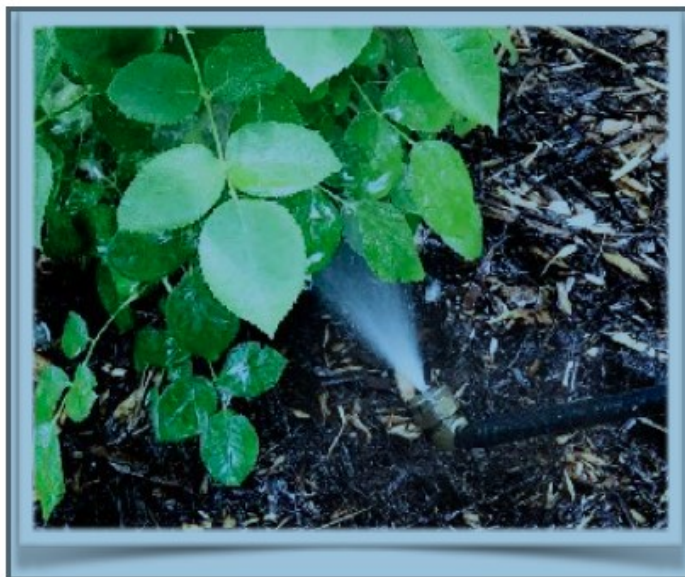
### Did You Know?

Did you know that spider mites can defoliate a rose bush?

Usually in early June we recommend taking the bottom few inches of leaves from our rose plants to help in the prevention of these foul critters. As the weather heats up, so do the spider mites.

There is an easy treatment that your plants will enjoy. The use of miticides can become necessary in difficult cases. A **hard** upward spray of water washing the underside of the leaves at the bottom of the rose bush will get rid of these mites. They don't like water. It is necessary to do this regularly (a couple of times a week) when you see spider mites in order to remove the eggs too.

Another bonus from spraying water for spider mites is that your roses will appreciate being cooled off. Try it and your roses will thank you.



*Source: August 2020 Louisville Rose Society Newsletter*

### BGRS IN-CLUB COMPETITION CURRENTSTATS

Cynthia	34 pts.
Linda	15 pts.
Lynda	7 pts.
Bob	31 pts.
Dan	22 pts.



**Bring roses to the August meeting!! 1 pt. for each entry, 3 for 1st, 2 for 2nd, 1 for 3rd! Share your roses and join in the fun!!!**

## Roses in Review 2020—Don't Forget to Rate Your Roses!

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.

Go to [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org) and click on pink box in the upper right hand corner labeled Roses in Review 2020 to begin!

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 2020 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 2021 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.

## TENARKY DISTRICT VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING

**August 19, 2020 at 2 pm CST**

**Using GoToMeeting—Login information will be sent soon!**

**Please plan to attend! Our new district director will be elected following a short business meeting.**

**Contact Mary Ann Hext, Tenarky District Interim Information with questions.**

[mhext@outlook.com](mailto:mhext@outlook.com)

### Feeding Your Roses

August is a good time to apply organics such as *Petrus Rose Mix*, *Mills Magic Mix* or one you might make yourself. Organic fertilizers are not fast acting; so it can take time for the nutrients in the soil to be released. Aged manure, compost, alfalfa pellets, blood meal, bone meal, fish meal, cottonseed meal are just a few sources of organic fertilizers. Mix all of these together and apply **one cup around each bush (one-half around miniature roses)**. This will break down slowly and help give a nice fall bloom cycle.

Don't forget to water your rose beds before and after applying fertilizers.

*Source: August 2020 Central LA Rose Society newsletter.*



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**We're on the Web!!**

[www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org](http://www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org)



Ricky Lockhart	July 1
Joyce Cox	July 2
Ron Daniels	July 4
Ben Matus	August 16
Frank Wright	August 26

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



The American Rose Society is offering a four-month trial membership for only \$10 to anyone who is interested in becoming a member of our organization. Most ARS members are home gardeners who enjoy growing roses and want to expand their knowledge of rose culture.

### Four-Month Trial Members receive:

- Free advice from Consulting Rosarians
- Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just three uses
- Four issues of the online newsletter *Roses & You*
- Free online access to five quarterly bulletins, a \$45 value
- Two issues of *American Rose* magazine, a \$16 value. View a free issue online at [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org)
- Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners

A 4-month trial membership is valued  
at \$86 for only \$10!

**Join Now!**

You may [complete the online form](#)  
or call us at 1-800-637-6534.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- All rose shows and conventions in our area have been canceled for the remainder of the year!
- Tenarky District Virtual Business Meeting—August 16—2 pm. Information to log in will be sent by email.

**VERY IMPORTANT FOR ALL TENARKY MEMBERS TO ATTEND!!!**