



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

Rosebuds

February 2021

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Meeting: 2/21/2021
Clearfork FH at 2 pm
Virtual Program:
Bob Martin
ARS President
Refreshments:
Bob & Ann
Jacobs

How to Choose a Rose by Carol Macon, Consulting Rosarian, Rocky Mountain District

Websites showcasing one gorgeous rose after another, with ordering starting in fall. January catalogs filling your mailbox, just in case you missed the on-line extravaganzas. How do you choose just one rose? It is definitely not easy.

First of all, despite the recent demise of some rose firms and consolidation of others, there are many sources. Hybridizers still hybridize, and dozens of new varieties come to market each year. Secondly, while roses are getting better and better as garden plants, especially in terms of hardiness and disease-resistance, this does not mean that rose varieties with lesser attributes are no longer coming to market. Indeed, they are, and I shovel prune plants each fall that I previously planted with high hopes.

Usually the reasons for this are the failure of the plant to thrive or a propensity to disease or both, and so I can't pass the rose along to another gardener. Those that I, for one reason or another (mostly size, or the encroachment of shade), do give away, must at least be good garden plants, although they may be wrong for the spot in which I planted them. In these cases, I have lost my rose investment in years of growth because I chose a plant that, when mature, did not work in its designated place in my garden.

So obviously, you need to know the mature height and width of any rose you plan to buy, and you must be able to give your rose at least six hours of sun a day in the spot you choose to accommodate its dimensions.

This may be a simplistic statement, but before you purchase a rose, you must **know why you want it**. Do you want long-stemmed beauties to arrange in a vase? Do you want a traffic-stopping vivid splash of color in the front yard? Do you want to hide a dead tree, add reliable color to a perennial bed, edge a walkway with plants that bloom all summer, plant a drought-resistant flower bed? Do you want to grow the next Queen of Show? Once you decide on the rose's purpose, you have automatically limited the field from which to choose. This is the antithesis to my usual method of choosing a rose because I like its on-line glamour shot or have fallen in love with a bloom in a greenhouse.



Then, and this is the toughie, you should **know where you are going to plant the rose**. Like many another gardener of mature years and mature garden, I have limited space for anything new. In fact, every year, I plant roses in pots that sit on our driveway, because there is no room for them

in the ground. Forty-two of them used to spend every winter in our garage. These facts do not stop me from ordering new varieties every year. Now, I ask you, how smart is that? The only saving grace of my method is that I can evaluate the new, potted roses during our summer season, and use the best ones to replace older varieties in my garden in the fall. This would work even better if I weren't so emotionally attached to those older varieties. I once had a hardy and vigorous plant of Sutter's Gold that gave me five or six bloom cycles every summer, a miracle at our altitude of 6100 feet. I took it out to plant show star Gold Medal, and later regretted losing Sutter's freely given garden color. See Rule 1: know why you want the rose.

Now, assuming that you have a need for a new rose in your landscape, a specific need, for which you need a specific type of rose, and further assuming that you know exactly where this rose is to be planted and even further than that, you know what size rose the spot can accommodate, what's next? **Consider your garden's location**. Because we live in Colorado, where winter temperatures can remain below zero for days and then scoot to 70 degrees F, or even worse, do exactly the reverse of that; and because our growing season is short, **the two most important criteria for any rose are hardiness and vigor**. Without them, we won't have that rose for long. Our rose choice must have a reputation for living a long and happy life a mile high. It must be energetic in its rate of growth and production of bloom each and every year. Now, granted that these factors are often unknown when a rose first comes to market, we can make educated guesses.

(continued p. 3)



From the President *by Dan Wernigk, CR*

I hope everyone had a good holiday season. I'm new to being president so I hope everyone is patient as I try to do a good job. We will be trying to meet in person if we can; but due to COVID, we will see what we can do. I hope we can have our rose show in May.

The BGRS executive board met January 8 to make plans for 2021 meetings and activities. We would like to present virtual speakers at the meetings when we are together; but I'm new to this, so I appreciate all of your support and input. We would like to have member garden tours this summer and also our potluck supper meeting in June.

If you can sign up for refreshments for our in-person meetings, call or email Mary Ann as she will be putting the list in our yearbook and on our website. Also, if you would be willing to host an outdoor garden tour or meeting at your home from May through September, let her know that too.

Bob and I recently gave a program on growing roses to a group of students at Foundation Christian Academy. We discussed soil, light, planting roses, along with some other activities.

Hope to see you at the next meeting on February 21. Dan



REMINDER

Please plan to pay your 2021 BGRS dues at the February meeting (\$15) or mail to our treasurer, Linda Ford, by March 1 in order to be included on the 2021 membership list which will be distributed by email and/or at the March meeting.

Linda Ford
413 Mary Mack Lane
Russellville, KY 42276

What I am doing in my rose garden in February *by Mary Ann Hext, MR*

Things I am doing in February:

1. I will spray with a dormant oil spray to lessen the effects of insects and blackspot .
2. I will clean and sharpen my pruners and saws.
3. I will review my January rose orders order and see if there is any more roses I want to add this year.
4. I will be moving two bushes to a new location.
5. I will make a list of new roses I would like to add to my rose bed and order them or make arrangements to get them locally.
6. I will start pulling early spring weeds out of my beds which are already coming up.
7. I will be attending one of the CR classes presented at the ARS GTM virtual CR school.
8. I will encourage others to take up this great hobby and enjoy all the benefits of rose growing .

How to Choose a Rose (continued from p. 1)

If the rose is an American Rose Society award-winner ([All-American Rose Selection](#), [American Garden Rose Selections](#), [Award of Excellence](#)) it has been tested for hardiness and vigor all over the USA. If you can wait to plant a couple of years after your chosen rose comes to market, its flaws, if any, will start to turn up in the American Rose Society's annual ritual known as Roses in Review, following which a rating will appear for it in the ARS's annually produced *Handbook for Selecting Roses*. As a general rule of thumb, I try to buy only those varieties with a rating of 7.8 or above, which makes them above average roses and more likely to be hardy and vigorous. The handbook is mailed free to every ARS member every year, and many members refer to it when shopping for roses. I firmly believe that any serious rose grower should belong to the American Rose Society. Membership can save you time, trouble and money.

For me, **the most reliable guide to hardiness and vigor in a rose is its national origin**. Roses from Kordes and Tantau in Germany, Poulsen in Denmark, Harkness, Fryer and Austin in England, Dickson in Ireland and anybody in Canada, usually grow very well in our garden. In contrast, I have never managed to keep a French or South African rose alive much less happy. California roses are always iffy, and I tend to wait a year or two after their debuts to purchase them. How do you know the source of a rose? The first three or four letters of a rose's registered (not market) name are an abbreviation of the producer's name: Kor, Aus, Poul, Fry. And you know that by checking the New Rose Registrations section of your American Rose magazine. **Be aware of Germany's ADR designation**. ADR testing for hardiness and disease resistance is the most rigorous in the world, and rose varieties with this designation are available for purchase in the USA. The Germans are very serious about their ADR Award; so serious that not only can they award it to a given rose, but they can also take it away. To learn more about ADR testing [click here](#).

The other criteria for selecting a rose are, in order of their importance to me (you may and should have your own scale), **disease resistance, fragrance, form, bloom cycle frequency, substance, petal count and drought tolerance**. These qualities can sometimes be determined more by what is left out of a website or catalog description than by what is actually printed. Assume that if **disease resistance** is not mentioned, you'll need to spray for blackspot and mildew. Assume that if **fragrance** is described as light or not described at all, the rose has no fragrance. Assume that if **high centers or show form** are not mentioned, your rose won't win Queen of Show. Is your choice needed for garden color and possibly, arranging? In that case, the plant should be a **prolific bloomer**, and the description should say so. **Bloom cycles** are dependent on weather and season length. Knowing what you can expect from a hybrid tea or floribunda is based much more on individual experience than it is for, say, an old garden rose which has only one heavy, early summer bloom, or some shrub roses, which will bloom heavily in spring, followed by fewer blooms thereafter, and maybe, a second flush when the weather cools in fall.

Substance generally refers to the thickness, texture, crispness, firmness and toughness of the petals. It is a function of the amount of moisture and starch present in the bloom. This is a factor in the bloom's ability to stand up to rain and other environmental stress, including hail and insect infestation. It is also an important factor in the vase life of a cut bloom, and thus, its show worthiness. **Petal count** is usually included in a catalog description. Too few petals may mean a rose may open and blow quickly. Brandy is a rose that has too few petals to hold its form. Conversely, too many petals may mean that the rose will never open in our climate. Uncle Joe (Toro) is an example of a rose with too many petals to open well in Colorado. And it should be mentioned here that a website or catalog listing of the **height and width** of a rose is based on what the rose is capable of where it was bred. If the rose is a product of Oregon or California, it usually will not attain its stated height and width where the climate is more severe. Conversely, Canadian roses, for the most part, will grow as much as a third to a half again higher and wider than they do in Ontario. Austin roses may grow higher and wider here and have fewer disease problems than they do in England as our climate is sunnier and less humid.

Many shrub and old garden roses are renowned for their **drought tolerance**, but catalogs generally have not caught up with the current importance of this quality in a rose and seldom comment upon it. One noteworthy exception is the catalog of High Country Roses, www.highcountryroses.com, which sells drought tolerant roses. You may check on a variety's drought tolerance with your local consulting rosarians. You may have read about Earth-Kind roses, which have been tested by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service for superior pest tolerance, outstanding landscaping performance, and heat and drought tolerance. Be aware that while they may be drought tolerant, several of the relatively few cultivars with this designation are not truly hardy and vigorous on the front range of the Rockies. So now you know how to choose a rose. Just don't fall in love in a greenhouse.

This article appeared in the February 2013 issue of ARS & You, Mary Hext, editor, was updated and won an ARS Award of Merit in 2017, and is reprinted from the ARS website: www.rose.org.

What's in a Name? *by Rita Perwich, CR, San Diego Rose Society*

Juliet believed that, “[a] rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” But does it? At the Chelsea Flower Show a few years ago, I saw what was unmistakably Tom Carruth’s climbing rose, ‘Fourth of July’ ... but it was labelled ‘Crazy For You’. Certainly that name change helped Carruth’s rose “smell” sweeter for the British rose buyer! American-born chef Julia Child is lesser known hence less beloved in other countries, so the buttery-gold disease-resistant rose known to us as ‘Julia Child’ is sold world-wide under six other names each suited to its differing market. It is known as ‘Absolutely Fabulous’ in Britain and New Zealand, ‘Anisade’ in France and ‘Soul Mate’ in Australia. Fragrant ‘Memorial Day’ is sold as ‘Heaven Scent’ in the UK and Australia and ‘Parfum de Liberté’ in France. We Americans hanker for ‘Hot Cocoa’, but the British apparently prefer ‘Hot Chocolate’, and the Aussies? Our friends down under would rather have ‘Kiwi’.

Hybridizers spend many years to perform the magic that results in a beautiful new rose. They, like all new parents, then face the pressure to find the perfect name for their new creation. Naming a rose is a difficult but a very important decision. Tom Carruth should know. Within the span of thirty-five years, from 1986 through 2021, Carruth has introduced 150 roses. He knows that buyers won’t buy roses with forgettable or unattractive names. But a great name? A great name can sell and keep even a so-so rose on the market.

So how do roses get their names? It takes a hybridizer about 10 years to bring a new variety of rose to market. The new rose is patented with a ‘denomination’, or code name which always starts with the first three letters of the breeder’s name. For instance, MEI for Meilland, SPR for Jim Sproul, WEK for Weeks Roses and RAD for Radler. ‘Radrazz’ is the breeder name for the well-known ‘Knock Out’ rose. The beloved yellow ‘Julia Child’ rose bred by Carruth when he was working for Weeks Roses goes by the name “WEKvossutono.

These breeder names are tough to remember and not user friendly so naming the variety with a catchy memorable commercial name is the next very important step for the hybridizer or the nursery owner of the variety. The rose is introduced to the public once it is christened with an easily remembered name that has commercial appeal. Hybridizers register their roses with the [American Rose Society](#) (ARS) which makes the rose eligible to be entered in rose shows. They also apply for a federally-registered trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). A plant patent application must also be submitted to the USPTO within the rose’s first year of introduction on the commercial market to protect the propagation rights.

Catchy unforgettable names like ‘Sexy Remy’, ‘Gourmet Popcorn’, ‘Ketchup & Mustard’, ‘Sugar Moon’, ‘St. Patrick’ and ‘Marilyn Monroe’ can do wonders for sales ... but not all catchy names can be used. Names that have already been used are only available if the original rose is out of commerce. When a rose is named for an actual person that person has to give their permission. You won’t find a Michelle Obama or a Hillary Clinton rose as these first ladies haven’t



What's in a Name? (continued from p. 4)

given their permission ... yet. 'Mister Lincoln', 'Queen Elizabeth' and 'Pope John Paul II' will always be immensely important world figures, and their names have forever been memorialized with beautiful well-known classic roses.

Some names and roses come together in perfect serendipity. When Carruth was searching for a name for WEKsunspa, his exquisite creamy apricot hybrid tea rose with its show-stopping exhibition blooms and long stems, the rights to the name of the beautiful actress Marilyn Monroe became available for a one-time licensing fee. In 2003, one-of-a-kind gorgeous WEKsunspa, now perfectly matched with the name of the legendary actress, made its debut on the market as 'Marilyn Monroe', and its fate was sealed as an unforgettable classic. Other roses that bear the names of famous people and celebrities include 'Dolly Parton', 'Lynn Anderson', 'Barbara Streisand', 'Whoopi Goldberg', 'George Burns', 'Chris Evert', 'Princesse de Monaco' and 'Diana, Princess of Wales'.

David Austin is reputed to have chosen the name of each of his English roses to match the unique character of the individual rose. His romantic fragrant roses are named after all-things British including famous British authors, 'William Shakespeare', 'Emily Brontë' and 'Roald Dahl'; characters in British literature, 'Lady of Shallot', 'Prospero', 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles', 'Desdemona', 'Bathsheba' and 'Wife of Bath'; British horticulturists 'Gertrude Jekyll' and 'Graham Thomas'; famous British gardens, 'Munstead Wood', 'Wisley' and 'Kew Gardens', and famous British places 'Wollerton Old Hall' and 'Winchester Cathedral'. 'Jubilee Celebration' and 'Royal Jubilee' were named to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Golden and Diamond anniversaries on the throne. Some of Austin's roses are named for royalty, including 'Queen of Sweden', 'Princess Anne' and 'Princess Alexandra of Kent' and many of his cultivars are named in honor of his family. 'Olivia Rose Austin', the rose named after his granddaughter, was in David Austin's opinion possibly the best rose that he had ever introduced before his death in 2019. Many agree with him and 'Olivia Rose Austin', the rose, just received the ARS 2020 Members Choice Award and the James Alexander Gamble fragrance award for 2020.

As curator of the rose garden at the Huntington in San Marino, Carruth uses his design skills to showcase the collection of 2,500 roses to perfection, mostly by placement according to size, class, shape and color of their blooms. But sometimes a rose dictates placement by its name. At the Huntington you will find Carruth's playful placement of 'Hanky Panky' next to 'Sexy Remy'; 'Marilyn Monroe' together with 'John F. Kennedy'; and 'Ronald Reagan' and 'Nancy Reagan' in a bed together, with 'Ginger Rogers' and 'Dick Clark' as very close neighbors.

Does the name of a rose add character, personality and appeal to a rose? Does the name influence your decision to purchase a rose or intensify your love for it? Was Juliet right? We can be sympathetic to Juliet's theory but I believe it is definitely erroneous. By the way, does the name of a rose ever pique your curiosity? I will admit to really wanting to know the inside scoop behind the name 'Tipsy Imperial Concubine'!

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Editor's Note: This article appeared in the December 2020 issue of "Rose Ramblings", the Journal of the San Diego Rose Society, Elaine Ornelas, and is used with permission from the author.



Fertilizer and Garden Products *by Jeff Garrett, President, Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga*

Editor's Note: BGRS will not be taking orders this year for products from Beaty; but you may purchase products through the Nashville Rose Society by pre-ordering for delivery at their vendor day March 29 from 2-7:00 p.m.

What you order depends on you and what you are trying to achieve in your garden. Following is a list of some of the more popular products and their application rates.

Mills Magic Rose Mix: This 100% natural product is a combination of alfalfa, fish, and steamed bone meal, activated sludge, and an organic compost activator. NPK analysis is 6-5-1. Generally used 2-3 times per growing season. Work 2-3 cups into the soil around the drip line of the plant and water well. Use 1 cup per plant for miniatures. A 20# bag will feed 25-30 roses once and a 40# bag will feed 50-60 roses once.

10-10-10 with Mg for Roses: This product is a less expensive alternative to using the Mills Magic Mix. It is all organic and can be applied in the same dosage and manner as you would the Mills Magic Mix.

Mills EasyFeed: This product is a combination of Epsom salt, sequestrine chelated iron, soluble seaweed extract, fish solubles, urea and other soluble fertilizers. Mills EasyFeed comes in a dry formulation and a liquid concentrate. The dry formulation needs to be mixed with warm water to get it to dissolve as much as possible. The NPK analysis for the dry formulation is 20-10-6. The liquid concentrate is simply mixed with water and applied. The NPK analysis for it is 14-6-4. Whichever you choose can be applied as often as you desire from weekly to monthly during the growing season. Dilute one tablespoon per gallon of water for each rose bush. A gallon of liquid EasyFeed will make about 256 gallons of fertilizer. A 10# tub of the dry EasyFeed will make about 320 gallons of fertilizer.

BloomKote: This product is a controlled-release fertilizer especially formulated for roses and other blooming plants. It provides a multi-layer polymeric coating of basic plant nutrients with the added benefits of balanced trace elements and iron. The NPK is 16-18-14 and offers rose growers optimal nutrient availability throughout the growing season, avoiding deficiencies or hazardous excesses. It can be used at planting time to ensure an even supply of nutrients as the root systems develop. For established roses, spread a 1/2 cup of BloomKote around the base of the plant. Use about half as much for miniatures. One application between the first and middle of April is all that is required for the entire season. A 20# bag will fertilize about 80 roses.

Rose Starter Fertilizer with Avail: For years, soil scientists have known that only a very small percentage of soil phosphorus is available for plant uptake. Avail solves this problem. Phosphorus treated with Avail allows for up to 80% of the applied phosphorus to be available for plant uptake. Phosphorus is an essential plant nutrient, responsible for the storage of energy, encourages root growth, stalk strength and promotes resistance to root rot diseases. The NPK is 10-40-6. This is a great product to us when planting new roses. You can incorporate 1/2 to 1 cup into your planting mix.

Beaty's Fish and Seaweed 2-1-1: This liquid product is fish emulsion combined with kelp. It is designed to be used as either a foliar supplement or as a liquid fertilizer. If you are using as a foliar supplement, apply as a fine mist in the early morning or late afternoon. This is a great product to use in early spring to wake up your soil from a winters nap. You can also use it to water in any newly planted roses. It can be applied as often as every other week. The NPK is 2-1-1. Mix 1 to 2 tablespoons per gallon of water.

Perdue Microsoft 60 3-2-3: This all organic product is granulated pasteurized chicken litter that is used to build organic matter into your soil. You can apply 2-3 cups per standard bush in the spring and follow that up monthly at about half that rate. The NPK is 4-2-3. Some folks use Mills Mix or 10-10-10 with Mg for Roses in the spring and apply this product at the same rate around the first of July.

Beaty EC Soil Conditioner: This soil amendment is expanded shale. It is a good alternative to perlite, as it will help improve drainage and aeration in your soil. It will not compress, degrade or decompose over time. An added benefit is, unlike perlite, it retains a high percentage of its weight in absorbed water giving it the ability to release water to the root system at a later time. It will also retain nutrients. Great product!

Golden Medallion 12-6-6 PNF: This chemical fertilizer has been around for a long time. It has a lot of nitrogen and one application in mid-April will last the entire season. Use about 1 cup per bush.

Editor's Note: This article, written by Jeff Garrett, appeared in the Winter 2020 issue of Basal Breaks, the newsletter of the Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga. Jeff is president of that society and also the newsletter editor along with his wife, Cindy. He also coordinates the reports for Roses in Review for the Tenarky District. There are many rose products available on the market. It is a good idea to talk with other rosarians in our area to learn what works for them and to use products which will help you achieve your goals for your garden.

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Bowling Green Rose Society

c/o Mary Hext
1997 Browning Road
Rockfield, KY 42274

We're on the Web!!

www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org



'Valentine's Day'

a climbing miniflora
Hybridized by Tom Carruth



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Carl Mistlebauer—February 11
Linda Ford—February 27



2021 IMPORTANT DATES

- May 22: BGRS Rose Show
- September TBA: Tenarky Fall District Convention & Rose Show (hosted by NRS at Belmont University)
- September 10-14: ARS 2021 National Convention and Rose Show, Milwaukee, WI



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