

**“I don’t know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice.”**



#### **NOVEMBER-IN OUR ROSE GARDEN:**

**The fall colors** and bloom size of our November blooms here in South Texas are a sight to see, the cooler weather slows down the growing speed, increasing size and intensifying colors. Believe it or not, we need to start planning for the new rose year coming up. \* Now's the time to step back and evaluate the performance (spring, summer and fall) of the roses in your garden. This includes their growth, bloom production, disease resistance, etc. If they are first year bushes you might consider giving them another growing season in the garden since some varieties perform better the second year.

**If you keep records,** now is the time to make your notes. After evaluation, keep up winter maintenance:

**A) Watering-** As your roses complete their blooming period, you can cut back on water usage, but still keep the beds moist.

**B) Spraying-** Continue a weekly program. For blackspot and mildew use Triforine (1tsp.) per gallon of spray. Make sure you spray top and bottom of the foliage to get complete coverage. \* Warning - Several gardens in our area have had moderate to severe problems with SCALE. Check your older canes low on the bush for small (2mm) gray bumps. If you have scale they will be in the hundreds or thousands. New canes are most likely not affected or to a much lesser extent. Maximum strength *Cygon 2E*, very light (horticultural) oil spray, or even *Orthene* may help (In February, the use of preventative sprays using dormant oil spray at least twice, mixed with one of the above insecticides during the pruning and yearly clean-up, should be part of spray program).

**C) Feeding-** all feeding should have been discontinued the middle of October.

**D) Shovel Pruning-** Now's the time to start shovel pruning (i.e.. digging out) any bushes that you feel didn't do well in your garden this year. The bushes you are removing from your garden can be potted up and brought to a future meeting or given away, those bushes could make a great addition in some other rosarian's garden! If the plant has a pest problem, like root nematodes (treat as needed); if the plant has a virus or bacterial problem such as root gall, it's better to discard it and either remove the soil or use a bactericide, like *Consan Triple Action 20*, soil drench (\* Gall can be cut away from a diseased plant with some success, but if you don't get every little piece of it, regeneration of the gall can occur).

**E) Soil Revitalization-** Rework your soil where you have taken roses out by adding organic matter (compost) and Poteet red sand in equal portions (or Gardenville's "Rose Soil" mix), and to that mix add some coarse vermiculite or other good water holding material. Also inspect for invading tree roots and take action to kill or curb their advancement.

**F) Winter Dressing-** Add a two inch covering to your rose beds of either compost or manure (horse manure is best) toward the middle or end of this month.

**G) Stabilizing-** Bushes that are extremely tall should be stabilized so they won't rock back and forth in the upcoming winter winds. Using two concrete reinforcement rods (rebar), 24 to 36", cover the rods with old pieces of garden hose and drive them into the ground on both sides of the shank of the rose bush. The pieces of garden hose will prevent the shank from rubbing up against the rods and causing some damage.

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**From "A YEAR IN THE ROSE GARDEN": by A.J."Pop" Warner**

**It is time now** to stop drastic cutting. Continue to use your roses but cut with short stems. Keep all the leaves are essential to this process. The mineral content of the canes is of primary importance in determining their cold hardiness, and the starch content has a lot to do with the vigor of the spring growth.

**There is some disagreement** regarding the effect of late fertilization on cold hardiness. The writer has observed that late fertilization actually improves cold hardiness in his garden. However, the traditional wisdom is to stop feeding by October. In view of the high price of fertilizer most of us will want to be "traditional".

**Many rosarians' advocate spraying** with fungicide as long as they have leaves. If spraying becomes too much of a chore after roses reach some dormancy it may be discontinued. In the view of many this is a dangerous philosophy but in the editor's garden it has not proven harmful.

**Water becomes less critical** as the plants go dormant but the beds should not be allowed to get too dry. Normally in our little attention to watering in needed in November or December, but in the unlikely event we get extended drought in these months, infrequent but deep watering is in order. We are advised by some writers to continue watering heavily, while others say withhold

water to induce dormancy. Neither course can be sustained by logic or local experience so it would seem reasonable to relax and let nature take its course.

**Early November is the time** to develop that new bed you meant to start in September. It will be messy when the December rains set in. And the Canadian roses will be arriving soon.

**Use all the organic matter you can find**, such as rotted manure, ground bark, compost, peat moss, etc., up to 50% of the total. Add some builder's sand and enough good soil to hold the mix together. About 10-15 lbs. of superphosphate and a like amount of gypsum spread over the bed area before starting to fill it is a good investment. Sewage sludge if obtained from a source that is free of industrial waste has proven beneficial in our area. It is an excellent source of trace elements and if well-incorporated into the soil, improves its water retention capability. Fill the bed with soil mix, and then stir with a spade or roto-tiller, pulling up some of the underlying clay into it.

**Take another tour** of your fellow rosarian's gardens and get their experience with the new varieties you don't have. Besides the ever-enjoyable fellowship, you may save yourself some expense and bed space.

**Mark the roses** you plan to dig up with the names of people who like them and would like to have them. Often one man's "dog" is another man's "pet". Many non-exhibitors could not care less whether a rose has classic "show form". Make some cuttings of your favorite roses. Many should root now, root some understock for next spring's budding.

\* In updating our collection of useful tips, we have come across several comments, instructions and chemicals that are being replaced with newer techniques and materials. The tips have been updated accordingly.

Please note, most of the information shared on our monthly tip pages was obtained from Research-based sources (see contributors acknowledgements below), and from individuals who are considered very knowledgeable on a particular subject.

Many thanks to our contributors for sharing their wisdom so we can all learn and share with one another.

CF – Calvin Finch, Bexar Co. extension agent for horticulture, Texas Agricultural Extension Service (courtesy S.A. Express-News)

EO – Edna Ortez, Bexar Co. extension agent for horticulture, Texas Agricultural Extension Service (courtesy S.A. Express-News)

LR – Lynn Rawe, Bexar Co. extension agent for horticulture, Texas Cooperative Extension Service (courtesy S.A. Express-News); see their web site at [www.bexar-tx.tamu.edu](http://www.bexar-tx.tamu.edu).

DG&DG – Dale Groom & Dan Gill, from Month-by-Month Gardening in Texas

DSM – Diane Morey Sitton, garden writer, photographer and contributing editor to “Neil Sperry’s Gardens (visit his web-site at [www.neilsperry.com](http://www.neilsperry.com))

EW – Ed Ware, Master Gardener, Past-President S.A. Herb Society

JMP – Dr. Jerry M. Parsons, Professor and Extension Horticulturist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; see his web site at [www.plantanswers.com](http://www.plantanswers.com).

THL – Tracy Hobson Lehmann, Gardening Editor for the San Antonio Express-News

THMag – Texas Highways Magazine

JB – Jerry Baker, America’s Master Gardener, aka “The Yardener”

EB- Ed Bradley, Consulting Rosarian, Master Gardener, San Antonio Rose Society Member

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