

“The fragrance always stays in the hand of the one who gives the rose.”-George William Curtis



SEPTEMBER-IN OUR ROSE GARDEN:

As we approach the fall blooming season, we hope for a weather change to more normal(?) rainfall and a little relief of both day and night time temperatures. Let's talk rose activities for September.

A) Bush Manicuring, Grooming or Pruning - If we get our normal fall weather break this month (rain and trending off in temperatures), our roses should respond with good growth. Usually during the first two weeks of September your bush grooming can take place. If you're looking for good fall color, your bush manicuring can be done over a 2-3 day period. The following practices should be followed: **1)** Cut out all twiggy and spindly growth that clutters up the bush. **2)** Remove all spent blooms down to a good outside eye with a five leaflet node. **3)** Remove any canes that are dead or show die back. **4)** Most fall bush grooming should be made on pencil sized canes, taking 1/3 to 1/2 off the top. The hard-nosed rose exhibitor will cut deeper looking for that heavier cane growth that can produce larger blooms for exhibition (*Timing your pruning so you will have some roses for the show will depend on several factors including atmospheric and soil conditions, the availability of water, and whether the roses are a large or small petaled variety. The many petaled rose will require more time to bloom, while the smaller petaled varieties take fewer days from time of pruning to time of blooming).

B) Feeding - You should have done your organic feeding in late August, so now is the time to give your roses a quick boost with a water soluble feed of 20-20-20 (2 cups) and sea weed/fish emulsion (1 cup) mixed in a 32-gal. garbage can (You can also try adding 2 cups of agricultural molasses for beautiful foliage and blooms). Give each bush one gal. of this mixture poured around the drip line. Miniatures should get no more than a quart.

C) Spraying - After you have done your fall bush grooming or manicuring, the new fresh growth should be appearing. You should then resume a regular weekly spraying schedule using Triforine (one Tbsp. per gal. of spray), or other approved fungicide (including organics if the

temperatures have tapered off), remember to alternate spray mixes throughout the season to avoid disease resistance to chemical. Spray both tops and bottoms of the foliage. As the night time temperatures trend off, the fresh, tender growth will be susceptible to the unwanted, powdery mildew. As buds appear, it's time to start misting them for thrips with either Orthene (liquid- two tbsp.) or powdered Orthene (one tbsp.) per gallon. Cygon (two tsps. per gallon) can be used also. Use a quart size hand mister or a one gallon pump sprayer and mist only the buds and flowers about every three days. A regular spray schedule will keep these unwanted visitors off your bushes. * Please remember to water your rose beds before doing any spraying or feeding.

D) Watering - As the new fall growth lengthens, it is imperative that you keep your rose beds moist, not soggy and wet, especially the top 6-8 inches of the bed where the feeder roots are. If we are under water restrictions, water wisely and timely and your roses will still grow.

E) Finger Pruning – “Let your fingers do the walking through your yellow roses!” After you complete your fall grooming or pruning and the new growth lengthens and buds begin to appear on your hybrid teas, miniatures and floribundas, etc, check for side buds on the hybrid teas and miniatures (normally Species and Old Garden roses are left alone). Remove these, leaving the main or terminal bud. This will allow more of the nourishment to go to building one flower per stem, making for a larger bloom. Floribundas, which form sprays of florets, should have the terminal bud removed. This will allow the rest of the florets to develop evenly. If you want miniature sprays, the same practice should be followed.

F) Mulching - Continue to keep a mulch depth of at least 2" on your rose beds. A good cover of mulch will help maintain moisture and temperature levels in your beds plus adding precious organics to your soil. This will invigorate your bushes to send out all that new growth which, in turn, will provide you with some beautiful blooms come later this fall season. * Remember, when feeding or spraying your roses they must have been watered adequately beforehand. Expect the first wave of Fall coolness to flow into San Antonio the third week of September. Until then, protect yourself from the sun! (Visit the San Antonio Rose Society's web site @ <http://www.sarosesociety.org>)

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

Keep up the watering. If the water bill goes too high it is better to cut down on the number of bushes next year than cut down on the water. Six well watered, well cared-for roses will produce more blooms and more satisfaction than 60 neglected bushes.

Mildew season is at hand. When the night time temperature drops below 70-80 degrees F start watching for the telltale wrinkled new foliage and distorted bloom buds. Don't wait until the new leaves turn white or you are in trouble. Funginex (Triforine) applied regularly should head off mildew before it starts.

Blackspot has been seen in several area gardens. It probably resulted from the time you were on vacation and tried to stretch the spraying intervals. Dithane M-45 (Maneb) at 1/2 Tbs. per gallon, once a week should clear it up in three or four weeks. Dithane M-45 at 1/2 Tbs. per gallon plus 1

Tbs. Funginex (or 1 tsp. Triforine) per gallon seems to be more effective than the Maneb alone and also gives some mildew protection.

Continue to spray in the cooler part of the day. Many September days will still be very hot and spray burn could result. But do spray. Spray burn is not contagious like blackspot and mildew.

A heavy feeding is due around the first of September, perhaps not as much as the spring feeding but a good handful of 10-20-10 or 12-24-12 per bush. Then water, water, water. Two weeks later many good growers, especially exhibitors will use "soluble" fertilizer at 2 Tbs. per gallon at one gallon per bush. They will continue this every 2 weeks until the last week or so before show time. Note: All fertilizers are soluble; else they would not be fertilizers. The solid granular fertilizers sometimes are less readily dissolved than, say, Peters or Carl Pool, but before they can be used by the plant they must go into solution. The granular residue left on the mulch after fertilizing with solid products is not the fertilizer, but the carrier. Don't worry because it is not dissolved. If you got a good rain or watered heavily the fertilizer is already in the soil.

If stink bugs, bud worms and cucumber beetles start showing up, 10% Sevin dust, applied lightly over the top before they multiply too much will control them. Malathine or Orthene are extremely effective and many of us are using them for these critters. (It also controls thrips.)

Don't let weeds go to seed in your rose beds. It will multiply your weed problems for all next year if they seed themselves.

Get started on that new bed you didn't start last month because it was too hot.

ORGANIC ROSE PROGRAM - HG (see Feb2do List for complete program)

Watering: If possible, save and use rainwater. If not, add 1 tbsp. of natural apple cider vinegar per gallon of water. If all else fails, just use tap water but don't over water. Avoid salty well water.

Fertilizing Program Round#3: Sept. 15-30 - organic fertilizer @ 20 lbs./1,000 sq.ft., sul-po-mag @ 20 lbs./1,000 sq.ft. In sandy acid soils use soft rock phosphate instead at 30 lbs./1,000 sq.ft.

For best results foliar feed with Garrett Juice every 2 weeks, but as least once a month. When soil is healthy, nothing but Garrett Juice is needed in the spray.

Pest Control Program: Add the following to Garrett Juice and spray as needed.

Garlic teas - 1/4 cup/gal. or label directions for minor insect or disease infestations.

Citrus oil, orange oil, or d-limonene - 1 oz./gall. of water as a spray, 2 oz./gal. of water as a drench.

Potassium bicarbonate - 1 rounded tbsp./gal. for minor diseases.

Liquid biostimulants - Use per label - Agrispon, AgriGro, Medina, Bio-Innoculant or similar product.

Neem - Use per label directions for more serious insect and disease infestations.

Fish emulsion - 2 oz./gal. for additional nutrients (may not be needed when using compost tea).

* 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 County Extension Agent for Horticulture, Texas Agricultural Extension Service.(courtesy S.A. Express-News)

EO – Edna Ortiz, Bexar County Extension Agent for Horticulture, Texas Agricultural Extension Service.(courtesy S.A. Express-News)

NS – Neil Sperry, Texas horticulturalist, Publisher “Neil Sperry’s GARDENS” and contributor to S.A. Express-News, visit his web site at www.neilsperry.com.

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

DMS – Diane Morey Sitton, gardener, writer and contributor to Neil Sperry’s GARDEN’S Magazine.

DP – Diane Pfeil, Bexar County extension associate for horticulture, Texas Cooperative Extension.

WN – William Niering, PhD. (began a program called SALT-Smaller American Lawns Today)

AJW – A.J. “Pop” Warner, from his book “A Year In The Rose Garden”

HG – John Howard Garrett, aka the “Dirt Doctor”, visit his web site at www.dirtdoctor.com.

SB – Steve Brown, meteorologist for KSAT 12. (visit their web site @ www.ksat.com)

NR – Nathan Riggs, Extension Agent, Integrated Pest Management-Bexar Co. (courtesy S.A. Express-News)

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

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