



*Signature Rose
"Tahlia"*

Central Coast - Lake Macquarie Rose Region

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Chairperson: Karen Lucas Thong (email: kazzerkat2@outlook.com)

Meetings are on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the
Woodbury Park Community Centre

1 Woolmers Cres. Mardi, at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start

NOTICE: GENERAL MEETINGS ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE



NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2020

FOR THE BUDDING ROSARIANS



Message from the Chair

Hello Rosarians,

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT. There will be NO meeting this month at the Mardi Community Hall. With the current health rules, because of Covid, we cannot comply with the current health regulations required by the Government.

On a more cheerful note, I have decided to have an informal afternoon tea in my garden for CCLM members. It will take place on Sunday 20th September at 1.30pm for 2.00pm start. Please RSVP by sms to 0466303911 by 13 Sept. for catering purposes and to be given the address. Numbers are limited because of Covid restrictions so it is advisable to RSVP ASAP. If you can bring a camping chair it would be appreciated as seating is limited. Some chairs will be available on the day.

How are your rose gardens going. By now your pruning should be all done and if your roses are like mine, they have lots of new leaves. This is not always a good thing at this time of year. A welcome frost will knock them back severely. We will keep our fingers crossed that a cold snap won't bring frosts.

Barbara Snowball, one of our valued members on the Central Coast, has had a rose named after her. It was bred by Richard Walsh and named "Blushing Barbara". How wonderful. It is enough to make anyone blush with pride. Congratulations Barbara.



Since I joined the Rose Society, I have been actively seeking to find a Tahlia Rose, our signature rose for the CCLM region. I am happy to say that it is available at Green E roses at Galston for \$30.00 for a potted rose. If any one wishes to buy one, I can pick it up in Sydney and bring it home to the central coast for them. Let me know if you want one and pay for it at the afternoon tea in September and I will do the rest. Happy rose gardening.

Karen Lucas Thong



East Coast Rose Trial Garden

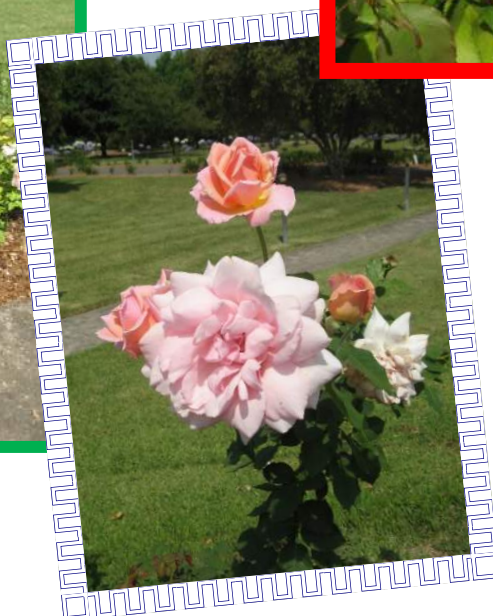
The Trial Garden has had a very good year.

John Humphries has done a fine job of looking after the roses

The Planting of the second year of roses has been delayed by wet weather but the lovely sunny days we are having now will soon dry it out.

Thanks to all who are contributing in any way and of course the breeders who are participating. Looking forward to Spring.

Veronica O'Brien
President
Rose Trial Garden



Article below reprinted from email newsletter of 4/7/20 by:

Green E Roses

400 Galston Road

Galston, NSW 2159

In this article we are going to discuss what to do with your roses during the winter months.

This includes:

Winter care

Winter pruning

Winter bare root rose planting

Transplanting a rose

Winter care

As autumn progresses to winter and temperatures decrease, the top of the plant can still be relatively active, but the roots are slowing. Shoots may develop, flowers may form – but there won't be the vigour of warmer seasons.

Inevitably there will be parts of the plant less active than under normal conditions, and nature-not knowing (or caring) if you are trying to grow a flower or a mushroom - uses the rose plant (especially the various surfaces) as a place to host undesirables.

Some roses handle this better than others. Suitability for local conditions, recent health, temperature variations, light, soil conditions, root size, all play a part.

Winter rose care aims to give the rose the best chance to reduce undesirables and give it a good start for the growing season ahead by maintenance of the rose as it slows down, and at that end of winter/beginning of spring, giving it the best chance for the growth ahead.

Tasks going into and during winter involve treating problems that appear as the plant slows down. E.g. borer and rose scale activity increases, existing leaves are more likely to be affected by fungi such as black spot, mildews and so on. Remove debris that often harbours organisms that may affect a slowing down rose.

Most of the action occurs at the end of winter/beginning of spring.

Repeat flowering roses are pruned at this time (– the beginning of growth, not the end). See below.

Winter sprays (lime sulphur, oils) are done now.

It's also a good time to improve soils, ready for the coming growth.

This is also a good time to detect and remove unwanted shoots from the understock emanating from **beneath** a graft. (Watershoots from the graft **are** desirable, but shoots from under the graft are not.) They have to be removed from the source. If they are coming from the stem they have to be removed so that no remnant of the shoot growth remains on the stem, else it will regrow. If they are coming from a root, it is easiest to remove that part of the root.

This kind of invasive operation creates less stress when the rose is dormant, although it should be done immediately anytime such shoots are discovered.

Dealing with borers and rose scale

Borers live in tunnels in the centre of stems, but cause damage to the bark and can kill a stem by ringbarking it. This is often the main stem, and so can kill the whole plant. They can get in while the plant is in a weakened state (because of dormancy or stress) and the plants' sap defences are not sufficient to exude the intruder. Evidence of borer attack is usually **frass** hiding the entrance hole.

Treatment is difficult – there is no easy chemical solution, and the borer must be physically removed by pruning off the affected stem, or if this is not possible, go after the critter in the tunnel where it lives. This is done by inserting a thin wire (at least 25-30cm long) into the entry hole (look for it under the frass), and spear the critter. You can only be sure of success if there is evidence on the end of the wire. Else watch out for new frass.

Rose scale is often found on the older woodier, protected parts of a rose. Likely places are on the main stem, particularly between a supporting stake and the stem, lower parts of branches, under loose flaky bark, etc. Treatment is often with an horticultural oil. The treated scale will need to be brushed off to clean the surface.

(Note: best to spray with oils after the lime sulphur spray to maximise the benefits of both sprays.)

Winter sprays

-Lime sulphur

Winter allows the use of sprays that may “burn” the softer tissue when the rose is more actively growing. The main spray is lime sulphur – a good broad spectrum “cleanser” – effective against many undesirables, but particularly the overwintering fungal spore mechanisms.

It is applied as a liquid, but its fumes can get into nooks and crannies which are otherwise difficult to reach. (Note: old lime sulphur often crystallises out to the bottom of the container - best to use fresher supplies.)

Prune and clean up before spraying. Spray when it's cool and rain isn't imminent to wash the spray off. It smells – so if you spray in the morning don't have a garden party that afternoon.

-Horticultural oils (Eco-oil, pest-oil, white oil, etc.)

Oils are used against a wide range of insect pests. In winter, rose scale is the main target

and it is a good idea to spray after the lime sulphur spray.

Soil improvements – optional winter treatments

These treatments are appropriate at any time of the year, but doing them now gives them a good chance of being effective by the time the rose needs them in the growing seasons. Soil structure, soil chemistry, soil moisture content and air porosity are important factors.

-Dolomite, agricultural lime etc.

Helps soil structure, adds calcium and magnesium, helps raise low pH.

On existing beds, apply to the surface and use a hoe to “chip in”, so that it is more easily worked into the ground.

On new proposed beds, if the soil is turned over, apply to the turned over sods before finalising the soil preparation and planting.

-Add organic material

E.g. garden compost, cow manure (or horse or generally any manure from animals with four legs).

The organic material helps “hold” on to food and water so the roots can access them when the rose needs them - particularly useful in sandy soils where leaching is a problem.

-Active Grow

A well-balanced organic soil improver designed for the gardener to reinvigorate tired soils.

-Soil wetting agents

Often, particularly after extended dry periods, some soils become difficult to wet uniformly. This compromises the efficiency of the roots in that area. A wetting agent helps get a better moisture distribution within the soil.

-Sea-weed solutions (and similar)

From time to time it is good to use a sea-weed solution as a drench. It helps the way roots work with the soil.

Your work is done! Enjoy your roses.

Winter pruning

There are many reasons for pruning a rose. Improving potential growth, shaping for a desired effect, increasing long stemmed flower production, induce a climber to flower over an arch, are common. Whatever the reason, pruning gives a chance to rejuvenate and invigorate, so sharpen your secateurs and get ready to give it a go.

When to winter prune?

There aren't many rules, but here are two – **don't prune a once a year flowering rose**

(e.g. banksia roses), until after flowering! Otherwise it might not flower until next year, or ever if you keep doing it.

Another is: - **don't prune a rose until after the danger of frosts.** Otherwise there is a danger of frost damage on new growth. When this is depends on where the rose lives.

So think of winter pruning at the end of winter/beginning of spring, when temperatures start to warm up and the rose is ready to start a new growing season.

What to prune.

What to prune depends on what that type of rose is capable of and sometimes what you want it to do. If the bush produces long stemmed flowers and you want lots of long stemmed roses, you prune it to produce long stemmed flowers. If the rose has a bushy habit with lots of flowers on shorter stems you should prune it to produce that kind of growth. Climbers and weeping standards are treated differently to bushes because you want to encourage flowers along the stem.

With repeat flowerers technique doesn't matter so much, and even though there are right ways of doing things, it isn't that critical, and it's generally better to cut than not to cut (i.e. the John Wayne method :-" cut first and ask questions later"). But if you want to do it right read on.

It's all about the buds.

A bud develops into a shoot which, in the case of repeat flowering roses, has a flower at the end. It also produces its own leaves with the next generation buds in the leaf axils. When its flower has finished, the next generation buds can grow into a flowering shoot and so the process is repeated. There are also adventitious buds which form at the base of the graft. (These are often referred to as water shoots and are highly desirable. Don't confuse these with rogue understock growth from beneath the graft, which is highly undesirable.) These basal shoots commandeer the most resources and often become the longest and strongest new growth.

The bud gets its resources from its point of origin and grows towards the light. The buds on a branch compete for or share the resource of the branch. Sometimes developing buds are more "caring and sharing", and don't mind if neighbouring buds develop at the same time (e.g. "Iceberg"). Sometimes they are "bullies", and grab most of the resources of the neighbourhood for themselves (e.g. "Mr Lincoln").

Consider what the branch is capable of providing to the buds. If a bud lives on a thin or spindly branch, it will also generally be thin and spindly. If a branch is shaded by newer growth around it may be incapable of providing its buds with sufficient light to grow. (This often becomes the dead wood in the centre of an unmaintained rose.)

Light is the driving force behind growth, so it is best to cut to a bud that is growing out towards the light and not in towards the centre where it will later be shaded by surrounding growth.

Pruning different types of roses

Here are some guidelines to pruning the more common types of roses.

Long stemmed roses: - cut flower types, most Hybrid Tea, e.g. “Mr Lincoln”, “Blue Moon”, etc.

These are often pruned hard to produce strong shoots. Remove spindly growth and prune to allow light to all parts (including the base to encourage adventitious shoots to form.) Remove structural conflicts such as branches that cross. Allow light to reach the centre and base to encourage branch and potentially adventitious buds.

Strong existing branched can be cut back hard (1/2, 1/3, ankle-height will all work). The remaining buds will enjoy the extra resources and produce stronger growth.

Bushy style rose: - Floribundas, David Austin, old world/heritage types.

These are pruned with the aim of retaining the inherent bushy character.

Thin out to allow more light to the centre by removing weaker and spindly growth and crossing branches etc. Stronger branches are retained or pruned lightly to maintain structure. (Harsh pruning will produce strong shoots that often take away from the “softer” bushy look, at least for the first growth spurt.)

Climbing roses, weeping standards, etc.

These often have some long canes with many buds or secondary shoots along its length. Leave some of these canes long. Because the buds along the cane have to share its resources, their growth will be short but will be terminated with flowers. The result is flowers all along the cane.

Otherwise pruning still involves removing weaker growth, conflicting branches etc. and allowing light in.

Final consideration.

Are the buds (the builders) going to be happy?

Rose Planting of bare rooted roses.

Bare rooted roses were grown somewhere, dug out, stored, wrapped, shipped, stored again and then sold, brought home and stored again until planted. Quite a bit for the plant to go through before it once again is safely in the soil - involving different temperatures and climates and soil characteristics.

Here are some hints to minimise stress on the rose and help it re-establish.

Exposure to heat and air-conditioning are no-no's for packaged roses, so take care when taking them home in the car.

Remove the packaging and plant them as soon as you can, but until then store them with **roots wet**, (- e.g. in a bucket of water in a cool darkened space).

If it will be a while before planting, “heel” the plants in soil in a position protected from wind and heat. This is done by burying the plants in a trench, covering all the roots and more (say 2/3 of branches for bush roses and 20-30 cm of the stem for standard roses). **Water in thoroughly.**

Avoid very windy days when planting. Wind dries things out very quickly – both the plant and the soil.

Planting in the garden or a pot

Always plant with roots wet. Prior to planting it is a good idea to examine and treat the roots. Root damage or roots that are too long may have to be pruned. Soak the roots in water- it's a good idea to add a root treatment like a sea-weed product to the water to help the roots establish once they are planted.

The planting hole.

Bush roses are ideally grown with all branches above ground and mulch levels. Ideally the hole will be deep enough to bury the rose with only 3-5cm of stem showing.

With standard roses it is obviously sufficient to bury the roots plus a bit of the stem.

The width should accommodate the roots, but it's advantageous to make it a bit wider so the roots find it easier to grow into that region.

Note: No fertiliser in the planting hole. Don't fertilise until the rose develops new leaves.

Soil treatments.

Most soil improvements are best done beforehand, but it's still advantageous to apply improvers like Active grow, dolomite, organic material and so on.

Wet excessively dry soil.

Planting.

Plant with wet roots. Spread the roots if necessary and fill the hole with soil to the required level. The roots are now buried in soil, but with detrimental air-pockets. These are best treated by flooding the filled in hole with watering in to collapse the air pockets.

Water in

This is the most important watering of the plants life, not only to thoroughly wet the soil but also to help collapse detrimental air pockets. A good way of doing this is to use a hose with relatively low water pressure stuck in one side of the hole and wait until the water floods out on the other.

Hint: hill-up

Notwithstanding the final soil levels with respect to the rose, creating a short term mound 10-20 cm above the soil level helps protect the plant while it is establishing (particularly helpful with bush roses). The mound should be levelled after about two weeks.

Stake standardised roses securely

Standardised roses should always be staked, but it is most important while it is establishing, particularly as any wind could move the plant so as to disturb the roots. Tie up to secure the stem and the crown. Make sure the top tie cannot slip down.

After planting care.

Water often. Beware windy days.

Don't feed until leaves appear.

Transplanting Roses

Transplanting a rose can be done at anytime of the year. However transplanting a rose while it is dormant, gives the rose it's best chance of survival.

Before you start to remove the rose, have the new position you would like to place the rose prepared.

-Cut back the rose hard! We want to cut off most of the growth on top for two reasons:-

1.it makes it easier to work, giving you easier access to the root zone and less time muttering under your breath whilst being pricked by thorns.

2.Because you are disturbing the root system, cutting back the top reduces the demands on the roots whilst they are reestablishing. Improving your chances of success whilst transplanting,

-Try to dig around the root system, keeping it intact as much as possible.

This means the further away from the base of the rose plant you dig, the less you will damage the roots. Aim to keep as much of the soil intact around the roots as you can.

-Place the rose in the new position prepared earlier.

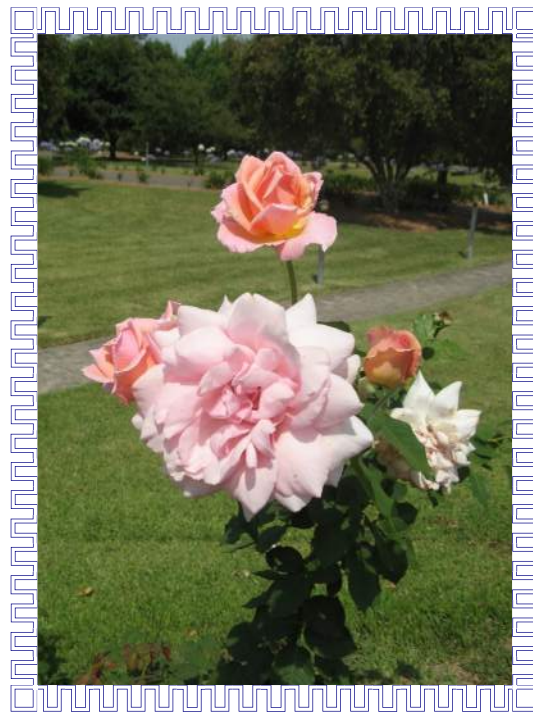
-Backfill with garden soil or 'Active Grow'. Do **NOT** add any fertiliser.

-Water in by placing a hose with a relatively low water pressure stuck in one side of the hole and wait until the floods out on the other.

-Water with a sea-weed solution weekly for the next six weeks to give the roots there best chance of recovery.

-Enjoy your newly transplanted rose flourish.

Hope this information has helped with your winter rose care.



Central Coast-Lake Macquarie Rose Region

email: cclmregionalrosesecretary@gmail.com

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Next Meeting



Tablia Rose

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<http://www.nsw.rose.org.au/central-coast-lake-macquarie>