



Macarthur Rose

Newsletter Vol 27, No 9

4th May 2021



Hilton Edward

Neutrog available

Over the last few months our Neutrog ordering system has changed. As part of the transition we have Neutrog products left from the old system. The Macarthur Rose Society has already purchased this stock and it is considered part of our financial assets. We are keen to sell this to our members to recoup costs.

Below is a list of the Neutrog that is available. If you are going to purchase any of these fertilisers, please first consider purchasing from us, rather than ordering online directly. Prices are the same and it is only a phone call away. Once these are all sold we will only be able to order and purchase under the new system. Our current stock includes:

Pelletised Fertiliser

Bush Tucker	\$33
Kahoona	\$33
Seamungus	\$22
Strike Back for Orchids	\$33

Liquid Fertiliser

Sudden Impact for Roses 1L	\$11
Strike Back for Orchids 1L	\$11
Strike Back for Orchids 5L	\$38
Seamungus Liquid 1L	\$11
Seamungus Liquid 5L	\$38
GOGO Juice 5L	\$38

Please contact Graham Wright directly on Tel: 9606 5888 to arrange purchase and pickup.

Remember now is a good time to use Seamungus in your garden. It helps balance the soil and provides nutrition for the roots of your roses.

Strike Back for Orchids is a wonderful fertiliser not only for your orchids. It greatly enriches the colour and strength of both potted and garden planted Begonias.



Dear Rose Friends

As the weather starts to cool down, we can see a gradual slowing down of our rose gardens. Despite the slowing, the colours of the roses are especially intense and beautiful. It is a great time to enjoy the fruits of our labours from the previous seasons. However, autumn is not a time to rest in the garden, it is one of our busiest times as we take the opportunity to prepare for next year's growing season. This month our cultural notes focus on soil health. Getting our soil pH to the right levels will help to produce the best, strongest and disease resistant blooms next year. It is important to use autumn to prepare for our new roses.

Many of you would have received the recent email from Neutrog about their buckets of seconds of Sudden Impact for Roses. This is one of the benefits of our new Neutrog ordering system. Page 3 has further information.



In reference to our last pick up, I was very remiss in not mentioning one of our great volunteers Mark McKenzie who provided a huge amount of assistance with the delivery. Thank you Mark for the many hours you contributed to the last Neutrog distribution and sincere apologies for leaving you off the volunteer thanks in the last newsletter. Without you and the other volunteers mentioned, we would have been unable to have such a successful distribution.

We have had some very successful exhibitors at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Graham and Janet Wright were very successful with their Gloxinias and Other Gesneriads. Maureen and Ian Thackeray once again came home with Championship wins for their roses. Maureen has also been promoted to the A Grade class in the Floral Art Exhibits. Congratulations to all the winners. It is good to see Macarthur members so successful at such a prestigious Rose Show and Exhibition.

More importantly we gained three new members to our region after visiting the Easter Show. A warm welcome to Catherine Huitt, Frank and Sandy Chad and Aileen and Dan Naidoo. We look forward to meeting with you soon and hope this begins a long and happy association with our Rose Society and your roses.

It is membership renewal time once again. You will all have received the email with the details of how to renew your membership. You can also access the details on the NSW Rose Society website at www.nsw.rose.org.au. Go to this website, click on the red **Become a Member** button and you will be taken to the details on how to rejoin. The final date for payment is 30 June 2021.

Please remember to bring roses to the meeting on May 8th for our show bench. Our guest speaker will be Mr Torsten Englehardt from Macarthur Beekeepers.



Judith

Soil Health

Very soon our new bare root roses will be arriving from the South Australian and Victorian nurseries***. The rush will be on to plant within 48 hours. In real estate, the advice is always location, location, location. It is the same for roses.

Now is the ideal time to prepare your garden beds for the new roses. Preparation will ensure the bed is well watered, fertilised and has the correct pH balance. When picking a location for a new rose here are some things to consider.

Lots of sun for most varieties of roses. Morning sun is preferable over afternoon sun. Ideally, you're looking for a minimum of six hours of direct sun daily.

Sun reflection from walls and concrete surfaces can reflect and intensify the sun. This is especially true for lighter coloured roses such as Blue Moon or Tineke.

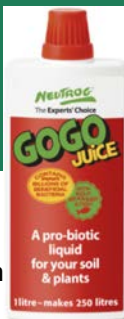
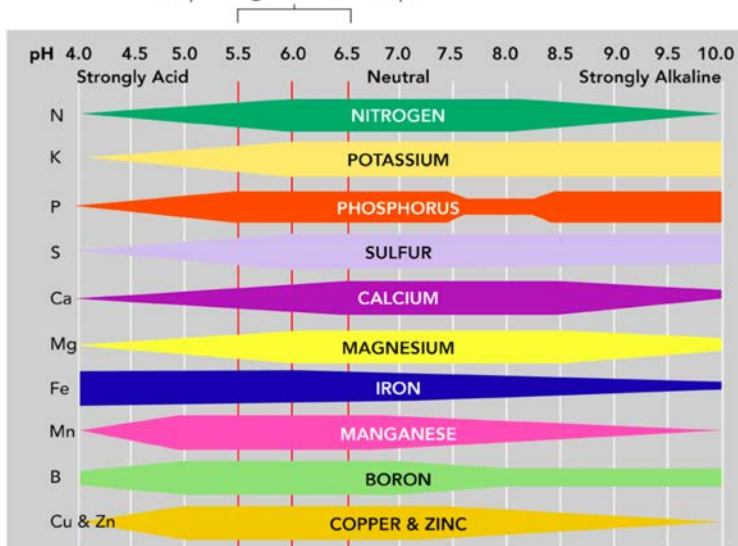
Competition is another thing to keep in mind. Watch out for tree roots and large shrubs that will compete with your rose bushes for water and nutrients. Roses do not like being planted under trees.

Access to water is essential. It's important to know that roses like a steady amount of water but they don't like to sit in water (which can damage the roots). Consider your drainage and that watering systems can cope with persistent hot summer days.

The raised bed concept helps roses, so they are able to drain freely and not sit in water. Raised beds are ideal.

Once you have decided on the location, you can then begin to prepare the soil for the new roses to ensure a good start. Checking and managing the pH levels of your garden soil is one of the most important aspects of growing good, healthy disease resistant roses. The chart below shows how the pH level impacts the plant take up of essential nutrients.

Ideal pH range for nutrient uptake



Soil pH

The pH scale has 14 levels with a pH of 7.0 being neutral. Values below 7.0 constitute the acid range. Values above 7.0 constitute the alkaline range.

While roses are tolerant to a wide variation in pH levels, a slightly acid soil with a pH level of 6.0 to 6.5 is considered ideal. The major impact of extremes in pH is that it directly impacts what nutrients are available to the rose. This means that even with regular fertilisation, the plant can suffer malnutrition if the pH is too high or too low. Organic material, fertilisers, spray materials and even sometimes rain can alter the pH levels.

There are two simple ways to test your soil, one is with a soil testing kit and the second is with a pH Meter. Both can be purchased at a good hardware store or garden centre.

The important thing when testing soil is to get a truly representative sample. This can be achieved by taking samples from different parts of the garden bed at varying depths i.e. 1cm - >20cm.

pH levels lower than 6.0-6.5

If your soil is too acid i.e. the pH is lower than pH 6.5, you can bring it up by using dolomite. The amount to be added will vary with the type of soil and the degree of acidity. Dolomite slowly dissolves in the growing medium over time, helping to counteract the acidifying effects some fertilisers, rain and irrigation water can have on the soil. Dolomite also supplies roses with calcium and magnesium, which are good for healthy growth.

Lime can also be used at any time of the year to increase pH levels. Remember it takes time (it can take up to several months) to change the pH levels so be patient and don't overdose the garden. Be guided by the rates and frequency of application set out on the product packaging. Patience is best.

Liquid lime gives an immediate relief to the plant but must be applied regularly and will not substantially impact the pH of the soil long term. Autumn and winter are good times to test and add to your soil because both dolomite and lime should not be applied along with other fertilisers as it reduces their effectiveness.

pH levels above 7.0

Should your soil be alkaline (greater than pH 7.0) you can lower it by adding compost, peat and other organic materials. Sulfate of ammonia adds nitrogen while at the same time lowering the pH levels. It takes several years to reduce the pH levels. Keep applying compost and other organic materials and only apply Sulfate of Ammonia at the rates and frequency recommended by the manufacturer. Patience is key to getting the right pH levels.



***Wagner's Nursery gives a 10% discount to Rose Society members. Use the code **100%ROSES!** when ordering online. Order now - they specialise in Australian Bred roses.

Neutrog Update

If you have a Neutrog account as a NSW Rose Society member, Neutrog recently contacted you to advise that they had available seconds buckets of Sudden Impact for Roses at a greatly reduced price. This is just one of the many benefits that we are enjoying under the new Neutrog ordering system. Previously opportunities to buy reduced price seconds were very few and far between.

The offer was so popular that Neutrog had to close their online shop to avoid a website crash. After a brief hiatus Neutrog managed to get the website up and running again.



For all those who were successful at ordering buckets of Sudden Impact there will only be one opportunity to pick your buckets up from Rossmore. A final date for pick up has not been finalised, but is expected to be in early June depending on transport and other considerations.

If you are unable to pick up your buckets of Sudden Impact for Roses, please make water tight arrangements for someone else to pick them up on your behalf on the allocated date. There can be no exceptions for later pickup. Graham and Janet Wright and our hard working volunteers would greatly appreciate your help with this.

Photo Below: Congratulations to Graham and Janet Wright for their spectacular championship winning display in the Other Gesneriad category. Graham and Janet also celebrated 28 continuous years as Royal Easter Show Exhibitors. This achievement was acknowledged at a special Royal Agricultural Society dinner where they were presented with an award to reflect their dedication to the Easter Show over many years.



Photo above: Maureen and Ian Thackeray's prize winning Elina in a display of 'bud to full bloom' at the Easter Show. Note the fully open bloom at the bottom and the bud with just a hint of colour. A great win for Maureen who often complains that 'Elina' doesn't do well in her garden.



Another win for Maureen and Ian with their miniflora 'Red Gem' with 1-6 stems/cuts, same cultivar, minimum of 10 blooms. A worthy win for dedicated, persistent and passionate gardeners.

Autumn Gardens

Essential Tasks for May

As winter approaches we can now stop fertilising our roses although we can use Seamungus to prepare our soils. This will allow them to produce the last flush of blooms before they settle into dormancy over the winter months. Dormancy has a key role in allowing the roses to rest and recuperate ready for a new season.

Black spot has been the key challenge in our gardens over the late summer and autumn. Even the top rose growers and exhibitors have battled persistent black spot this year. This was reflected in the both the quantity and quality of roses exhibited at the Easter Show Championships.

To help control the black spot and ensure a good flush of blooms in the Spring take the following steps. Continue to deadhead your roses, or let the hips form. Hygiene around the black spot affected leaves is essential. Pick them off the bush and any that have fallen on the ground. Good hygiene is essential to help prevent black spot in the Spring growth. Place infected leaves in the bin not the compost.

Don't be alarmed if your roses are 'leggy' as we will soon be in the pruning phase of our gardens.

Watch out for rust and spray as soon as possible with fungicide as rust can spread very quickly through the rose bushes.



One of the most well known yellow roses is the rose Peace that was named to mark the end of World War II. Its unusual colouring features sunset tones of soft yellow edged with pink, and each bloom can be an astounding 12-15 cms across. It can grow up to 1.8m tall in the Macarthur area and its heavy, strong stems make it a wonderful cut flower.

Little Known Rose Facts

In the history of roses, yellow roses would arouse particular excitement in rose lovers. For example, the Parks Yellow tea scented China rose, which was introduced from China to Europe in about 1825 revolutionised the western world thinking about roses.

However as a cut flower yellow roses have long been stigmatised. As a colour, yellow was once held in low regard. One reason for this is that Judas Iscariot

is said to have worn yellow. There is no historical evidence for this, but he appears in medieval stained glass windows in yellow clothing. With Judas as the key, yellow became known as the colour of



City of Goulburn

traitors and felons, later evolving into a symbol for adultery and more widely of the unfaithful lover. An offering of a yellow rose was not a way of accusing one's love of betrayal, but of asking forgiveness for having deceived, or perhaps admitting to having made a mistake.

Today you can find bright and beautiful yellow roses at flower stalls, nurseries and floristry shops. Florists worldwide are attempting to erase the reputation of yellow roses by making them a symbol of warm friendship and of optimism.

Nonetheless, the day when yellow roses are given on Valentine's Day still seems very distant. (from the *Little Book of Roses* by Michel Beauvais)



Graham Thomas

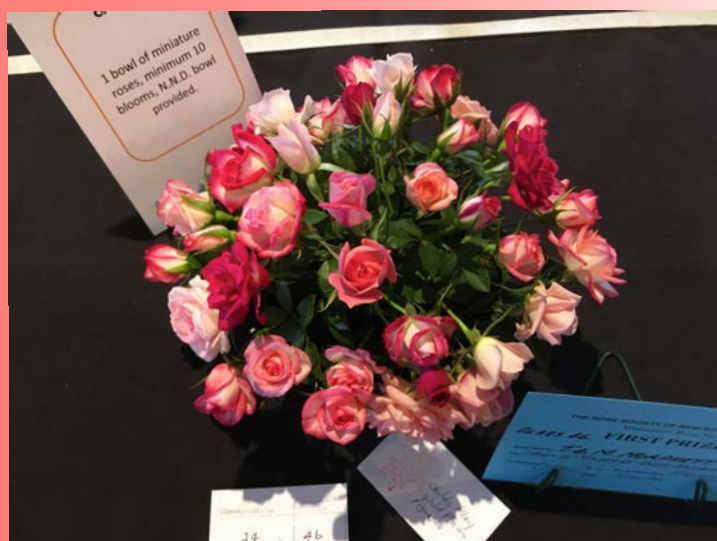


Gold Bunny

Other Events



7th Kerrie McLean
14th Penelope Wardle
24th Ross Quinn
26th Lia Cataldo



Prize winning bowl of miniature roses exhibited at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The bowl was exhibited by Meryl and Ted Morphet from the Sydney Region. Despite the depredations of black spot and the wet growing season they were able to exhibit enough Grade A roses to win championships once again. The requirements for this bowl of miniature roses was a minimum of ten blooms that are NND (Not Necessarily Distinct) presented in a provided bowl. Congratulations Meryl and Ted. This is a wonderful May Birthday bouquet.

MEETING DATES

for Macarthur District Regional Rose Society (subject to Covid-19 restrictions)

Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00pm at Elderslie Public School, 170 Lodges Road, Elderslie.

8th May - Guest speaker is Macarthur Beekeepers

12th June (AGM)

10th July

14th August

11th September

9th October

13th November

11th December (Christmas Party)



The theme for our meetings this year is Roses. Each meeting is focusing on different aspects of rose growing, enjoyment of the Rose including soil health, different uses for Roses, showing roses and how to manage diseases and pests.

Monthly Show Bench

There is an opportunity at each meeting to display your roses on the Show Bench. If you come to the meeting at 1:30pm with your roses, there will be a Rose expert available to help display your roses. The monthly show bench is an opportunity share, learn about growing better roses or even to just 'smell the roses' at the meeting.



Above: Graham Wright and Maureen Thackeray at our April 2021 meeting, demonstrating how to display your roses for the show bench. (Photo courtesy of Roslyn Tildsley)

Contributions to this newsletter are welcome. If you have items of interest, including photos, that you want to share for distribution please send them to: Judith Carl, at Email: macarthurrosesociety@gmail.com, or Tel: 0410 444 562.

Our Rose Society operates in a COVID safe way. Hand cleaner is available and there is space where we meet to be able to sit the designated distance from each other.