

Macarthur Rose

News

May 2025

Volume: 31, No: 10



Neutrog Order Delivery

The online Neutrog shop closed for the most recent orders in late April. This means that the delivery of your orders will happen sometime in early to mid May depending on when they process, pack and send the orders. I will keep you updated as Neutrog provides further advice.

At this stage I am unsure when the next order will occur. I will need to negotiate this with Neutrog.

Due to the time and effort each order and delivery requires, I cannot sustain a delivery every quarter. My intention is to work with Neutrog to revert to only two deliveries every year - one in the autumn and one in the Spring.

More importantly, we are also looking for a new Neutrog delivery location as Samantha Place will not be available after July this year. If you could consider and make suggestions for a new delivery location it would be greatly appreciated. We will discuss further at the meeting on Saturday

Dear Rose Friends

I trust you all had a safe and enjoyable Easter break. With daylight saving ending we are reminded that winter is not far away. Over the Easter break, the weather was ideal for gardening and tidying to ready ourselves for winter.

You would have found that the cooler wet weather has given the weeds a chance to take over as the summer mulch breaks down. Now is a good time to replenish.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Easter Show and volunteered at the Rose Society stand. It was a great Macarthur effort and an opportunity to meet with rosarians from other states and regions.

This month our newsletter is several days late because I spent too much time in the garden over the long weekend. It left too little time to get the newsletter completed.

Remember the newsletter is OUR newsletter and any sort of contributions are welcome. Sharing our knowledge and information is part of being a vibrant community group.

Thank you to Gary Wootton who writes our cultural notes each month. Gary's cultural notes are on page 2 of this newsletter. Again he has given us detailed information about the next stage of propagation that we must be doing now. He also gives robust information about what to do in the garden this month.

The beginning of May is the start of the new rose year. Now is the time to be testing and checking our soil. Good soil means that we will have excellent roses next year.

Pages 3,4 and 5 have some preliminary information to get you started on preparing your soil for the new roses that will arrive in the next few weeks. This means encouraging worms and repelling weeds.

We had success at the Camden and Easter shows thanks to the efforts of volunteers and exhibitors. There is more information on

Page 5.

Thank you to Diane Gordon who has kindly volunteered to take over the Care Convenor duties. This is a particularly important role that helps us to look after each other and mark special occasions.

I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday.

Judith



At Macarthur
Rose Society

May Cultural Notes

Gary Wootton



Rose Propagation

We are still in the best time for cutting for propagation. This is the time of year you will have the greatest success. We should be starting to propagate our best roses or roses we do not have growing in our garden. After flowering, choose your semi hardwood and hardwood cuttings.

Hard wood cutting propagation depends a lot on Mother Nature. It is the easiest way to propagate and is only available once a year. The plan is to simply take a semi-hardwood or hardwood cutting and place them into the propagating medium, of your choice.



In our part of the world, the best time for hardwood cutting propagation is autumn. Most rose stems have hardened, and the growth rate is slower.

The canes

should be semi-hardwood at about 6 - 18 months old. Don't use young stems as they have a much lower success rate. Once the cuttings have been placed into the propagating medium, there is no need to water the mix as the canes will have few leaves, and the mix will stay wet naturally.

Continue to maintain your visual checks on the rose hips that are still growing (if they are still growing, leave them to mature on the parent plant, until mid to late July) and continue to maintain the moisture checks and application on the seeds in stratification, and plant them up as required.

Well, we are now creeping towards the end of Autumn, and we should still be spraying repeatedly to prevent diseases. Fungal diseases such as black spot and powdery mildew love the wet autumn air. They thrive in these conditions, so don't let up with your preventative spraying. Remember that prevention is more effective than treatment.

Always be mindful of the friendlies in the garden and use eco-friendly or organic sprays wherever possible. There are plenty on the market and many home remedies that have been proven to work. Continue to tie up and train your climbing varieties, if your climber is growing where it is unwanted, remove that stem, the climber will simply grow another stem elsewhere, hopefully, where it can be better contained, try to keep the canes as horizontal as possible to encourage new flower creation.

Although we normally start pruning our roses in late winter, it is still important to deadhead our spent roses at the end of the growing season. Deadheading is the task required to remove finished blooms allowing more blooms to be produced throughout the remainder of the growing seas. Deadheading, is simply snipping off the wilted flower, take the cutting back as far as you can along the stem, to try to control the plants height. Deadheading will give your garden a tidy appearance heading into winter and prepare your roses for an excellent growing season once the winter months are over.

As late autumn temperatures start to cool, especially at night, and the days get shorter your garden will need

special care. This will guarantee that your roses stay strong throughout autumn and into the beginning of winter. The maintenance conducted in Autumn tasks are as important as other tasks conducted throughout the year as we prepare them for the winter slow down and reduced activity. Continue your watering regime but at a reduced rate with the

cooler weather. Try not to get the foliage wet from about 2:00pm each day as you want it to be dry as the evening arrives to prevent the black spot developing. Autumn is also a good time to test your soil and start those all-important preparations for the new bare root roses arriving in the early winter.

Continue to mulch

and keep good garden hygiene – raking up eaves and pulling weeds around the garden area. Replenish the mulch as it will keep the soil warm over winter, retain moisture, protect against temperature variations and prevent weeds from establishing.

Happy Gardening

Gary



Judith Oyston, Gary Wootton and Annette Lane at the Easter Show stand



Soul Mate is a beautiful, showy, yellow floribunda. It flowers continuously through out the season. Regular deadheading will give you a mass of colour every five weeks. It retains its bright yellow colour as it ages and is available from Swane's nursery.



Judges and stewards hard at work at the Miniature Rose Show held in Mittagong. The judge, Alex Ross (second from left) was in good form disqualifying several A Grade competitors because their bunches of roses had opened beyond acceptable limits.



At Macarthur
Rose Society

May Rose Notes

Know your soil

The month of May is the start of the Rose New Year for us.

Most of our blooms will have finished by the end of April and the plants are still full of foliage. However, May is the best time to begin work for the new rose year. What you do now will affect how your roses perform in October and through out the next season.

Now is the time to dig out and get rid of all the plants you have decided to discard. Remove some soil, leave the hole open and obtain and store some new virgin soil. Gather what blooms remain over the next few weeks but cease all feeding.

Test your soil to see if you need to add lime. Continually adding manure and fertiliser can gradually reduce the pH balance of our soil. This means that every few years you will need to add lime to help tip the balance back to a pH level of 6.0 to 6.5.

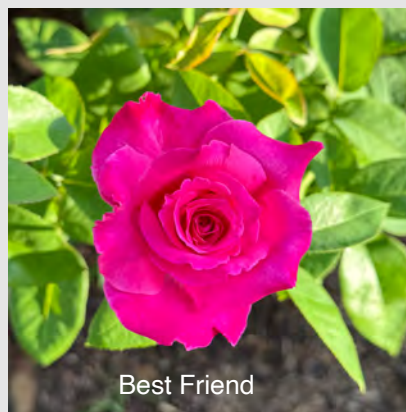
If your pH is higher than 6.5, just added organic matter such as cow manure, iron chelates or powdered sulfur. Remember that changing the pH levels is a long slow process. You need to check and test your soil pH levels every few months.

If you are going to plant new roses in June do not add anything in the way of fertilisers after mid May.

Fresh soil, compost, mixed fertiliser and blood and bone applied in the first half of May is all that is needed to set your soil up for the new plantings.

Your first step to prepare for the new plantings is to check the drainage. Roses need the soil to be well drained.

Roses do not like to have their roots continually wet. Dig a test hole and fill with water to see how long it takes to drain away. Wait approximately 15 minutes, if the water is not significantly draining away or has not completely drained within an hour there is a drainage problem. If so, you now have two options - select a better location to plant your rose, or improve the drainage in this location.



Best Friend

There are many options available to improve the drainage. The method you select will depend on the severity of

your issue. If the drainage issue is not severe you can work in organic matter and/or lighter soils to break up your existing soil; or, raise the garden bed and add in fresh garden soil. In more severe cases adding drainage channels with agricultural piping will be the most successful alternative. Whatever you do, it is important to correct the drainage before you plant or replant.

If you are going to plant new roses in June do not add anything in the way of fertilisers after mid May.

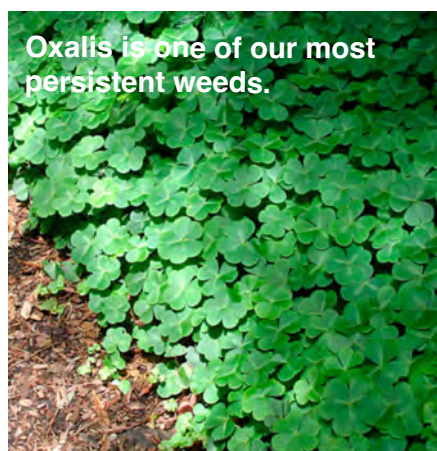
Build up the soil with organic matter, water in, turn it over a few times and let it sit. Dig over and water the rose bed multiple times during the next few months, the soil should come to a fine tilth.

DO NOT replant into old soil where roses have been removed. If a rose has recently been removed, you can either allow the soil to rest for an extended period of time or replace the soil in this position with fresh soil (at least a large wheel barrow load).

Ensure you test the pH and prepare the soil as normal before planting.

Weeds

Weeds are blamed for sheltering scale, aphids, thrips, and other pests and robbing the soil of food and moisture. They are also credited with helping, especially during the winter, with soil aeration and the retention of plant foods around their roots so that it does not leach away from the level of rose roots. These vices and virtues do exist, but you can strike a medium pathway. Note that any soil incapable of producing a weed will also be incapable of sustaining other plants. They serve as a useful guide in the assessment of soil fertility.



Oxalis is one of our most persistent weeds.

During the three or four months between mid April and early August, weeds grow very well. They serve many useful purposes while growing, and later make excellent manure. In a well mulched garden there would be few weeds.

With thick mulch it is possible to kill weeds while quite small by lying the single prong cultivator on its side and moving it gently back and forth through the mulch. It should never be allowed to reach soil level as that will bring soil to the surface and encourage further weed growth. Couch grass, oxalis, and the like should be disposed of. Add more mulch and nitrogen after weeding. If any plants are removed early in the season, take away two or three barrel loads of soil and fill the hole with layers of weeds and soil adding some nitrogenous matter occasionally.



At Macarthur
Rose Society

Rose Growing Notes

Caring for your soil to help your roses thrive

Earthworms

Earthworms can never be too numerous, nor their value overstated. Sulphites, sofa beautification and all other conditions in are inimical to earthworms and are also unfavourable to soil bacterium and fungi. Earthworms are our greatest natural cultivators. Darwin found that worms frequently deposit casts exceeding ten tonnes in weight, on each acre each year when the soil is well fed. These casts contained five times more nitrogen, seven times more available phosphorus, eleven times more potash, and 40% more humus than what is present in the surface layers of the soil. These contents are all in organic form and readily used by plants.

It may be thought that in a well cultivated garden we have no need for these lowly creatures, but we cannot afford to dispense with any of the workers nature has provided us. Earthworms help us far more than we can ever realise.

To encourage earthworms in your rose garden, focus on providing a healthy and food-rich environment for them. This includes adding organic matter to the soil, avoiding excessive digging, and ensuring the soil is moist but not waterlogged.

First of all increase the organic matter with the application of mulch. Spread the mulch such as sugar cane, straw, leaves or well rotted manure on the surface of your garden beds. This not only provides food for worms but also helps retain moisture and prevents soil compaction.

Regularly add compost to your garden beds. Worms are drawn to the rich organic matter in compost, which also improves soil structure. If you do not make your own compost, you can purchase compost from various agricultural suppliers around the Macarthur region.

Tim's Best Cow Manure is good and easily available. Ace Ohlsson stock a wide range of products, Neutrog has a great mulch with Who Flung Dung and recently released a new composting product. All these products will promote worm production in your rose garden.

Consider planting green manure crops to add organic matter to the soil and encourage worm activity. You can add fallen leaves to the compost bin (not the fungi infested ones) and the worms will break them down and enrich the compost.

Last of all avoid disturbing the soil by minimising digging as excessive digging disrupts worm burrows and damages their habitats. Instead, use a fork to loosen the soil gently and avoid inverting the soil.



Unkonwn

Camden Show

Once again Macarthur Rose Society gave great support to the Camden Show.

Congratulations to one of our newer members David Clark who entered the novice class and got second place in a strong field.

Maureen and Ian Thackeray were the outstanding winners with Maureen also being the most successful floral art exhibitor. They also won the Rose Championship with their six vases of roses, which included their gorgeous exhibition rose Veteran's Honour.



Maureen and Ian's exhibition rose Veterans Honour at the Camden Show

This beautiful rose was originally released as City of Newcastle to mark the Newcastle City Bicentenary. In 2015 it was renamed as Veteran's Honour.

If you are looking for a magnificent, classic shaped, red, long stemmed, perfumed rose for your garden, Veteran's Honour is well worth considering. It was a worthy winner on the show bench at Camden Show demonstrating once again that visiting the rose shows gives many opportunities to view roses that grow successfully in your local area.

Congratulations to Stefica Bikesh who again entered a wide range of flowers and plants and was one of the most successful competitors at the show.

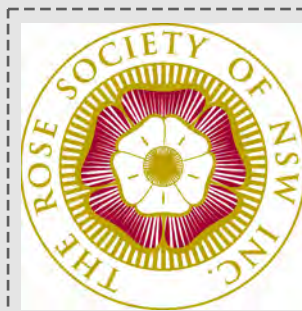


At Macarthur
Rose Society

May Rose News

Membership Renewal

It is time to renew our membership to the Rose Society of NSW. We get considerable value from our membership. Benefits include: joining with a community of people who love to grow and enjoy beautiful roses, Expert advice is available from experienced rose growers who have grown beautiful roses successfully for many years. We also get to share our own growing experiences both good and bad on how to grow great roses.



This monthly newsletter gives us a month by month guide on how to look after our roses to the best effect and the most beautiful roses. Even if we don't follow the advice it gives us something to think about as we decide what to do with our garden. There is easily available information on how to tackle weeds, pests and fungi to help us get great roses growing in our gardens for over nine months of the year.

No matter what our purpose or passion for growing beautiful roses our membership supports our individual efforts.

Finally, we can buy the wonderful Neutrog products at highly competitive prices due to the Rose Society of NSW special arrangements with Neutrog. These are excellent products that make such a difference to our gardens and with the savings we make. Rejoin today and better still invite one of your friends and/or neighbours to join as well. This will ensure we continue to have a vibrant Rose growing community.

Our membership competition is on again with each person's renewal qualifying to win their membership back. There are two opportunities this year - May and June. Hurry, pay your membership and be in to win it back.

Easter Show

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Easter Show and promoted the Rose Society there. Your help was noted and appreciated. As a result we gained several new members. It is only if we all participate in some way that we are able to function as a Rose Society.

We had stand out representation at the Easter Show with Maureen and Ian Thackeray putting in a huge effort and very long days to transport their roses for the Easter Show. Their efforts were rewarded and they took home several prizes once again.

Stefica Bikesh also spent several days at the show helping out at the Rose Society stand and generally providing guidance and support to Rose Society members and the general public as well as exhibiting.

Gary Wootton was also a keen volunteer across several days that the roses were on display.

Graham Wright was one of the main judges at the show and he and Janet once again gave freely of their time and expertise. Thank you!

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the exhibition of your roses at the Easter Show and your sustained effort at promoting the Rose Society to the general public. Your commitment and support is greatly appreciated.

David Clark's winning exhibition rose at the Camden Show



Our Meetings

3rd May 2025

7th June 2025

5th July 2025

2nd August 2025

6th September 2025

4th October 2025

18 October Spring Show 2025

1st November 2025

6th December 2025 -

Christmas Party



We meet at the CWA Camden Hall on the first Saturday of each month (other than January) at 2:00pm. You can access the venue via the Coles carpark. Coles Camden is at 19 Murray Street, Camden.

Alternatively, the carpark of the CWA can be accessed from the first roundabout on Cawdor Road opposite the Camden Bowling and Sports Club.

We are open from 1:30pm to give you time to arrange your roses for the meeting show bench. Oasis can be purchased at the show bench preparation area for \$1 per block. You will need time to soak the Oasis.

Our Buy, Sell and Swap table has home grown produce and other goods we may want to share. Our library of rose books is also available at our meetings.

Come along, enjoy great conversation, beautiful roses and meet new friends. All are welcome. For further information telephone: **0410 444 562**



Next meeting:
Saturday 1st March

Birthdays

7th Kerrie McLean

14th Penelope Wardle

25th Lía Cataldo

