

Southern Highlands Rose Society

August 2019 Newsletter



Quote of the Month



This old world that we're
livin' in
Is might hard to beat.
You get a thorn with every
Rose
But – ain't the roses sweet?

Frank Stanton

Hi everyone,

With the winter chills well and truly here we have some work ahead of us to keep our roses healthy and ready for the next season.

Rosalie has kindly shown us how to prune our roses in this month's cultural notes.

Also, Neutrog have provided lots of information regarding what Neutrog products to use during the winter season. Their website is very informative neutrog.com.au

I attended the meeting of NSW Rose Society State Council recently where Colin Hollis advised that Neutrog have published a book that will be sent with all new member Welcome Packs to introduce Neutrog products. Will see if we can get a few copies to show at our meeting when they become available.

When I look in my garden shed it is full of Neutrog, so I am a definitely a convert and my garden is showing the results of using the various Neutrog products throughout the year. Judith Carll, Chairperson of Macarthur Region mentioned that her Begonias just love Strike Back for Orchids.....so another handy hint.

Carol McVeigh

Thank you to Phil at Mittagong Garden Centre

The opportunity to attend a rose pruning demonstration locally was too good to pass up. Phil, from Mittagong Garden Centre was very happy to have our members join him at his beautiful garden centre last month. A cosy log fire and friendly staff made us most welcome.

Phil brought in a rose bush from his garden to demonstrate his pruning skills for us. It was a large shrub rose and Phil gave us lots of pruning tips along with a very funny running commentary. When you compare the before photo to the after photo you will see that Phil really had his work cut out taming the bush to a new shape. It is so much easier watching someone prune and explain what stems need pruning and why. Also, letting us know why they require good air flow to help the rose bush develop new growth for the next season and being brave enough to prune out the masses of old growth.

Phil also explained the need to keep your pruning tools clean and sharp and showed us how to sharpen our pruners with an easy sharpening tool. Phil holds demonstrations each year so remember to put this in your diary for next year.



Before



During



After

The photos show the **before** where the rose was very tall and woody, the **during** where Phil showed us what needed to be cut out and the **finished** rose, looking so much neater.

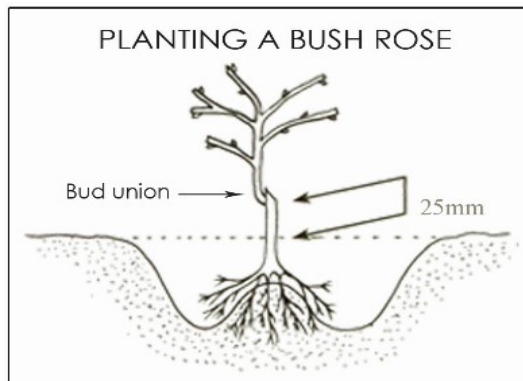
In this issue:

- ◆ Thank you Phil
- ◆ Cultural Notes
- ◆ Dates for Your Diary
- ◆ Next Meeting

Rose Care for August —Courtesy of Rosalie Vine

Planting Bare Rooted Roses

Before planting bare root roses soak the plants in a bucket of water with seaweed solution for at least two hours. Prune roots that are broken, injured or too long. Make a mound of soil in the hole and place the roots over and down around the mound. The bud union needs to be facing north or west and sitting 2.5 - 3cm above ground level. Backfill the soil halfway up the hole. Water well, poking around the roots to maintain soil and root contact. Let this drain for 15-20 minutes, then back fill to soil level and water lightly. This will minimise air pockets.

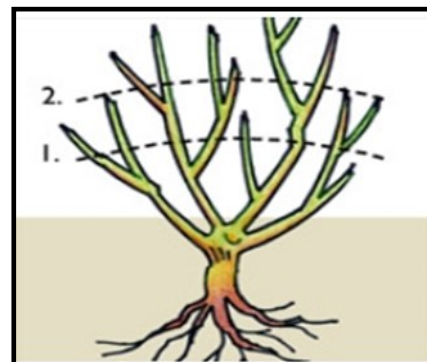


Do not use fertiliser in the planting hole as this will likely burn the new roots that develop. Neutrog's Seamungus however can be used as it is an excellent soil conditioner, gentle acting, and it will help plants settle in and get growing new roots and shoots ready for spring.

In parts where it is colder, it is better not to prune until August. Young growth in those areas is very subject to damage by frosts. Pruning too early can result in short stems and smaller flowers. Cut thin and spindly growths down until you reach the size of a pencil.

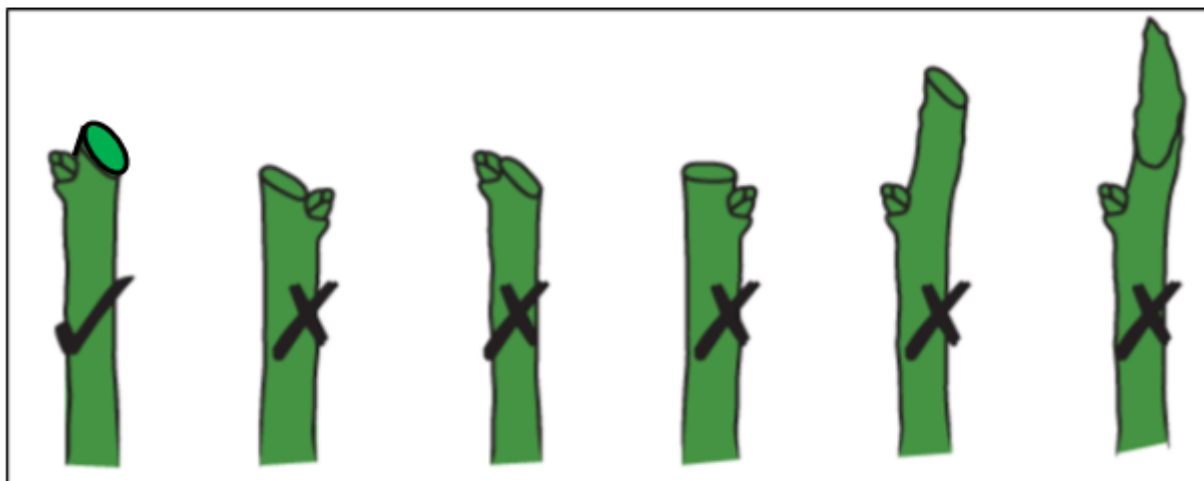
Remove canes that are crossing over another cane, and any dead wood. Cut out any old grey stems that are warty or crinkly, making sure there are at least 2-3 canes left on the plant to support the next season's growth. Brush off any old flaky bark from the bud union to encourage new shoots.

1. Prune older bushes down to about 1/2 their normal height.
2. Prune young bushes less harshly by about 1/3 of their size.



Where and How to Prune on the Rose Stem

Cut 1 cm above an upward and outward facing bud at an angle of 45°.



How to Prune a Watershoot

As it grows the watershoot produces a candelabra type head with a flower on the central stem and on each side stem. To prune the water shoot, simply remove the central part of its head and clip the remaining two or three stems just above a pair of leaves or leaflets that are to be found on each of them. Often the lateral stems bear more than one pair of leaflets. The growth-buds in the angles between the lower leaves and the stems will be stronger, and pruning should be done at these levels.

By cutting into the main branch you would be calling on very immature growth-buds to throw out lateral growths, and the buds would probably fail and the whole branch would die. If the upper parts only of the water shoot are shortened, these immature buds on the main branch will, in the course of the following few months, throw out strong lateral branches. At the same time the upper part may weaken and need to be shortened to the highest well-placed strong lateral. Complete removal should be done only when the shoot is very badly placed, is very crooked, or is very immature, for water shoots are very precious in plant-building. Lightly pruned, they will build up a big, new, vigorous section of the bush. If still in any doubt as to how to prune a water shoot, simply break off the seed-pods, which is better than cutting into the shoot itself. Nature will work out quite a good solution. This same procedure applies to water shoots throughout the whole year.



This is a water shoot of 'Glorious' which grows very vigorously in my garden. Of the six candelabra side stems, I removed the three inner ones which were also the thinnest on the central stem, and shortened the others to approximately three buds.

Immediately pruning is completed, the prunings and fallen leaves should be put in the green waste bin and the plants and surrounding soil sprayed with a fungicide particularly aimed at killing the spores of black spot, mildew and rust. Lime sulphur is recognised as being effective and it will also address white scale. Loosen the top 2-3 cm of the soil and remove weeds. A 5cm layer of mulch will keep new weeds at bay.

When the new growth appears on the rose bushes towards the latter half of August, it is time to begin feeding the roses, though in cold areas this can be delayed until September. Rake back the mulch, apply Sudden Impact for Roses and cow manure, and then cover with the mulch again. Give the roses a good deep water. If a few aphids are seen they should be dealt with, for they breed at a tremendous rate. I was still seeing aphids on some of my bushes in mid-July this year despite the very cold nights.

Happy gardening! *Rosalie*

Dates For Your Diary



Wednesday 21 August	Southern Highlands Rose Society Meeting. CWA Room Mittagong
Tuesday 27 August	Walking on the Wildside. Australian Botanic Garden, Mt Annan
Saturday 7 September	Camellia and Spring Show. Uniting Church Bowral
Wednesday 18 September	Southern Highlands Rose Society Meeting. CWA Room Mittagong
19—26 September	Carnival of Flowers. Toowoomba
Saturday 28 September	Annual Orchid Show. Mittagong RSL

Our Next Meeting for August 2019



10.30 am Wednesday 21 August 2019

Our Special Guest Speaker is

Joanne Fisher

Joanne is a very talented floral artist and is the proud recipient of the Bert Mulley Award for her services to the Rose Society.

With our gardens mostly devoid of flowers Joanne is going to show us how to utilise what we can find from our winter gardens, with her talk titled.....

“Dead in The Shed”

**Our meeting will be held at CWA Hall, Winifred West Park,
Hume Highway Mittagong**

Morning tea will be served.

Members are invited to bring something to share.

***Members are also invited to bring a bloom or two for the Bench
(if you still have any late season blooms on your roses).***

Judging will be by popular vote from the members with points being awarded.

