

Sydney Regional Rose News

Inside this issue

- ✿ One in a line of tree rose bushes has died. Why is it so?
- ✿ Read about the 'Lady of Australia' Rose
- ✿ Mulch – the soil's friend
- ✿ Repotting roses
- ✿ Christmas meeting arrangements
- ✿ Roses & pH



Monthly meetings are held on the first Friday of each month starting at 8 p.m. at the Newington Community Centre, Cnr Avenue of Europe & Avenue of Asia Newington
Visitors are welcome

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Meeting nights

Friday, December 10, 2021 @ 7.30 p.m.

at the Newington Community Centre

Friday, 14 January 2022 @ 7 p.m.

at Dooleys Bar and Grill Waterview, Silverwater

It is anticipated that these meetings will go ahead.

If in doubt, please check with Jacqueline on 9872 1862

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(Closing date for contributions is
Monthly Committee meeting)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the final meeting for 2021.

The date was changed a couple of months ago to **10th December and starting at 7.30pm.** Only fully vaccinated members and partners will be permitted to enter the hall. Again, the reason for the date change is owing to the Council Elections being held the first weekend of December.

The **sit down meal with start at 7.45pm** consisting of fish and chips supplied from a hot food shop across from the hall. Food will be served to you at the table. Dessert can be brought from home but it will be served rather than smorgasbord style. Current Covid restrictions do not allow walking around with food, this may change by 10th December. Masks can be taken off while eating.

If you are attending please let me know on 9872 1862 or jacketweedie@hotmail.com so enough food is ordered. Tea and coffee will be supplied as usual. Covid restrictions will be observed.

Members are invited to join in the 'Vase of Roses Judged by Popular Vote'. Please see the full explanation in this magazine.

The monthly show bench will be set-up for the December meeting in addition to the special class listed above. There will be Xmas cakes for sale each \$15 made by

Robyn, the same as last year.

On 11th November a rose planting ceremony took place at Government House, Canberra by Mrs. Linda Hurley, wife of the Governor General, General David Hurley, AC, DSC, FTSE. Some photos are included.

It was decided at the November meeting to hold the usual **raffle of 1st prize - Ham on the Bone, 2nd prize - a Christmas Fruit cake. Tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5.**

If you enjoy a happy quiz then this year's Rose Quiz should not disappoint. Please do not take this quiz too seriously, prompting is usually allowed. General knowledge is all that is needed. Winner receives a gift.

Our two annual awards will be presented after the meal. Greg and Robyn East won the Annual Show bench Award and Ailsa Wareham won the Eva Louise Trophy.

To start the New Year we have planned to meet **on Friday 14th January 2022 for a get together.** The time is 7pm.

Venue DOOLEYS BAR AND GRILL WATERVIEW at

Silverwater offers meals in pleasant surroundings. See directions in this magazine. I will need to know you are going to attend as a table or two will need to be booked in advance. Some Sydney members belong to this club and are regular visitors.

Please feel free to ask any questions concerning your roses at any meeting, just because we are not having the usual type of meeting, is no reason to go home not knowing an answer to your problem.

On February 4th 2022 we will be meeting at our usual venue, the Newington Community Centre starting at 8pm. Hopefully we will be able to hold a problem solving evening or a daytime meeting.

Your Summer pruning/trimming should happen after the February meeting, so you may want some guidance on what is meant by Summer pruning.

If you are not at our December meeting, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jacqueline

VASE OF ROSES JUDGED BY POPULAR VOTE

Members are encouraged to bring along a vase of roses with rose foliage in a vase of any size or shape. They are then judged by all present. Members will use their own criteria of what they think should get a vote. The written votes are then tallied and the winner is presented with a prize. There is no stipulation on how many or what kind of roses are presented and in what kind of vase: large, tall or small.
NOTE: a florist "O" bowl with floral foam is not a vase.

FESTIVE TRADING TABLE

There will be home baked Christmas cakes for sale at the December meeting. The cost will be \$15.00 each. Do you have any handcraft suitable for the Festive Season you would like to sell? If so, just bring them along priced and a percentage can go towards our expenses.

ROSE QUIZ

Members are asked to bring along a pencil or biro to use on the quiz page supplied. A little humour is also needed as sometimes the funny/not considered right answer is the right one. Have you read

the Aust. Rose Annual 2021 or the NSW Rose quarterlies?

YOUR HELP IS STILL NEEDED

If you can offer your help and time then please contact the Secretary, Kerry Hurst and give her your details. The committee usually meets at Castle Hill on a Thursday evening six days after the monthly meeting.

Experience

Nothing in particular is needed except a willingness to work with a group of fellow members to make this Regional and the Society an outstanding success. New ideas are welcome and making a difference is important.

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION HIGHWAY

The web address is www.nsw.rose.org.au It has been designed to be interactive with anyone who locks on from anywhere. Member information about events, Rose Consultants, photos of various roses from around the State submitted by members. Log in, will be 'rmember'. The password is printed in each edition of the NSW Rose quarterly.

MONTHLY SHOW BENCH – 2021-2022

CUMULATIVE POINT SCORE 21-22			
	JULY 2021/JUNE 2022 Classes 1-10	NOVICE ONLY Class 11	EVA LOUISE TROPHY Class 12
Ailsa Wareham			6.00
July, August, September, and October meetings cancelled.			
Our monthly meetings are a good place to learn about preparing and putting blooms onto the show bench. If you get the bush growing correctly blooms always follow.			
<i>FLORAL ART</i> - no entries			
<i>BEGINNERS OR NOVICES</i>			
Class 11 is expressly for Novices. You are invited to place <u>one stem or cut of any rose variety</u> in this class. A cut carries one bloom and bud / buds or more than one bloom with or without side buds. A stem has one developed flower, i.e. no bud or flower has been removed to encourage growth in the remaining bloom. Any new member can enter into this class.			

EXTRA CLASS

Any potted plant in a pot up to 30cms (12”) diameter.

Where is your competitive spirit?

The above class of a potted plant operates all year round.

FLORAL ART – FEBRUARY 2022

BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS WITH PERFUME

roses only to be used, any embellishments.

Most Roses come with the above benefits and should be in ample supply. Although in Floral Art you do not necessarily have to have grown the flower or foliage used in arrangements. You have the choice of any kind of design, free flowing multiple blooms, Modern, using minimum materials or a simple bowl of roses.

You must use more than one bloom, but it could be a floribunda stem with multiple blooms with some perfume. The word ‘perfume’ - means a different thing to everyone who smells a rose. How strong do you want the smell to be? Any hint of perfume is okay for this title.

*DOOLEYS BAR AND GRILL WATER VIEW
FRIDAY, 14 JANUARY 2022
7PM*

At this stage non-members are welcome into the club as long as they are fully vaccinated. The menu changes with the seasons. Prices are a bit dearer than Carlingford Bowling Club although the menu is a different style of food and can be checked on line.

Directions: The club is on the corner of Silverwater Rd and Clyde St, Silverwater, you could pass it on the way to our meeting venue.

If coming from Parramatta Rd or off the M4 you will turn left into Clyde St, at the traffic lights just

before the Silverwater Bridge. You will pass Holker St, which are the set of traffic lights before Clyde St.

If coming from Kissing Point Rd you will turn right at the traffic lights just after you cross the Silverwater Bridge. There is a right hand turn arrow. Ample parking is inside the club area.

Please contact Jacqueline on 9872 1862 or jackietweedie@hotmail.com if you are going to attend. Table booking is essential in the current restrictions, which may still apply in January.

*ONE IN A LINE OF TREE ROSE BUSHES HAS DIED
(written by the Editor and Jim Cunningham)*

A member has mentioned having a problem with one tree rose dying while the rest in the line keep healthy.

Occasionally, even roses placed in good locations (direct sunlight, air circulation, proper drainage, prepared soil), and reasonable maintenance may

have some problems. Time for a rose doctor.

Insect and animal damage is usually noticed by something MISSING, buds chewed, foliage skeletonized or distorted and animal damage.

Fungus and diseases are noticeable by something

ADDED, mildew white powder, reddish rust, various shaped spots or corky galls. Aerial damage must be identified, is it caterpillars or snail, mites or aphids, maybe thrips or beetles. Limbs torn or severed, is it rodents or rabbits twisted bites might be squirrels or possums, destructive pets.

Fungi usually favour weather conditions. Seasonal warmer days, cool nights equals powdery mildew, warm humid days equals blackspot, while cool wet weather favours other diseases.

Diseases are usually indicated by foliage colours (mosaic), stems purplish (canker), or knobs-like growth (gall). With a little attention and basic maintenance your roses can do a reasonable job fending for themselves. Some newer varieties are naturally resistant to fungal diseases. Glossy, waxy foliage offers more resistance than thin delicate foliage. Buy your roses only from reputable rose growing establishments.

Besides the above, a variety of other reasons have been offered such as: soil becoming dry, ant

infestation, curl grubs in the root area, roots are water logged, dieback or plant starved owing to incorrect ph. level.

Curl grubs can only be found once the plant is removed and the roots inspected.

It could also be from sunburn especially if the bark is split. This condition can be avoided by having the support stake on the north-west side of the stem and leaving as much foliage as possible to act as shade in the very hot days of summer. Keeping the summer pruning light, not like the winter pruning.

Keeping red spider mite and blackspot under control so the leaves stay healthy.

Soaking the ground area will encourage ants to find another home or immerse the potted rose into a bucket of water until saturated. Repeat. Ants will return if aphids are plentiful as ants live off the 'honey dew' secreted by the aphids.

Not enough humus is in the soil to retain moisture. Organic mulching or compost helps keep

the soil friable and helps retain moisture.

We are hopeful of arranging a meeting in February on a weekend where members can come along with any questions about the topic/s mentioned in this article. There are many different reasons why a rose will fail and we are hopeful of covering most reasons at the meeting. Are you interested? Your thoughts are welcome by contacting Jacqueline on 9872 1862 or email jackietweedie@hotmail.com

REPOTTING ROSES

Roses are usually repotted before the start of the hot weather. Have your plants been in those pots for a long period? What size pots? Normally members begin with a smaller pot as it does appear to be better not to have too much vacant soil, and then move up gradually to the ultimate size required for the mature plant as the roots fill the smaller one/s. Rather than empty the pot completely, the plant with the root ball may be removed carefully every 2 or 3 years and

the bottom 2 - 5cm of soil and matted roots sliced off with a large carving knife or pruning saw. The sides may also be similarly trimmed if the roots go all the way to the sides too. Mix 5cm of good potting mix, with added peat, blood and bone, (or Seamungus) and water saving crystals, and place into the bottom of the pot before the plant is replaced and then the sides are filled. Water well. Always leave some space at the top of the pot for water. If a pot dries out, it should be rehydrated by immersing in a tub or bucket of water.

"Annuals" mean disappointment once a year.

Your lawn is always slightly bigger than your desire to mow it.

Whichever garden tool you want is always at the back of the shed.

The only way to ensure rain, is to give the garden a good soaking.

Weeds grow at precisely the rate you pull them out.

Nothing ever looks like it does on the seed packet.

Autumn follows summer, winter follows autumn, drought follows planting.

The only way to guarantee some colour all year round is to buy a garden gnome.

However bare the lawn, grass will appear in the cracks between the patio paving stones.

Evergreens go a funny shade of brown in the winter.

'LADY OF AUSTRALIA' ROSE

This rose bred by Bruce Brundrett was officially planted on 11th November, 2021 at Government House in Canberra to represent all the Governors General wives who have made their contributions to Australia.

This floribunda rose has won many awards including:

- Gold Medal from the National Trial Gardens in Adelaide in 2018.
- Best floribunda rose
- Best Australian bred rose
- The most disease tolerant rose.



*Mrs Linda Hurley (far right),
Bruce Brundrett and his daughter..
Photo by Robyn East*



*'Lady of Australia'
Photo by Robyn East*

Bush (bare rooted) \$29.95 from Wagners in 2022

Lady of Australia is a unique floribunda rose has a classic-shape bright yellow flower, showing ruffled petals when fully opened, fading to lighter yellow/cream on the outer side and revealing beautiful yellow stamens. The plant is healthy and highly disease resistant, very free flowering with dark green foliage.

Fragrant. Height: 120cm - Width: 100cm

\$2 from the sale of each rose will be donated to Australian War Widows Inc, providing support and advocacy for all war widows from all conflicts. www.warwidows.org.au

CULTURAL NOTES

(with help from earlier compiled articles)

Predicting weather is fraught with angst but these notes will try to have a bet each way. Long range weather forecasting has it being wetter than usual, but....

Plants use water rapidly on hot, windy, dry days so if severe heat is forecast give plants a deep watering a few days before to build up water reserves in the plant. Dehydration in hotter months is caused by roots staying close to the surface as a result of shallow watering. If the plant is dehydrated it will be incapable of absorbing any nourishment.

Keeping good leaf coverage will help your bushes survive a very hot period, and it will also protect the stems from being sunburnt from hot sun exposure.

Overhead watering in the late afternoon can cause conditions suitable for a fungal attack. If you use a dripper watering system you will have no problems with wet foliage.

Should rain and hot humid weather be experienced use a fungicide to control blackspot which thrives in these conditions. **Blackspot usually starts on the lowest leaves and creeps up the bush.** Blackspot will die in very hot dry conditions especially if the temperature is above 35°C for 4 hours in a day, but the signs of damage will remain.

New roses need regular water in their first summer to encourage a deep root system. Pots will need watering each day during hot weather. Fertilizer is not as important as water to keep your plants happy. The suggested rate for fertilizer is a match box full or a small hand full each month around the drip line of each bush. Always water before applying fertilizer and water well after the application. **Deep watering early in the day will carry the fertilizer to the root zone** where it is taken in by the plant and a good cover of mulch will help keep moisture in your garden beds.

It was suggested in an earlier edition to snap off the first crop of buds on newly planted roses to allow the bush to establish and gain a good covering of leaves. You may have found this a hard choice, removing that first crop of flowers.

Continue to mulch your garden beds to help retain moisture during the warmer months.

Any kind of mulch is better than none, although lucerne hay is considered the best by some rosarians for encouraging the right bacteria and worm action in the soil. Unlike inorganic mulches which only provide cosmetic benefits, organic mulches will provide nutrients, aerate and increase soil humus, discourage weeds and reduce moisture evaporation. Mulches protect the fine roots from the heat of summer and inhibit weed growth by denying them light.

If you are going on holiday at this time of year prepare your garden for survival. Make sure the mulch around each plant is a good 10cms thick, water heavily, remove spent blooms,

fertilize and, if necessary, spray the day before you leave.

Have you used some support sticks on those new long canes? New shoots will not appear from the scarred/damaged area where a growth has been torn away.

A problem associated with an aphid infestation is the sooty mould fungus that forms on the excess 'honeydew'. The sooty moulds in themselves are not harmful, but they can prevent light from getting to the leaves, which causes premature leaf fall and spoils the appearance of the plant. Ants feed on the 'honeydew', and their presence is usually the sign of an aphid infestation. Weekly examinations will help determine the need for control.

Red spider mite will remain a problem **in hot and dry summer weather**. You can spray water onto foliage during daylight hours on a very hot day, say 35°C plus as it can be very beneficial. Red spider mites do not appreciate getting wet so spraying underneath the leaves may help keep this pest at bay.

If in large number you will need to use a miticide to control them during their life cycle. It is suggested when cutting flowers or removing spent blooms to cut your stem leaving only 2 or 3 sets of leaflets (if possible) below the flower on the removed stem. Leaving more foliage on the bush helps with the production of plant sugars, which keeps the bush growing, therefore more blooms will be produced.

Welcome though it may be, rain followed by hot humid weather can bring problems with botrytis on your blooms. You need to continue with your anti-fungal spraying routine. It has been predicted that we will have a wetter season than for the past few years. Botrytis is seen as 'grey mould' on young flower buds. On larger buds or opening flowers, mushy tan or grey spots may develop on the petals. Fighting botrytis can be further helped by removing the effected bud or bloom.

Continue with fungal spraying early in the morning, this will allow foliage drying before it might be scorched by the sun.

PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE is what some rosarians have as their motto.

MULCHING SOIL'S FRIEND

Numerous forms of mulch are available and can be both organic and inorganic. Everything from wood chips to any farm manures, hay, straw, grass clippings, deciduous leaves and the list goes on.

For rosarians the organic form works wonders. Unlike inorganic mulches which only provide cosmetic benefits, organic mulches will provide nutrients, aerate and increase soil humus, discourage weeds and reduce moisture evaporation.

In addition to conserving moisture, mulch acts as a blanket against our hot summers by keeping the soil 5-15 degrees cooler than in a bed without mulch. Mulch compensates good soil preparation but no mulch will compensate for poor soil. Soil is what your roses stand in; it's what's in the soil that makes them flourish. Ideal

application is at least 5cm mulch depth. Do not place mulch up close to the bud union.

Mulches protect the fine roots from the heat of summer and inhibit weed growth by denying them light.

Good gardeners will have a backyard composting enclosure. A compost heap can convert our waste into a good fertilizer and soil improver. Anything that has lived can be composted. Newspaper, cardboard, grass clippings, fruit and vegetable peels, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds are some of the

items which can be composted. Do not put meat and dairy products into the compost heaps, as they may attract vermin.

Composting is an excellent way of supplying high quality material inexpensively. Earthworms are attracted to compost; they will perform their beneficial task feeding and aerating the soil through nutritious excrement. It is worth mentioning mulching will not completely eliminate the need for fertilizer. It will benefit soil activity, and supplement the feeding program.

ROSES AND PH – by Richard Walsh

The issue of pH recently became an issue for me and so I set out to do some research on the matter to support my many years of experience. pH is the measure of acidity or alkalinity in the soil and ranges from 0 to 14, with 0 being the most acidic, 14 being the most alkaline and 7 being neutral. I have always considered it an important issue for the serious gardener.

All my research has indicated that roses perform better in

slightly acidic conditions. I emailed an overseas expert and looked both on the internet as well as in about 20 books written by the world's foremost authorities on roses (not just soil scientists). Some were fairly non-committal, only indicating that roses are "tolerant" of a range of soils, some suggesting from 5.5 to 7.5, but those who actually recommend a preferred range seem to suggest slightly acidic, 6.5 to 7, 6 to 6.5 or even 6 to 7. The

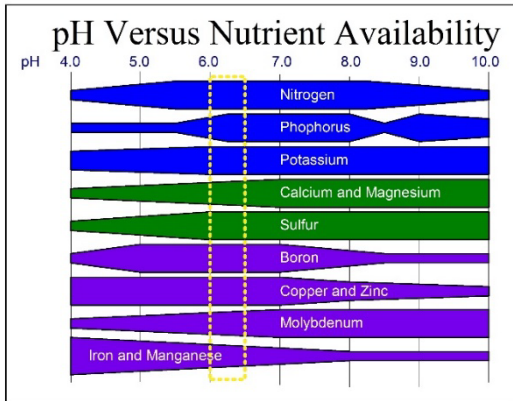
consensus was that 6.5 is the ideal pH, with above 7 and below 6 becoming a problem.

One of these, Dean Ross, wrote in his book, *The Ross Guide to Rose Growing* (Lothian 1991): “Roses grow best in full sun, in a temperate climate, fairly well in the open, away from other robbing plants, in a soil that is sandy loam to clay loam with a pH of 6 to 7. You are fortunate indeed if you have such conditions, but do not be too worried if you do not. Small adjustments to your planning and routine will probably allow your roses to succeed regardless of their imperfect environment. As I have already said, roses are very hardy and easy to grow. If the conditions are less than ideal, you may have to accept something less than top performance, or you may have to be prepared to do a little extra to offset the particular problems.” It needs to be noted here that Dean grew roses in South Australia and propagated them on Dr Huey understock, which is reputedly more tolerant of a higher pH than others.

What is the significance of pH? Is it all that important? The significance is that the plant is only as good as the soil in which

it is growing, so yes, it is that important. All books talk about how important preparing for planting is as well as the maintenance after planting and what to do when replacing a rose. Maintenance after planting includes checking pH as well as such other things as pruning and deadheading, spraying, feeding, watering and mulching. Having all required nutrients in the soil does not necessarily mean they will be available to the plant. I have attached two charts, courtesy of Dr Tommy Cairns, that show how pH can impact on nutrient availability. On one chart, the ideal range indicated is 6 to 6.5, while on the later one 6.3 to 6.8 is indicated as best for overall nutrient availability.

When the pH is lower than the indicated range, the important nutrients are still available, but when the range is too high, there is a significant loss of iron and manganese. While there is little phosphorous, calcium and magnesium available at the lower end, they have less impact on performance than the loss of iron and manganese at the top. It would appear that the ideal is 6.5 for optimum performance.



Magnesium is a key element of chlorophyll, and is present in most soils in adequate quantities. Deficiency is marked by yellowing between veins of the old leaves; its absence is often accompanied by Iron deficiency, which is evident by pale young leaves (the new growth). The deficiency of these nutrients does not necessarily mean there is none in the soil; it may simply be an indication that the pH is too high to absorb iron, which is needed in the metabolism of chlorophyll. Phosphorous stimulates root growth and is needed by plants before leaf-growth is apparent. It is not needed by roses in great quantities.

When roses appear chlorotic (or display pale or yellow leaves), the first thing to do is check the pH before you try to correct the

deficiency causing it. If the pH is too low, the use of dolomite can correct the condition (unlikely in the Adelaide area) and if too high, sulphur. It may also be noted that in an area which has a tendency to alkaline soils, the use of appropriate mulches can often help, ones which tend to produce an acidic condition.

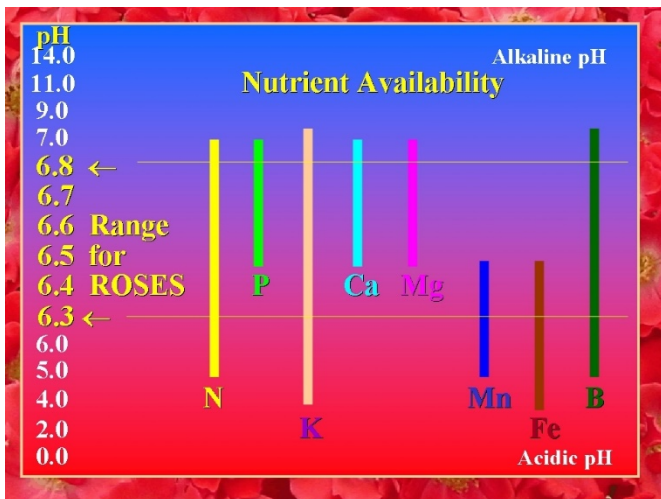
Once this has been fixed, magnesium sulphate (Epsom Salts) may be used to correct a magnesium deficiency, and iron sulphate an iron deficiency. If the young leaves are small and pale green, there may be a nitrogen deficiency, which can be corrected by urea, although this is unlikely to be pH-related. These may be watered in or sprayed on the foliage.

However, these measures are only needed if there is a problem, which will manifest itself often in an obvious way. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." In other words, if the plant looks healthy and is performing well, leave it alone, but if poor performance or unhealthy looking leaves appear, first check the pH and then correct any deficiencies if not ideal. If the pH is suitable, it

could be that the use of a complete fertiliser designed specifically for roses is needed and that the problem is lack of nutrients in the soil for the plant.

In conclusion, for healthy, top performing roses, healthy soil and good growing conditions are needed. Do not try to fix the problem before investigating the source thoroughly. Particularly those who exhibit roses will want the best growing conditions

possible, although if you are not striving for perfection, you may settle for something less than ideal that may still satisfy your needs.



Footnote by Dr Tommy Cairns

As given to Richard Walsh

At some point in learning just how to grow better roses you will hear mention of the physical chemistry term commonly known as 'pH'. In attempting to explain this awkward function to the average home gardener, most writers lose their audience because of expressions that are too technical and beyond practical comprehension. Because pH has a highly scientific

meaning, it does not infer that the term cannot be successfully explained to be of diagnostic value to rose growers. Simply stated, the term pH refers to the acidity or alkalinity of such substances as lemon juice, orange juice, milk, water, soaps, hand cream, etc. The pH scale runs from 0 up to a value of 14 with the value of 7 being considered neutral, and anything below 7

termed acidic and anything above 7 alkaline. Now while your taste buds can differentiate lemon juice (pH = 3) from orange juice (pH = 4) from milk (pH = 6) from water (pH = 7) from soap solution (pH = 9), you cannot place a numerical value for the substance but you are able to differentiate acid tasting liquids from neutral to alkaline.

The pH term was invented to quantify that experience in more scientific terms - 'the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen ion concentration in moles per liter'. And yet TV commercials advertising shampoos and deodorants have adopted the term 'neutral pH' to help convince the buyer of the non-damaging nature of the product for sale. Just like the Richter Scale developed for earthquake strengths, a solution with pH=5 means that it is ten times more acidic a solution with pH = 6.

However, it is the relevance to soil chemistry that has stirred up the recent flurry of activity on its exact measurement. Why attach such importance to this pH. Roses should have a soil pH value of about 6.0 to 7.0 (i.e. slightly acidic) to ensure that all the nutrients necessary for strong

healthy growth are available to the plant. This is where soil chemistry has a profound influence on the vigor and productivity of a rose bush.

If the soil is too acidic (pH less than 5.5), then no amount of fertilization (usually acidic in nature) will help decrease the soil acidity (i.e. increase pH to say 6.5) to correct the basic fact that the root system cannot take the requirement nutrients since they are not in an available form for transmission to the root system.

For instance, a common condition called 'chlorosis' (greenish yellow leaves due to poor chlorophyll development) can be found in some rose plants where a high pH (above 7.5) can result in an iron deficiency from formation of insoluble iron compounds. Conversely, if the soil is too acidic (pH = 4), then the bacteria responsible for fixing atmospheric nitrogen and help rot plant residues are often eliminated or slowed down in their necessary activities. At pH values below 6.0 the availability of elements essential (primary, secondary and trace) for growth is greatly reduced.

This reduction is due to the elements in question becoming

insoluble in water and hence not available for intake through the root system. At pH values below 6.0, the primary elements for growth (namely Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium) are no longer 100% available. In fact at pH = 4 they become completely non-available and the plant will likely die. Therefore the concern about soil pH levels is warranted in that in spite of regular fertilization, the plant can suffer malnutrition because of too low a pH level, i.e. too acidic.

In a similar manner the availability of secondary and trace minerals are influenced by pH also. Iron is the only element that increases its availability at low pH levels. Therefore, it has been declared that for rose horticulture the optimum pH range should be 6.0 to 7.0. Keeping the soil pH within this range will ensure the best possible growth conditions and economic use of applied fertilizers. Rather than dwell on the chemistry involved in restoring the soil to the recommended pH range, the treatment is simple. The soil needs to be made alkaline or less acidic. An application of 'lime' is the most economical method.

The term 'lime' refers specifically to calcium oxide. Liming can significantly improve the performance of rose bushes grown in soil that is too acidic for efficient nutrient transfer.

About two cups per bush for each 0.5 pH unit change desired should be an average value. The pH change takes some length of time to accomplish (about 4-6 weeks) and you should re-test the sites about eight weeks later.

SOIL TESTER

Do you have the means to easily test the PH level in your rose garden?. We have a PH soil test meter. Just push it into moist soil wait a few minutes and the answer appears on a dial at the top of the unit. If and when you borrow the unit you will be expected to return it in good condition. If it is lost, broken or damaged while in your possession you will be held responsible to replace the unit. A register to record each member as they borrow the tester will be kept and the borrower will need to return the tester to the Chairman at her home or at the following monthly Friday meeting.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

COMING EVENTS

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE & TIME

December Meeting – 10.12.21

Newington Community Centre 7.30 p.m.

Fish pieces & chips served 7.45 p.m.

Please confirm you are coming

Topics – Rose Quiz, presentation of Annual awards, Winner of Vase of Roses by popular vote

Raffle

1st prize – Ham on the bone

2nd prize – Fruit cake

Dec. Committee Meeting – none

January Meeting – 14.01.22

Dooleys Bar & Grill Waterview

Silverwater

(directions in magazine)

Jan. Committee Meeting – 20.01.22

Castle Hill Vet Hospital 7.00 p.m.

February Meeting - 04.02.22

Newington Community Centre 8.00 p.m.

Topic – Summer pruning, Rose Doctor Meeting on problem solving

Raffle – TBA

Feb. Committee meeting – 10.02.22

Castle Hill Vet Hospital 7.00 p.m.

State Council AGM – 13.02.22

Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living
@ 10.00 a.m.

Judges meeting 9.00 a.m.

ROSE CONSULTANTS

The following members of the Rose Society of NSW Inc. are rose growers of both exhibition (show) & garden roses who have kindly agreed to make available to all members their expertise. If you have problems or questions about rose growing, contact the person listed as living closest to your garden.

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