



# UNSH Newsletter Edition 2019. 7

Celebrating  
Old &  
Modern  
Roses

The Rose Society of NSW: Upper North Shore & Hills Regional  
**Email:** [rsunshsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:rsunshsecretary@gmail.com) **Phone:** 9653 2202 (9am - 7 pm)

**Facebook:** UNSH Rose Regional

UNSH meets on **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** of each month in 2018.

**Meeting time:** 2 pm (Autumn and Winter) PLEASE ARRIVE 15 minutes earlier to 'Sign On';  
buy raffle tickets

**Chair:** Kate Stanley

**Assistant Chair:** David Smith

**Treasurer:** Judy Satchell

**Secretary:** Paul Stanley

**Next UNSH Meeting :** Sunday **18<sup>th</sup>** August 2019 at **1.45** for 2 pm start

Galston Community Centre, 37 Arcadia Rd, Galston

**Speaker:** **Glennis Clark from Heritage Roses.**

- UNSH AGM
- August Show Bench & final Annual Show Bench Presentations (3<sup>rd</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> place)

Exhibitors from 1 pm on. Judging 2 pm sharp. No late entries.

Raffle. Afternoon tea.



Glennis will be presenting a powerpoint on 'Old Garden Roses', 'Found' roses, how to prune old roses, how unknown found roses are named and identified.

**HERITAGE  
ROSES  
IN AUSTRALIA**

**Glennis Clark is the Sydney Regional Co Ordinator of HRIA**



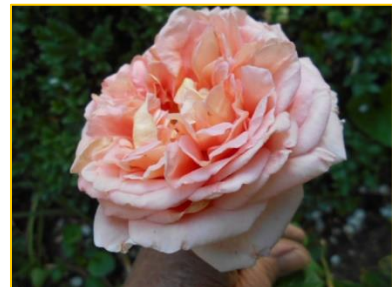
R.banksiae lutescens

Photo: Victoria State  
Gardens



Rose of the Master School, Coquereau,  
1831

Photo: Monique Farda



Monsieur Tillier

Photo: Kate Stanley

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**NEW  
MEMBERS  
See page 13-  
17**

## Dates 2019

Day	Month	Time	Venue	UNSH meeting	Benching
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	September	2 pm <b>Members to bring perfumed roses</b>	"Birchgrove"	Spring Neutrog collection Speaker Rosalie Vine	Benching
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	October	TBA	Macarthur Sustainability Centre, Campbelltown	State Exhibiting Workshop Details TBA	
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> - Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>October UNSH Workshop on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> on "How to display Old Garden Roses"</b>	UNSH Workshop run by Sue Kingsford at "Birchgrove" 11 am with Sausage sizzle lunch afterwards. <b>RSVP</b> "How to arrange Old Garden Roses and David Austin's for show" Materials provided. \$5 . All rose society members welcome.	Sydney Regional Rose Show (Sat)and UNSH lunch; Macarthur Rose Show (Sun)	NO meeting	
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> <b>UNSH ROSE SHOW</b>	November <b>UNSH ROSE SHOW</b>	<b>WHOLE DAY UNSH ROSE SHOW</b>	Galston Community Centre	NO meeting <b>UNSH ROSE SHOW</b> Presentation by Mr Kelvin Trimper	Show Benching
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	December	4 pm	Galston Community Centre	Meeting Speaker: TBA	Benching

# Congratulations . . .



*Judy Satchell*

*Trish Piper*

The winner of the UNSH Perpetual Cup for Annual Point Score 2018-2019 was UNSH Treasurer, Judy Satchell. This was the second year in a row that Judy has been awarded this cup. She also received a personal engraved cup to keep as a memento. Judy benches prolifically throughout the year at UNSH Regional meetings. She enters nearly every class including Floral Design. Judy also entered Sydney Rose Show and Hawkesbury Show. Judy now moves up into the UNSH Show Bench Advanced class, which will enable others to strive for the UNSH Perpetual Cup.

Second place was won by Trish Piper who won an individual memento cup. Trish has done outstandingly this year by doubling her point score. Trish also entered and won a prize at the Sydney Show. Trish, like Judy brings an amazing amount of exhibits to the monthly Show Bench, rose exhibits, floral design and vegetable/fruit exhibits on the 'Off' season. Trish spends time preparing her exhibits with platters, baskets and other permitted inclusions.

If UNSHkins enter rose shows, they are gifted a small item to add to their staging kit box after that particular show. Both of these winners were presented their cups by Assistant Chair, David Smith at the recent 'Christmas in July'.

Exhibiting at the Monthly Show Bench is enjoyed by members, who can see the stunning roses and floral design. Third prize is an engraved glass vase and will be presented at the August meeting with 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> place getters. The point score system is at the end of each Newsletter. Individual certificates are given to place winners.

Snaps of...

# 'Christmas in July'

Geranium Cottage

Glenorie



Victoria, Susan, Tara, Richard

Ruth & Veronica



Raffle winners:

Margaret, Sarina and Jill

Speaker: Veronica O'Brien & Tara

Tara

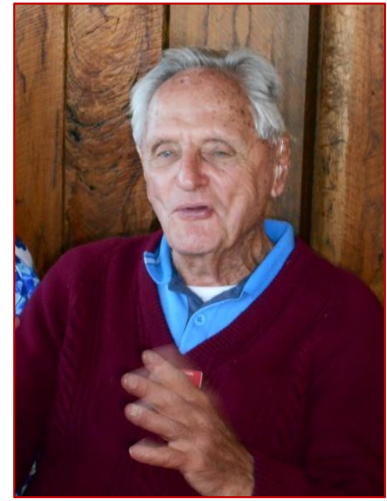




New members Maree & Jill with  
UNSH Secretary, Paul.



Above left: Angela &  
Brigitte (Green E  
Roses)  
  
Left: Richard Walsh  
introducing Veronica.



UNSH Treasurer, Judy & Asst Chair, David & Mal

One of UNSH's original members, John



Left: Angela  
Right: Paul & Sarina

## STATE MEETINGS

The Rose Society of NSW has 4 meetings per year. The first one is at a changeable location (It was at UNSH in February). The last one is the State AGM. They are held at the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, Lot 1 Mt Annan Drive, Mt Annan (about 1 hr from Galston) with an 11 am prompt start.

All regional members are welcome to attend. Each regional has 3 delegates (and 3 alternative delegates) that are able to speak and vote at the meetings.

The next meeting is on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> August and then Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> November. Paul and Kate will be attending the next meeting as State Delegates. UNSH has submitted their Show Grant request to State for this to be voted on at the August meeting. If you would like to attend, let UNSH know and we can help you with directions .



Top left: Joy, John, Sarina, Paul, Angela, Maureen, Margaret, Pam

Top centre: Trish & Graham

Left: Asst Chair, David, Kate (photo: Judy S.)

Right: Richard



*Thank you to the team at Geranium Cottage for going the extra mile!*

**'Observations of the science of Blackspot in roses'**  
**By John C. Gray, Brindabella Gardens, Toowoomba, Queensland**  
**Australian Rose Annual 2008**

**Reprinted with kind permission of the Editor at that time, Richard Walsh.**

'There has been little published in recent years on the science of blackspot in roses. This topic tends to be the subject of much folklore and mystery. The wider public often sees it as a great impediment to rose growing in the home garden. We as rose lovers, are able to guide home gardeners with factual information as we promote the rose as one of the great winners of the record drought in Eastern Australia. I will perhaps be controversial in some of the notes I am presenting, so a brief introduction of myself is necessary. I garden with 2600 roses in 4 acres of English style gardens at Toowoomba, Queensland. Our gardens are open to the public 4 days a week throughout the year, so the roses must look at their best. I hold an honours degree in agriculture and have been a farm adviser for Queensland Dept Primary Industries, although I prefer not to use scientific jargon. I have studied the science of blackspot over the past 13 years and made many observations in that time:

Blackspot in roses is a **fungus** that attacks only roses. It survives only on rose tissue locally and is transported on rose plants and leaves. The spores (seeds) of the fungus are found on leaves and very importantly in cracks and crevices around buds and branches on the stems and bark. The latter is the major reservoir for next season's infection. Picking off infected leaves during the season has a minor effect. Hard pruning annually, where at least 2/3rds of the stems and branches are removed is a major benefit and is possibly the best reason for annual pruning, although it does stimulate rejuvenation of crown reserves. This hard pruning takes away the spores that are hiding in the cracks that would otherwise supply the infection source the following season.

Symptoms of this fungal disease include the appearance of black spots which have **radiating fimbriate or fringed margins**. This fringed edge to the spots is a key diagnostic tool – any spots that don't have this character are other leaf spots or discolouration due to cold or insects. **Spores of blackspot move around by splashing with raindrops**. Wind movement seems only relevant if leaves carrying spores are blown. Splashing by raindrops can propel spores 1.5 m in the air upwards or sideways. If "clean" roses carrying no spores are planted in isolation and no infected rose leaves or branches are introduced, then they will stay clean of blackspot. There is an excellent example of this in a large bed of **Toowoomba's Rose** planted in Toowoomba City. Even though the roses have been unsprayed for 4 years, they have never had blackspot. They are in isolation with no roses near them but of course open to the wind. This rose is not immune and does show the disease here in our gardens when mixed with other roses, although its resistance is very high and it shrugs off the blackspot without sulking, producing flowers in great quantities. In fact, it is the vigour bred into this and most other modern floribundas that can offset the defoliation effects of the fungus. (They can lose large quantities of leaves without serious impact on flowering).

Continued...



Application of a **thick layer of mulch in early spring can provide a physical barrier** to spores on old leaves which remain on the ground through winter, and prevent splashing up onto new lower leaves. Of course it also assists in moisture retention and weed control. This can be a much more effective means of reducing the early onset of blackspot than trying to clean up every last leaf from last season.

Like other seeds, **blackspot spores must have water to germinate**; six hours of leaf wetness is about the minimum. This will usually happen at least monthly in rose growing areas. **Warm temperatures are also needed.** This is why areas with high summer rainfall have more blackspot. Toowoomba has heavy dew almost nightly – it is a blackspot haven. Yet we grow roses as well here as anywhere in the world. The same is true for Brisbane. Just look at New Farm Park right on the riverbank. Why? Because blackspot is controllable and as I say to people "it sometimes affects people more than it affects roses" when they see all the spots and worry too much.

The blackspot fungus, when it germinates from the spore sends out "runners" like roots which push through the surface into the leaf. **Entry to new leaves seems preferred.** Leaf surfaces harden in about five days after which penetration is more difficult. So when you go about protecting roses from blackspot, you really need to focus on new growth. The black spots that you see on leaves are dead leaf cells that result from the fungus infecting new leaves between one and six weeks before. This helps unravel why modern, high repeat flowering roses are perceived to be more susceptible to blackspot than old world roses. High repeat means more young shoots for the fungus to infect. My **Albertine** rose never gets blackspot, but it never flowers more than once a year either. Don't despair though – many modern repeat flowering roses carry good, useful levels of genetic resistance to blackspot.

After infecting the leaf, **the fungus causes the production of ethylene** which is a ripening agent. This in turn causes the leaf to yellow and drop off with spores attached and so the fungus has created a survival mechanism for itself. If you observe black spots on leaves, but no yellowing, then the fungus is probably under control from your spraying or it is something else. A good guide to the level of resistance in a variety is to observe the amount of leaf retention in mid to late summer. Better varieties will have a good quantity of leaves from the ground up with fewer spots and less yellowing.

Genetic blackspot resistance in roses is the key to the whole saga. Breeding and selection produces roses that resist the fungus. However, over time, this resistance can break down. My **Icebergs** and **Seductions** get terrible blackspot these days, when 10 or 20 or more years ago when they were released, they resisted it well. I know of only two repeat flowering rose varieties that are completely resistant to blackspot - David Austin's **The Mayflower** and the newly released **Brindabella Bouquet**. I have watched both of these varieties where they have been planted directly alongside badly spotting roses and they remain completely clean. I have observed that **The Mayflower** actually kills off the tissue at the point of infection, stopping its further progress – we see a small target spot with a dead centre. **Brindabella Bouquet** exhibits the same mechanism, but I also observe a very different leaf surface with this variety, very "slippery" looking. In fact two spotted mites also don't attack this variety as they can't seem to hang on. Nor does powdery mildew affect it as perhaps it cannot "hang on" either.

In summary, it is my observation that **hard pruning\***, at least, annually is a very important management tool in blackspot control. Adding a mulch layer in early Spring is well worthwhile. Further, seek to select resistant varieties. There are many, many rose varieties around that have well above average levels of blackspot resistance. There are probably more varieties around that have very poor levels of resistance. These latter plants suffer when the fungus pushes internally past the leaves into the stems whence flower production more than halves. Usually a single monthly spray of a fungicide will prevent this. More on the spraying strategies another time!

**\*UNSH Editor's note:** Hard pruning is suitable only for established Modern roses only (This doesn't include David Austin's)

## **'Observations on the science of Blackspot in roses' Part 2**

**By John Gray, Brindabella Country Gardens, Toowoomba**

**Australian Rose Annual 2009**

**Reprinted with kind permission of the Editor at that time, Richard Walsh.**

In Part 1, I recommended to the reader that the most positive control method for blackspot is to select vigorous, resistant varieties. My experience when using these varieties is, that they can continue to flower prolifically even when disease pressure is great, especially in areas where summers are hot and humid. The emphasis here is on flower production, which is of course the primary reason we are growing our roses. Once we attune our minds to whether we are getting lots of flowers, as opposed to worrying about blackspot on leaves, the issue is much simplified.

I have looked at control of blackspot with organic and inorganic sprays for over a decade in a very blackspot prone environment and reached a number of conclusions:

1. Most products "work" in that they will increase flower production on susceptible varieties,
2. No product will stop blackspot appearing on leaves altogether,
3. It is well worth using something to control blackspot if you are keen to have a good display of garden roses over the summer and autumn months.

In a trial I conducted on 300 mixed-variety rose bushes, where half were sprayed with a systemic fungicide and half were sprayed with milk powder solution at weekly intervals, flower production was increased over twofold with the systemic fungicide and leaf retention was much higher. A dramatic visual difference occurred.

Triforine is a widely used systemic fungicide for blackspot control of roses. There have been no substantiated reports of resistance with this product that I can find. In US trials it is more effective than Myclobutanil and my observations support this. Further, it (Triforine) seems to be only available as a premix with a non-specific insecticide which would remove all "friendly" insects that prey on the pests and this is to be avoided.

Systemic fungicides are absorbed by the leaves and usually remain active for up to a week, before degrading. Be aware that "systemic" means only that the fungicide is absorbed into the leaf and moved towards the leaf tip. There is no movement away from the tip, nor into the rose's sap stream, nor from top to bottom of the plant. Consequently, good coverage of all leaves remains important with this product. However, absorption into the leaf conveys a distinct advantage in that 2-4 hours after application systemic fungicides cannot be washed off by rain or overhead watering. Furthermore, systemic fungicides like Triforine can destroy blackspot infections that commenced up to 4 days prior to their application to rose plants. This is called 'reachback' and allows useful control of infections that occur during, or immediately after, showery weather. These are very useful tools.

Protectant fungicides form a barrier to blackspot spores on the leaf surface, either neutralising them or stopping them penetrating the leaf. Chlorothalonil has been shown time and again in trials all over the world as being the best of these products and indeed the best fungicide for blackspot control. It has better efficacy than Mancozeb. The reason for this is that apparently it sticks better to the leaf and stems and therefore lasts longer, so repeat spraying intervals can be over 10 days. This is the weakness of milk powder and many organic protectants. They degrade quickly or wash off so re-application is needed more frequently. Continued...

My goal with using fungicides is to improve flower quality and quantity. If I can have more leaves for longer, all the better. My conclusions after exhaustive trials, is to apply a systemic fungicide mixed with a protectant at least monthly during the growing season and certainly immediately after annual pruning. There are good reasons to apply a protectant before an impending rainfall event or a systemic if you are delayed from spraying by showery weather or other causes. These practices can dramatically increase the number of flowers produced, even on very susceptible varieties like **Double Delight** and **Burgundy Iceberg**. They will still have very few leaves without blackspot on them and defoliation is usual. On very resistant varieties like **Brindabella Bouquet**, **Golden Iceberg** and **Brindabella Blaze**, flower production will be very high and good foliage levels will be retained right through the growing season.

The method of application of fungicides to roses is a very important aspect of gaining good results. I have found a number of key techniques that assist greatly:

1. Always apply to dry leaves after dew has dried,
2. Adjust the applicator nozzle to medium size droplet – not a superfine mist nor a strong jet,
3. Apply to wet all leaves without having run-off,
4. Apply when there is a full 2 hours before the leaves will be affected by rain or dew,
5. Always wear appropriate protective clothing.

Modern fungicides are extensively tested for human safety. Many have been required to be re-tested as new techniques for determining suitability and safety are discovered. I have been careful to mention only those products that have been through these tests so that readers can be confident in using them.

If you follow these simple suggestions you can look forward to minimal blackspot with good leaf retention and profuse flowering.'



## What is the Pooh Bah Club?

This is the advertising arm of Neutrog Fertilisers. You can join for FREE if you would like regular updates on NEW products.

UNSH is gathering a Pooh Bah Club list to send to Neutrog.

Your full name, suburb and post code, email address is all they require. You can turn it off at any time.

Reply to UNSH if you say "YES" to be in the Pooh Bah Club.

# August Schedule...

UNSH provides bikini vases which are green plastic two part containers.

Class Name	Details	To be shown in...	Details
Class 1	One cut single rose	Bikini vase	
Class 2	One cut cluster rose	Bikini vase	
Class 3	One 'Old Garden rose'	Bikini vase	Rose 75 years and older
Class 4	Float bowl David Austin rose	Own -glass preferable China permitted	1-3 blooms
Class 5	Camellia japonica- one bloom with 2 leaves	Own mug/cup/container- not to dominate (Plastic spray can lid can be used)	Shown in a cup of water (not floating)
Class 6	Vase of garden flowers	Own vase	
Class 7	Flowers in an egg cup	Own egg cup	Use oasis
Class 8	3 cuts foliage	Bikini vase	
Class 9	Photo of own rose	Shown in a frame. Min. A5 (1/2 A4)	Photo to be taken this year
Class 10 Miscellaneous	One cut of flower not mentioned on the Schedule already.	Bikini vase	

# Guidelines for Exhibitors

If you do not know the name of the flower write 'Unknown' (put colour, description in register)

- All flowers & foliage & photo of/from your own garden.
- Cut your flowers first thing in the morning. Cutting them midday or late will cause them to wilt.
- Take a bucket of water to the flower and place it immediately in water.
- When you go inside, recut stem under water and place in a cool spot. (ie not near the fire or hot air conditioning)
- Transport flower to Show Bench in water. Car cup holder or in a box on the floor with a towel to steady container.
- Arrive 30-45 mins before meeting.
- Sign Exhibitor's Register with your name and the class you are entering.
- You will then get your Exhibitor number (to use instead of your name for anonymity)
- Using the slip provided, put your exhibitor number on one side (side not showing). The name of flower if known on the other side.(Showing eg 'Gold Bunny')
- Clip slip onto exhibit with provided paperclips preferably.
- **Entries NOT in the Exhibitor's Register WILL NOT be eligible for place card.**
- Exhibitor's Register example

#1 Trish Piper      Class 1 'Kardinal'  
    Class 2 "Queen Elizabeth"  
 #2 Sandy Crompton    Class 9 'Angel Face'

You may enter as many times as you like in the same class -ENSURE you have written in the Register though.

## Information for new members

Chair: Kate Stanley

Assistant Chair: David Smith

Treasurer: Judy Satchell

Secretary: Paul Stanley

Welfare: Trish Piper

Committee Members: Celia Craig, Judy Satchell, David Smith.

2018 Neutrog rep: David Smith

Newsletter & Membership Secretary: Kate Stanley

Chief Steward: Paul Stanley

Delegates to State Council: Kate Stanley; David Smith; Rosie Ceruti.

Reserve Delegates: Paul Stanley; Ruth Walsh

2019 Spring Show: Show Secretary-Kate Stanley

Website: www.nsw.rose.org.au

Find top left-hand corner "log in" double click

This information is confidential, for members only

Username: **r member (no space-just for printing)**

Password: The member password

Click "sign in"

**The new password is 'Fire Fighter' as of June edition of The Rose.**



### Rose Advisors to UNSH

Klaus and Brigitte  
Eckardt

from Green E Roses  
(listening to Graham  
Ross at the Inaugural  
meeting May, 2017)

**Members' Pick** This is a new award started at the August meeting. Each UNSH member can have ONE vote. Use counters provided. Place next to your favourite exhibit for the meeting. It could be on the Show Bench or Display.

**Show Bench** A schedule is published each month for the upcoming meeting. This will outline what classes are included. During the "off season-winter months for roses" horticultural classes and other garden flowers are included. This gives member's practise in exhibiting. Floral Design (ONLY) classes can use purchased flowers, if desired. Places are given a point score, which accumulates in July. For 2018-2019 each exhibit will receive 1 point for entering Monthly Show Bench.

Judge's Pick: 20 points  
First: 10 points  
Second: 5 points  
Third: 3 points

Entries into Rose Shows are –

Champion: 50 points  
First: 30 points  
Second: 20 points  
Third: 10 points

### Instructions to Exhibitors.

- Arrive 15-20 mins earlier than meeting start to stage exhibit/s. You are welcome to prepare your Floral Design in the hall. Paul and Kate are there 1 hr before meeting setting up.
- Sign the Exhibition Register. With your name and exhibits. You will use the register number to put on Benching Slips. This makes you anonymous to judge. Eg. # 5
- Using green bikini vases (unless specified) and place your exhibit in the right class. There is water available. Bring newspaper or paper towel to put in the vase to secure bloom. You want the bloom to be 'looking at judges'
- Write out benching slip (you can prepare these at home). One side will be for the benching number. (which you will need to add ) and the other side is the name of rose if known. Slip this under the base of the vase. There are benching slips available.
- Please clean up any water spilled/ foliage.
- Collect your exhibit at the end of the meeting.
- The judge will put a sticker on place getters. Blue-first; red-second; Green/Yellow-third) You will receive an UNSH prize slip in the post. They are collated with point scores till July meeting.

**UNSH kins** are \$5 to raise money for UNSH. Our new little mascot!  
Put your order on sign on sheet – state whether you would like yellow or red.



**UNSH** name badges also available. \$10 each.  
You can order through email or at the meeting.  
If possible please pay when ordering. Badges will be available at next meeting.

### Upper North Shore & Hills Regional Signature Roses

Each region has its own special signature rose. Our regional group has adopted TWO roses.  
One modern and one old to signify the importance of both to rose lovers.



The first is Hybrid Tea , **Rosa 'Kardinal'**. We chose this to signify where the group was set up-ie "Birchgrove", where there is a climbing Kardinal on the barn. It is a sturdy rose throwing long canes. Unlike other

roses that are prone to wilting when benching, it hold its petals and its majestic shape. The velvety petals makes one wonder whether it is the inspiration for the material velvet.

#### **Old World Climber, Rosa 'Sombreuil' (1850)**

A charming and refined climber. Flat, quartered, creamy white rosettes tinged with pink.  
Delicious tea scent. Repeats well.

### Tips for Benching.

1. Pick flowers in the morning and hydrate well.
2. Remove any insects/webbing. Check under leaves
3. Presentation is key. The rose should be looking at the judge.
4. Use paper towel or newspaper in vase to angle bloom.
5. Wipe or rinse rose foliage carefully.
6. Floral design should be done in the round. ie to be viewed at any angle.

### **From Judges' Handbook...**

**“Stem”**-a stem is defined as an original new growth which carries ONE bloom or ONE bud and has received NO check from pinching, stopping or pruning from the time of starting into growth to flowering. Disbudding is not regarded as a check to growth under this definition. The stem should be proportionate in thickness and length to the size of the bloom it supports.

**“Cut”**- A cut is similar to a stem (original new growth) that carries MORE than one bloom. And/ or bud or buds.

### When you arrive to bench...

- Always arrive 15-20 mins before start of meeting to arrange exhibits.
- There will be a preparation table for you. Ensure you clean up your own cuttings. There is a large garbage bin available. Good idea to bring a disposable bag or newspaper to wrap up refuse.
- Have pre written white paper rectangular tags. (6 X 3 cm) The name of your rose should be on one side / your exhibitor number on the other. There are tags available. CONTINUED
- Your exhibitor number is from the Exhibitor Register- as you arrive list your entries (and names of roses) on the Register. Your Exhibitor number is determined as you arrive. Continued...
- The Showbench will be judged during notices at the beginning of the meeting.
- The Judges Pick will then be announced. Certificated will be presented at the next meeting or posted.
- Members can view the Show Bench during afternoon tea. The Judge will be available then to answer any inquiries.
- Places are given a point score which accumulates for the July meeting.
- First 10 points; Second 5 points; Third 3 points. Judges Pick 20 points.
- Entries into Rose Shows are Champion 50 points; First 30 points; Second 20 points; Third 10 points.

## Rose Pruning

- D **Dead** remove any dead stems (brown), foliage, blooms.
- D **Dying** remove any sickly growth.
- D **Diseased** remove any growth that has been attacked by insects and fungus.
- D **Damaged** remove any damaged (bruised or crushed) or crossing over stems
- D **Diddly bits** remove these weak, inefficient stems, only in winter.

1. The two types of roses that benefit from this hard winter prune are Hybrid Teas and Floribundas. This will promote flowering.

2. Old Garden Roses, Polyanthas and David Austin Roses should NOT have a hard winter prune. David Austin himself advocates this. They should be maintained with the mnemonic "D". Clearly if there is a rose stem that is in the way of a path for example, trim off. But these roses do not like the hard prune and will either not perform, sulk or often die.

3. Young rose plants of any sort (2-3 yrs or younger) should NOT be hard pruned as they have not established their root system nor established themselves. (This is so important with the intense hot summers we are experiencing.)

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### FEATURE ARTICLE

### Black Spot in roses

#### What causes my roses to get Black Spot?

1. Some rose varieties are more susceptible than others, such as roses that have yellow in their genetics. Graham Ross
2. Tends to occur in hot, humid conditions.
3. Caused by a fungus called *Diplocarpon rosae*.
4. Water staying on rose leaves for 6-7 hours
5. Stressed roses are more susceptible to Black Spot. This may be due to adverse weather conditions such as severe heat; inadequate water; inadequate food. The Rose Society recommends Neutrog's Organic Products for Roses. **Sudden Impact for Roses** applied 6 weekly over Spring, Summer and the first half of Autumn will nourish your roses. Then you can use **Seamungus** during the Winter when most roses are dormant. Remember to always water soil first before applying fertiliser and afterwards. This way the rose will be more readily able to uptake the nutrients. Also 'burn' can occur on the rose if this process is neglected.

#### Do I need to do anything about Black Spot on my roses?

1. Apart from being unsightly, Black Spot seriously weakens the rose.
2. Left untreated, Black Spot can cause a rose to completely defoliate. Remember that the leaves are important as they are the 'food factory' for the rose.
3. If you are keen to exhibit your roses, " (the foliage) should be adequate in quantity and size, undamaged, fresh and clean in appearance and of good colour and quality for the cultivar" (NRSA Handbook for Judges, 2013, p.8)

#### How do I know that my roses have Black Spot?

1. Black Spot is aptly named as this is exactly what it looks like mainly on the leaves but left unchecked it can progress down the stems/canes.
2. It occurs on the uppermost sides of the leaves. It can also appear on the undersides.
3. They are feathery, ragged black circles or filled in black spots with outer margins with edged in yellow.



## How does Black Spot spread?

- This fungus is easily spread by water splash. Mulching your roses can assist with this problem.
- Infections take hold when water remains on the leaf for 6-7 hrs. Therefore while we cannot control this when it rains, we can reduce this problem by NOT watering rose foliage and watering at the base of the rose. So if you have an automated watering system, a drip one is preferable over sprinklers. If you need to use sprinklers, soaker hoses especially in scorching summer weather, do so as your first task in the morning, so that the leaves and stems can dry out well during the day.
- Fungus can overwinter on stems or leaf litter and re-emerge in Spring.
- Fallen infected leaves. Most roses are deciduous. However when a leaf is infected it spreads up the life of the leaf and will fall prematurely. (See Challenge at the end of the article)

### Organic home control

1. Prevention is the best option. Maintaining a healthy rose will help to reduce the incidence of this fungus. Not overcrowding rose bushes so that the air can move freely. Reduce dense foliage in the centre of the plant.
2. Gardening hygiene- Keep your rose secateurs clean with alcohol. Ensure you dry them with a clean cloth before using. Collect fallen affected leaves and dispose in bin. Pluck off affected leaves/ or cut off stem. Do NOT denude rose. Remove the worst affected parts. Enrich your rose. You can progressively remove the other ones. Remove any affected canes to healthy wood.
3. Mix fat free milk with water with 1:1 ratio. Put into a spray and apply to all leaves of the rose.
4. Or mix 4 litres water with 3 level teaspoons of Bicarbonate of Soda and a few capfuls of fish emulsion. Put in a spray bottle and apply weekly in the cool of the day.

### Spray Control

If you wish to use a spray, **never use in the heat of the day.**

- *“Apply eco-fungicide or eco-rose every 7-10 days at the first sign of disease outbreak. Leaves already infected cannot be saved but the spray will create a protective coating over leaves to prevent new infection occurring.*
- *Include eco-seaweed into the spray solution to strengthen plant tissue and make it harder for the fungus to penetrate into the leaves.*

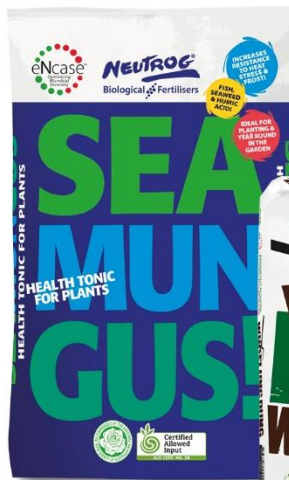
*HANDY HINT: We recommend adding a little eco-oil (2ml per litre) to the eco-fungicide or eco-rose solution to help it stick and spread better over the foliage. If you have an insect problem at the same time then increase the eco-oil rate (5-10ml per litre) to create a combined organic insecticide and fungicide spray. “Organic Crop Protectants is recommended by the Rose Society of NSW.*

- Article written by K. Stanley (Dip Teach., B.A.,M.A)

Disclaimer: The information in the above article is compiled from reliable sources but is not necessarily the opinion of The Rose Society of NSW.

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