



Macarthur Rose

Newsletter Vol 28, No 5

10 March 2022



Having Great Meetings

Afternoon Tea

One of the best parts of the meeting is having a 'cuppa' and enjoying each other's company in an informal way. This is often the time that we learn the most about roses and make new friends.

Coffee, tea, sugar and milk are provided for afternoon tea – please remember to contribute a gold coin to help with costs.

If possible, please bring your own cup to help lessen the impact of foam and plastic cups on the environment.

The Library

The library is a collection of books and magazines that have been donated for us all to share and learn. Sheryle Albeck is our librarian and does an admirable job of keeping track of library items. When you borrow a book you must check in with Sheryle and sign the book.

If you decide to keep reading the book over two months, please make sure you advise either Sheryle or myself.

Setting Up

Each time we use the hall, we must set up the chairs and tables and the afternoon tea. It is not an onerous task but it seems to fall to the same few people each month. If possible, please arrive early to help with the set up and pack down. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Monthly Raffle

We need someone to manage and organise the monthly raffle. Currently the Treasurer and Subscription Secretary are filling the gaps but we need a dedicated raffle ticket organiser. The raffle task is small but important. Please consider helping.

Dear Rose Friends

I trust that you have all survived the recent rains and floods without too much damage to life or property. It is certainly a timely reminder that climate change is going to bring new challenges and issues for us all.

We can learn more about these challenges at the Australian National Rose Championships and Conference, which is being held in Kiama from 29 April - 1 May. At the conference, there will be several expert speakers who will talk about growing roses in an ecologically safe way to meet climate challenges. There is more detail about the Conference and speakers on Page 4 and on our website. This is a 'not to be missed' event for all keen rose growers.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show is being held in April and it is another great rose show. There is an opportunity to see the rose show (free) while you volunteer for two hours helping out at the rose stand. See Page 5 for the letter from the President of the NSW Rose Society detailing the days and tasks.

The great rains we have just experienced and the high humidity have been ideal conditions for the development of fungi. You may have noticed an abundance of toadstools and mushrooms popping up in your garden and lawn along with the dreaded black spot on your roses. There is some information about identifying and treating this destructive fungus on Page 5.



Red Gem (Miniature)

Miniature and miniflora roses are ideal for garden borders, small gardens and pots. They flower well and are easy to grow. They are also easier to propagate than many of the usual sized rose bushes. Our cultural notes this month focus on these wonderful little roses.

Our Neutrog order finally arrived and was distributed last week. Many thanks to Chris Vine for the time and effort required to coordinate the delivery and use of his warehouse. Chris, along with Mark McKenzie and Michael Darcy made a huge contribution lifting and loading the Neutrog into vehicles. Their efforts and generous use of their time made the distribution so much easier for us all. THANK YOU Chris, Mark and Michael. Your help was greatly appreciated.

The Neutrog shop is open again for us to begin purchasing for our spring orders.

Some of our members have been unwell over the last few months. To all of you, we wish you a speedy recovery to good health. Our thoughts are with you.

Yours in Roses

Judith

Soil and fertilisers

Our Neutrog fertilisers have been delivered and the recent heavy rainfall and the prospect of autumn rose shows, indicate there is now an urgent need to replenish our soils. The relationship between the soil, water, nutrients and the growth of roses is important to understand.

All nutrients entering the rose roots must do so in a water solution. Light, sandy soils allow water to quickly pass the rose roots. Heavy clay soils (such as in the Macarthur area) hold too much water, which reduces pore space in the soil and drastically reduces the exchange of gases such as carbon dioxide and oxygen. Growth is then diminished because the plant can't take up the fertilisers.

Soil Quality

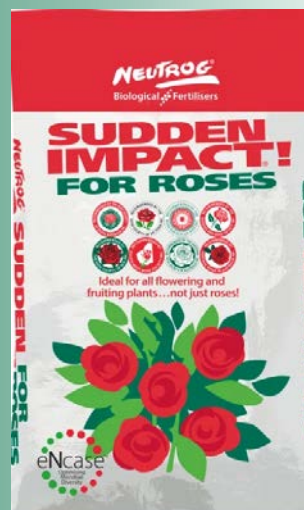
A balanced soil structure allows water to pass through the soil at a rate slow enough to permit the plant roots to take up the nutrients. Margaret Appleby, our 2021 Bert Mulley Award winner, is adamant that her successful rose growing is based on nurturing and caring for the soil. Her prolific rose garden is a testament to the soundness of this advice. Margaret says it is the advice she got from Bert Mulley (an outstanding rosarian) over 20 years ago and it holds good.

Roses and Water

Roses also need food to survive. Nutrients, both macro and micro, are necessary for plant growth. Macro nutrients are elements that roses need in large amounts and micro nutrients are needed in smaller concentrations. This is where water and roses become important. The rose plant can only absorb minerals that are in a solution i.e. water. Some are taken up more readily regardless of their usefulness to the plant. Each mineral also moves independently in the soil solution and is taken up at different rates regardless of their usefulness to the rose.

Be aware that fertiliser burn can occur if there is too big a concentration of fertiliser in the soil solution surrounding the roots. The best remedy is prevention by thoroughly watering the soil after applying fertiliser.

Analysis (dry weight basis)		%w/w
Nitrogen (N)	as Organic	1.30
Nitrogen (N)	as Ammonium	7.70
Total Nitrogen (N)		9.00
Phosphorus (P)	as Water Soluble	3.00
Phosphorus (P)	as Citrate Soluble	1.00
Total Phosphorus (P)		4.00
Potassium (K)	as Organic	0.40
Potassium (K)	as Sulphate	11.60
Total Potassium (K)		12.00
Sulphur (S)	as Organic	0.40
Sulphur (S)	as Sulphate	8.60
Total Sulphur (S)		9.00
Calcium (Ca)	as Organic	2.10
Calcium (Ca)	as Sulphate	0.40
Total Calcium (Ca)		2.50
Magnesium (Mg)	as Organic	0.25
Magnesium (Mg)	as Sulphate	0.55
Total Magnesium (Mg)		0.80
Iron (Fe)	as Organic	0.06
Iron (Fe)	as Sulphate	0.34
Total Iron (Fe)		0.40
Zinc (Zn)	as Organic	0.02
Copper (Cu)	as Organic	0.0002
Manganese (Mn)	as Organic	0.02



Essential nutrients

Nitrogen stimulates canes, blooms and foliage

Nitrogen is a macro nutrient that stimulates growth. Tall strong canes, good blooms and rich dark green foliage are evidence that nitrogen is in good balance in the soil. A lack of nitrogen is indicated by the lightening of the green foliage and even yellowing of leaves in extreme cases. Decomposed organic material will return some nitrogen to the soil in the form of urea. Fresh organic material uses nitrogen from the soil in order to decompose. This is most apparent when materials like sawdust, sugar cane and pea straw are added to the soil in the form of mulch.

Phosphorus stimulates root growth

Phosphorus is the next most important macro nutrient and it stimulates root growth to produce quality plants and big blooms. It may also hasten plant maturity, adding to winter hardiness. The important factor controlling the availability of phosphorus is soil acidity. The ideal pH is 6.5 and at this level the amount of iron and aluminium in the solution decreases and phosphorus remains very available to the plant.

Potassium promotes vigour and bloom colour

Potassium the third important macro nutrient promotes root growth, vigour and bloom colour and like phosphorus it counters the effects of too much nitrogen. Potassium tends to counteract undue ripening and exerts a balancing effect on both nitrogen and phosphorus. It is essential for starch formation and the development of chlorophyll by encouraging the reaction known as photosynthesis. However, Potassium leaches away readily and should not be allowed to drop too low. The recent heavy rains will be leaching many nutrients from our soils so it is important to fertilise well after sustained heavy rain.

Sulphur helps with the development of essential organic compounds such as proteins and vitamins. It can be easily leached from the soil but it is present in organic materials. But bacteria converts it to sulfates, which are soluble and it then leaches quickly. Regular use of a good fertiliser can help maintain sulphur levels.

Calcium and Magnesium are present in the leaves and neutralise certain toxic acids that form as a by product of metabolism. In soils below 6.0pH most of the calcium and magnesium is found attached to electrically charged clay and organic matter and readily available.

Micro nutrients

Micro nutrients such as iron, manganese, boron, zinc, copper, molybdenum and chlorine are usually sufficient in a well prepared fertile soil. Only small amounts of micro nutrients are needed in a rose's diet but a deficiency in one or more can cause a serious decrease in the availability of major elements.

Regular use of balanced fertilisers such as Sudden Impact for Roses, followed in between by liquid fertilisers such as Seamungus and GoGo Juice will ensure you have good, strong blooms with good stems while maintaining a healthy soil medium.

Where to grow these roses

Miniature and Minifloras

Miniature roses are true roses that have been selectively bred to stay small in size. They are essentially a shorter, more compact form of hybrid tea or grandiflora roses with flowers that are extremely compact. They have smaller flowers than standard rose bushes, but they come in the same variety of types and colours as their larger counterparts.

Miniature and miniflora roses have been in cultivation since the 17th century, but most originated as genetic mutations of old garden roses or China roses, which are native to Asia. They maintain many of the same core characteristics and also do best if planted in spring.



Snow Bride (miniature)

Miniflora Roses

A 'miniflora' rose has flowers of intermediate size, smaller than a floribunda but larger than a miniature. Sometimes miniflora and miniature roses are confused as the same rose type. However, miniflora rose bushes are somewhat larger in plant and bloom size than miniature roses. The average miniflora rose bush size is 0.5-1.3 m tall and can be within that range for plant width as well. The miniflora class was developed for those rose bushes that grow too large in bush or bloom size to be classified as miniatures, yet they are still smaller in bloom size than the floribundas, grandifloras and hybrid teas.



Despite their petite size, miniature and miniflora roses are extremely hardy. In fact, because they are propagated on their own roots (and not grafted onto the rootstock), they are more winter-hardy than most roses and tend to be profuse repeat bloomers. They grow moderately quickly and work well in a border or as garden edging. They're also especially nice as specimen plants in containers, where they can be brought closer to eye level and truly be seen and appreciated.

When deciding what size container to use or where in the rose bed or garden to plant them, the size of the rose bush or its 'habit' does factor into the decision. This is where understanding the difference between a miniature and a miniflora rose can be important. Just remember that miniature refers to the size of the bloom not the size of the fully grown plant.

If you are growing your miniature roses as container roses, select pots that are slightly larger than the

miniature rose plant and that have large drainage holes. Use indoor or outdoor potting soil designed for rose plants in containers.

Miniatures and minifloras are also wonderful landscape plants. Because the plants are so small when you buy them, it seems as if they'll take forever to grow and put on a good show. But don't let that small size fool you. They reach full size quickly, and flower big-time all season long. Miniatures make beautiful up-front plants. Use them to edge a flower border or walkway, or plant them at the base of taller-growing plants.

Their petite flowers are available in a big range of colours, including red, pink, peach, orange, white, yellow, and many combinations. If you are planting the mini roses in the ground, use a good rose soil that is well-draining and loamy soil as roses of all types need evenly moist soil.



Above left: Jean Kenneally (miniature)
Above right: Joyce Abounding (miniflora)



Roses by the Seaside

Australian National Rose Championships

At the end of April 2022, NSW will be hosting the Australian National Rose Championship and Conference at The Pavilion in Kiama. The National Championships have not been held in NSW since 2013 so it promises to be an excellent community rose event within easy distance for Macarthur Regional Rose Society members.

This is going to be one of the first rose shows held since the beginning of COVID-19 restrictions. It has been in the planning and organising stages for over three years (multiple postponements) and it promises to be a spectacular rose show.

The theme of the National Rose Conference is ecologically friendly rose growing and the impacts of climate change. There are several excellent speakers who will be presenting at the Conference. There is a small charge to register and hear the speakers ranging from \$10 to \$20 per speaker. You will be able to ask the speaker questions and they promise to be lively and informative.

This conference offers the opportunity for Macarthur Rose Society members to attend an outstanding rose show and exhibition. Many of the best rose exhibitors in NSW will be making every effort to participate in and attend the Rose Show. It is an opportunity that no rose grower should pass as these opportunities are rare and precious.

For the novice rose grower and potential exhibitor there is an opportunity to enter the novice class with your best roses. You will get to see a spectacular Rose Show. You will see some of the best roses grown in NSW despite the recent rains and floods. Many exhibited roses are not seen in any other settings so the chance to see them is rare. Viewing these magnificent roses can also inspire your own choices about what roses to grow in your garden. Often you can also speak directly to the exhibitor and grower of these roses.

As well as the formal lectures there will be opportunities to talk directly with other rosarians from inter-state and from other regions within NSW. This will add to your own knowledge and understanding of growing roses.

In addition, there is the chance to meet new acquaintances and make new friends where you have a common passion for the rose. There have been very few opportunities for this type of activity in the last two years and we now understand how valuable it is for us all.

The organising committee is also seeking volunteers to assist with selling raffle tickets, helping at the door and with the setting and packing up. Volunteering is a great way to see the roses and participate fully in this once in ten year event.

It is worth while for every Macarthur Rose Society member to make every effort to attend some of the the Rose Championship and Conference events. I strongly recommend you visiting and/volunteering at the show.



Bare Root Roses

Now is the time to be choosing your bare root roses for delivery in the winter. As many of the popular roses sell out very quickly you will need to order now to secure your chosen roses for planting. While prices have risen over the last few years, buying bare root roses is far cheaper than buying roses in pots.

Here are the website links for some of the most well known rose nurseries in South Australia and Victoria.

Treloar Roses (VIC): www.treloarroses.com.au

Ross Roses (SA): www.rossroses.com.au

Wagners Roses (SA):
www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au

Roses Victoria (VIC): www.rosesvictoria.com.au

Silkies Rose Farm (VIC):
www.rosesalesonline.com.au



After the Rain

Black Spot

Black Spot Development

The recent rain and humidity has ensured that our roses will have developed black spot in epidemic proportions. If not black spot, some other form of fungi will be making itself very comfortable on our roses. These fungi will impede growth and ruin those precious food conduits - the leaves. This defoliation is very injurious and greatly weakens the plants. The damage can be cumulative, producing dieback and weakened plants then become either less productive, unproductive or even die.



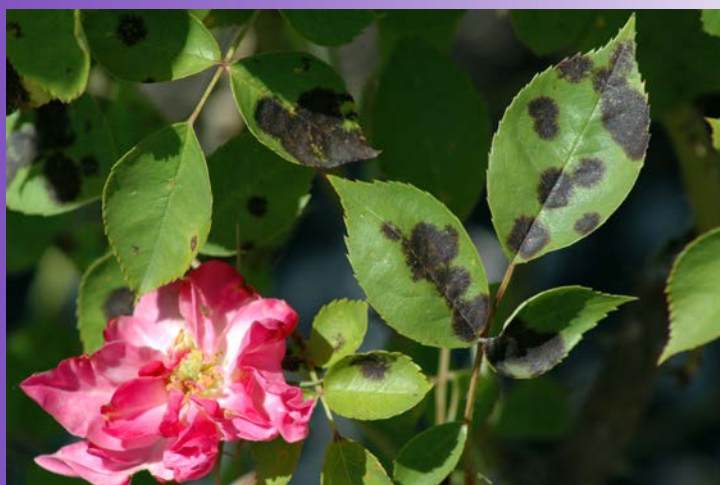
Black spot resistance

Many of the newer varieties of roses are black spot resistant, but none are immune when conditions are right. Our recent weather has been ideal. The black spot spores are spread by splashing water, blowing from one rose to another on water drops.

Treating blackspot

Strip off the infected leaves as you cannot control the infestation with infected leaves remaining. Pick up all the leaves off the ground to ensure that the spores do not become embedded in the soil. If necessary, give your roses a light prune (no more than 30% of the bush) to help it generate new leaves, spray with a fungicide such as Eco-fungicide, wettable sulphur or Mancozeb Plus immediately after the rain to reduce infestation. Follow the directions on the packet. Spray both sides of the leaves and the stems.

Now regularly feed your roses weekly with a good probiotic fertiliser such as GoGo Juice. This will ensure a disease free garden of roses during April and May and a strong rose bush ready for winter.



Sydney Royal Easter Show



Letter from Colin Hollis

(President of NSW Rose Society) calling for volunteers

Dear Members

It is that time of year when we call on non-exhibiting members to assist on the NSW Rose Society Stand at the Royal Easter Show. The stand is near the rose exhibits and attracts visitors who may have questions about growing roses. We need members to help on this stand.

The time required would be a minimum of two hours on the day or your choosing. The tasks include speaking to members of the public, providing membership details and talking about the benefits of joining the Rose Society. With volunteers from across all Regionals, we should be able to cover all days comfortably.

As we are only allocated four free tickets a day, your Region could consider purchasing tickets for one or two of their members to attend.

These are the days volunteers are required:

Sunday 10 April

Monday 11 April

Thursday 14 April

Friday 15 April (Good Friday)

Monday 18 April

Tuesday 19 April



If you can assist, please contact Colin Hollis, who is coordinating the stand and let him know what date and the time you can assist.

Colin's Mobile: 0408 295 223

Email: colin.hollis@telstra.com

Please Note: To those members who experienced some difficulty in printing the tickets last year we have been assured it will be simpler this year.

Colin Hollis

President

NSW Rose Society

Other Events

March Birthdays

3rd Pauline Jelich
14th David Hawke
26th Helen O'Hearn
27th Jan Stibbard
28th Andrew Wardle
Maureen Kennedy



Figurine (miniature)

MEETING DATES FOR OUR DIARIES



Macarthur District Regional Rose Society Meeting Dates for 2021
(subject to Covid-19 restrictions)

- 12th March Macarthur Regional monthly meeting
- 1st April The Camden Show
- 9th April Macarthur Regional monthly meeting
- 10-18th April Sydney Royal Flower and Garden Show
- 29th April - 2nd May Kiama National Rose Show and Convention
- 14th May - Macarthur Regional monthly meeting
- 11th June - Macarthur Regional AGM, June meeting
- 9th July - Macarthur Regional monthly meeting
- 13th August - Macarthur Regional monthly meeting
- 10th September - Macarthur Regional monthly meeting
- 10th -30th October International Convention Pre and Post Tours of NSW and the International Rose Convention and Rose Show in Adelaide.
- 12th November - Macarthur Regional monthly meeting
- 10th December Christmas Party

Contributions

Your contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. If you have items of interest, including photos, that you may want to share or distribute please send them to:

Judith Carll, Chairperson at Email: macarthurrosesociety@gmail.com, or Tel: 0410 444 562.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 2:00pm on 10 April at Elderslie Primary School, 170 Lodges Road, Elderslie.

COVID SAFE Our Rose Society operates in a COVID safe way. Hand sanitiser is available. There is sufficient space for us to be able to meet and keep the designated safe distance of two metres from each other. All Welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

