



# Macarthur Rose

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The Neutrog shop has reopened for our autumn Neutrog delivery in early March.

We expect the shop to close for our autumn delivery in the last week of February 2023 with delivery in mid to late March depending on the transport services.

Remember you can enter the shop numerous times to purchase your fertilisers, mulches and conditioners.



**Photo:** Mr Lincoln has dark velvety red blooms that cannot be surpassed for colour and intense fragrance. It has a high centred bud, cupped form as the flower unfolds. It is a strong, healthy grower and won the AARS Award 1965.

## Get Well

Several of our members have been quite unwell over the last few months. We wish you all a speedy recovery and return to good health and the garden as soon as possible.



## Dear Rose Friends

Spring has finally arrived albeit, rather wet and miserable, with the lovely bursts of sunshine interspersed with days of rain and cold. However, our roses are finally starting to bud and show colour. Spring is welcome after what seems like a cold and miserable winter.

Thank you to everyone who responded so quickly to the request to pick up our Neutrog orders in September. Your wonderful response at such short notice was greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the transport company timetables. Despite our best efforts, delivery remains at their convenience, which is not very convenient for us at times. Special thanks to Chris Vine who so generously allows us to have the Neutrog delivered to his warehouse and use the parking area for pick up.

Our cultural notes this month focus on the little insects that come visiting when the roses start to bud and show some colour. The aphids arrive in what seems like plague proportions and the thrips arrive in on the warm equinoctial winds that blow in October and November. The cultural notes offer some solutions.

At our August meeting, Rosalie Vine organised for Judith Collins a nationally recognised expert in companion planting to speak to us. It was a lively and interesting talk that was greatly enjoyed. June Hickey, our competent and hardworking secretary has kindly summarised Judith's talk for us and it is revisited on page five of this newsletter. Thank you to Rosalie for facilitating Judith's presentation.

With Spring arriving, it is time for the big rose show season to start. The NSW Rose Society website has information about the shows. The Nepean Blue Mountain and Hawkesbury Rose Society will be holding their Rose Show on 13 October. The schedule and details are available on the NSW Rose Society website at: <http://nsw.rose.org.au/shows-events.html>.

The schedule for the World Rose Convention and National Rose Show is also available on this website here: <http://nsw.rose.org.au/world-rose-convention-adelaide.html>. You can still register as an online participant, which allows you to access all the presentations and information. Holding the World Rose Convention in Australia is once in 10-15 year event and it is worthwhile considering signing up to being an online participant.

Our show bench competition for our Trophy starts this month. I have included our Show Bench schedule in this newsletter for you to review and decide what classes you will enter your roses into. Remember, we have very skilled and knowledgeable people at our Rose Society who can offer you advice and help with your roses. Bring your roses to the next meeting for the show bench. We need to look like a Rose Society as well as being one. Blocks of Oasis will be available for purchase at \$1 per block and of course our show vases will be there to stage your roses. Now is the time to practice displaying your very best roses for us all to enjoy and learn.



*Judith*

## Aphid Controls

**Aphids are small sap-sucking insects** and members of the superfamily Aphidoidea. Common names include greenfly and blackfly. Aphids have soft pear-shaped bodies with long legs and antennae and may be green, yellow, brown, red, or black depending on the species and the plants they feed on.

**A few species appear waxy or woolly** due to the secretion of a waxy white or grey substance over their body surface. Most species have a pair of tubelike structures called cornicles projecting backward out of the hind end of their body. The presence of cornicles distinguishes aphids from all other insects.

**These insects have several natural enemies**, including other insects, insect larvae, and birds; and they move rather slowly, making them easy to remove by hand or target with sprays. They multiply quickly, so it may take a combination of methods as well as repeated efforts to completely control them. Be persistent and patient; it may take a little time to see results.

**Spraying aphids off plants** with a strong stream of water from a garden hose. This method is most effective early on in the season before an infestation has fully taken hold. It may not be a good choice for younger or more delicate plants, but it works well on plants where you can use higher water pressure.

**You can knock/wipe them off the stems**, leaves, flower buds, or wherever you see them, and into a bucket of soapy water to kill them. Or if the infestations is small you can quickly wipe them off and squash between your fingers.

**There are several insecticides readily available** that will deal with the aphids. But be aware that they will kill all the insects rather than just the aphids.



**Image above:** Aphids infesting a rose bud.

**Rose Image at Right:** *Phantom* a Shrub like rose that grows well in NSW



**The organic compounds in Neem Oil** act as a repellent for aphids and other insects, including mealybugs cabbage worms, beetles, leaf miners, ants and various types of caterpillars. However, it may repel beneficial insects, so use caution when and where they are present and spray early in the morning to avoid killing beneficial insects.

**Make a homemade aphid spray** by mixing a few tablespoons of a pure liquid soap (such as castile) in a small bucket of water. (Avoid using detergents or products with degreasers or moisturizers.) Apply with a spray bottle directly on aphids and the affected parts of the plant, making sure to soak the undersides of leaves where eggs and larvae like to hide.



The soap dissolves the protective outer layer of aphids and other soft-bodied insects, eventually killing them. It doesn't harm birds or hard-bodied beneficial insects like lacewings, ladybugs or pollinating bees. You can also purchase ready-to-use insecticidal soaps online or at a local nursery.



Adult lady beetles (ladybugs) don't eat nearly as many aphids as when they are in their larval stage. This is why many people are disappointed with the lack of control they see after releasing purchased live ladybugs into their garden.

There needs to be a large enough aphid population in your garden to keep the ladybugs fed long enough to mate and lay eggs — because it's the larvae that eat the most aphids. Live ladybugs can be purchased online at [www.bugforbugs.com.au](http://www.bugforbugs.com.au)



As with ladybugs, green lacewing larvae do the work of controlling aphids rather than the adult lacewings. Green lacewing eggs can also be purchased online at [Bug for Bugs](http://www.bugforbugs.com.au).



## Thrips and Rose Care

**Thrips are a common pest that come in** on the warm late Spring and early Summer winds. They can be difficult to control and they cause a lot of damage by sucking plant juices and scraping at fruits, flowers and leaves. Plant leaves turn pale, splotchy, and silvery, then die.

**Adults thrips are very small** (less than 0.05cm) straw-colored or black slender insects with two pairs of feathery wings. Without the use of a hand lens, they resemble tiny dark threads. Extremely active, thrips feed in large groups. They leap or fly away when disturbed. They especially like roses and gladioli particularly white and yellow and other light coloured blossoms. The tell tale brown edging on the petals of light blooms and petals that drop easily indicate thrips infestation.

**Thrips management is a matter** of garden maintenance by reducing the places where they breed. Thrips lay their eggs in slits they cut in live plant stems. Vigilance, spotting problems early, and responding to them, is needed. Check for damage and clusters of pests where the leaves meet the stem. Here are some actions to help.

🌹 Remove weeds and grass from around garden areas to eliminate alternate hosts.

🌹 Blue (not yellow) sticky traps are helpful for monitoring adult populations.

🌹 If you see thrip damage, use a spray bottle or the hose to reduce pest numbers and then use commercially available beneficial bugs to feed on eggs and larvae.

🌹 Mycoinsecticides are a new type of biological insecticides used in organic farming and are highly effective if applied weekly. They provide better protection than many conventional chemical insecticides.

🌹 An insecticide such as Pyrethrum can help to reduce pest numbers and then you can follow up with predatory insects to maintain control.



**NEUTROG™**  
**The Experts' Choice**  
 Rose Society members recommend  
 Sudden Impact for Roses

## Fertilise your Roses

Now that you have a significant amount of new foliage it is time to fertilise the roses. A handful of Sudden Impact for Roses pellets around the drip line will help the roses to form strong buds and stems. Water it in carefully. As the foliage helps to feed the plant, begin a liquid food spray of fertiliser to the roses. A very weak solution of Seamungus, sprayed regularly on the foliage will ensure that the leaves are strong and well able to feed and support a good crop of buds and blooms. A regular dose of GoGo Juice watered in around the drip line will help maintain the soil health and the general health of the rose bush.



**Combine your fertilising routine with plenty of water.** The water encourages strong growth. You will have already noticed that the rose plant growth accelerates after the rain. The rain and rising Spring temperatures greatly accelerates the growth rate. Fertilising regularly will support the rose to be strong and healthy as it reforms after the winter prune and in anticipation of the hot summer weather.

**As wet weather is predicted for our area** over the Spring, it is important to have in place a regular program to help avert black spot and other fungi. The warming temperatures combined with the rain will accelerate the rate of black spot occurrence. Regular spraying with Eco-fungicide alternated every 2-3 weeks with another chemical such as Triforine or wettable sulphur will help your roses to resist infestations of black spot. It is important to alternate the sprays as the black spot can quickly become impervious to different chemicals. Remember that black spot starts to form approximately six weeks before we notice the black spots on the leaves. Now is the time to put in place your care regime to ensure that your roses survive well over the anticipated wet spring.

**If you are growing hybrid tea roses** you will need to regularly check your rose buds to gently take the side buds away from the main buds. Not all hybrid tea buds have side buds but some roses are particularly prone to this. Nipping them out gently will ensure that you get the biggest bloom possible.



**Floribundas will need to have the centre bud** that grows first gently disbudded. This will ensure that the side blooms will be able to form a perfect round of blooms. The centre bloom always opens first and disbudding early allows the

formation of a circle of flowers from the side buds without a big gap in the middle.

## Judith Collins

At our July meeting we were fortunate to have Judith Collins speak to us about Companion Planting. Judith has substantial experience at companion planting and gave us a lively and interesting talk and discussion on how to go about companion planting. Below is a summary of Judith's talk that June Hickey (Secretary) has summarised and provided to us.

### **Prior to and after World War I, Companion Planting was ranked very low as an approach to gardening.**

With recognition of Climate Change and ongoing scientific research, the United Nations have since recommended that all plants grown for food should be companion planted. We have to reduce our use of chemicals and improve our soils. This has made the book *Companion Gardening in Australia*, written by Judith 30 years ago, become popular with three reprints in the past year.

Companion Gardening means biodiversity in the garden – food for all the insects; the soil is being conditioned; and oils, scents, perfumes, nutrition, vitamins, and minerals are all being enhanced by certain plants. Companion planting works in different ways and they can be classified into four categories:

**1. Plants that camouflage the overall scent** of the garden tricking the insects into believing that the plants aren't there because two other plants are camouflaging the scent. Examples are scented geraniums, parsley and soapwort which is good to plant around roses and provides perfume when the roses aren't flowering.

**Images below left to right:** Parsley (camouflage plant), Borage (nurturing plant), Rosemary (plant that stimulates other plants) Nasturtiums (sacrificial plants).



**NEUTROG**  
Biological Fertilisers

## Companion Planting

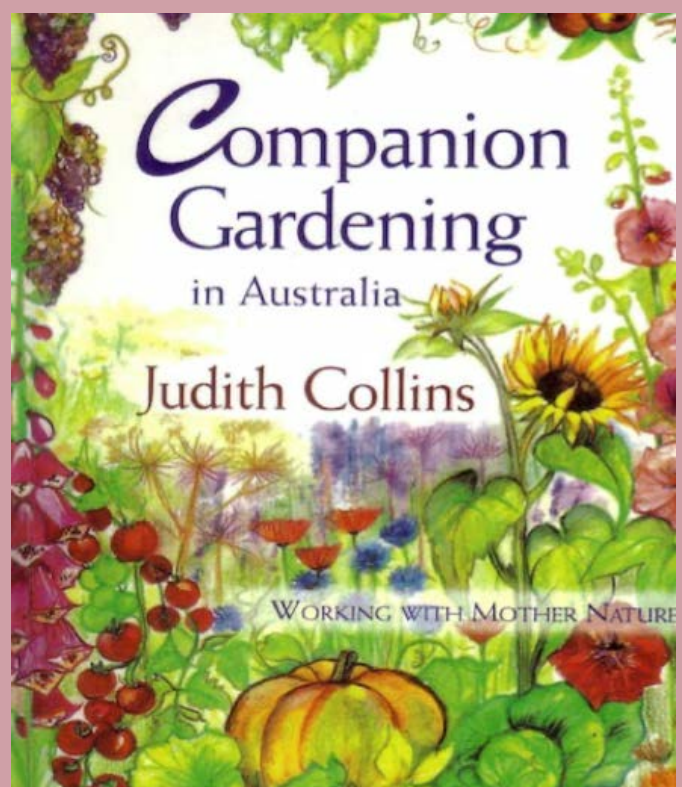
**2. Plants that nurture.** They bring up all the nutrients from the subsoil to the neighbouring plants which might be diseased or deficient in nutrients. Tomatoes, cabbages and corn pull all the nutrients out of the soil. Sow thistle is the number one nurturing plant. Oregano, marjoram, borage and elderberry are other nurturing plants.

**3. Plants that stimulate** each other and increase their nutrition, their vitamins, their health, and their perfume. Peppermint, rosemary and salad burnet are examples.

**4. Sacrificial plants such as nasturtiums.** These aren't planted with your plants but in a pot somewhere not too close so all nasty bugs that would eat the plant will eat the nasturtiums instead. Let one cos lettuce go to seed and flower at the back of the garden and it will attract all the bugs. Also one broccoli plant going to seed and flower will attract bugs. Sacrificial plants are very good in the garden but be careful where you put them so they don't attract bugs to the plants to be harvested.

**Judith went on to explain** the above categories in detail and how she implements their use in her own garden. The Black Summer Bushfires went through her property and for the last few years they have been replanting. The artemisia family are her favourite which she plants with many other plants.

Judith concluded with a variety of tips on how to keep our gardens healthy and successfully grow roses, fruit trees and vegetables, and explained why research shows gardening is so good for us.



# Christmas Party



Our Christmas party will be held on 10 December 2022 at Menangle Country Club, 170 Menangle Road, Menangle. The parking is good and there is easy access for all. The venue is approximately 20 minutes drive from Elderslie Public School.



Menus will be available at our October meeting so that you can choose what you would like to eat on the day. The cost for financial members of the Macarthur Rose Society is \$30. Please give your money to either Lorraine Hawke or Maureen Thackeray.

The Rose Society will be subsidising any costs above \$30 for all financial members to return some benefit to those who have supported the Rose Society over the last year. The Christmas Party offers us a way to thank our members for their hard work and support.

Friends are welcome but only financial members are able to be offered the \$30 meal.

Please bring a small item to include in our raffles that will be drawn at the Christmas Party. Small items that are Christmassy and inexpensive are the best items to include in the Christmas Hamper. Bunnings Narellan have already donated some items for the raffles and of course there are lovely Neutrog prizes as well.



**Photo Above:** Some of our members enjoying the 2021 Christmas Party at Enzo's in Camden.

**Photo mid left:** The venue for our 2023 Christmas party.





## FOR OUR DIARIES

### Macarthur District Regional Rose Society Meeting Dates for 2022

(subject to Covid-19 restrictions)

**8th October** - Macarthur Regional monthly meeting

**13 October** - Spring Rose Show of the Nepean Hawkesbury Blue Mountains Regional Rose Society

**22nd October** - Arrivals starts for the International Rose Convention Pre Tour of NSW

**23rd October** - NSW Pre Convention Tour Cocktail Event

**27 October** - World Rose Convention and National Rose Show opens.

**12th November** - Macarthur Regional monthly meeting

**10th December - Macarthur Regional Christmas Party at Menangle Country Club**

**12 February 2023** - First 2023 meeting of the Macarthur Rose Society

**April 2023** - Macarthur Regional Rose Society and Ingleburn Garden and Horticultural Club autumn Rose and Garden Show.

### 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](mailto:macarthurrosesociety@gmail.com) or Tel: 0410 444 562.

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 2:00pm on 8th October 2022 at Elderslie Primary School, 170 Lodges Road, Elderslie. Please Note: I am unsure if the gate will be unlocked. If it is locked, and no one is there to let you in please call me on 0410 444 562.

**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.



# July

- 4th Judy Rudd
- 10th Rowena MacAlpine
- 12th Sandra Pinkerton
- 22nd Bob Stibbard

# August

- 1st Adam Pearce
- 3rd Margaret Hudson
- 8th Jim O'Hearn
- 14th Bill Riley
- 20th Michael Riley
- 24th Maureen Thackeray
- 27th Mary Camilleri

# September

- 12th Judy Reilly

# October

- 10th Gary McLean
- 15th Kathy Mena
- 19th Janet Wright
- 20th Brian Quinn
- 23rd Sheryl Albeck





# *Rose Society of NSW Inc*

## *MONTHLY SHOW BENCH SCHEDULE*

Spring is the best time to start displaying your roses on the **Monthly Show Bench**. Just one or two roses from everyone provides a beautiful display for us all to enjoy. There is always help on hand if you are unsure about making a start.

Preparation takes place between 1.15 and 2.00pm prior to the meeting. The pleasure brought to members will be worth it and it is an opportunity to try out your show benching skills in time for the Spring rose shows. We will supply vases. Bring your own floral foam or buy from the trading table to help position your roses to best advantage in the vases.

### **SHOW BENCH CLASSES**

CLASS 1: 1 Exhibition Rose

CLASS 2: 1 Vase Bunch Roses, 5 stems, 1-2 cultivars

CLASS 3: 1 Vase Bunch Roses, 3 stems, same cultivar

CLASS 4: 1 Vase of Decorative Roses, 3 stem and/or cuts, same cultivar

CLASS 5: 1 Vase of Full Bloom Roses, 3 stems, NND (Not Necessarily Distinct)

CLASS 6: 1 Vase of Roses, Bud to Full Bloom, 4 stages, same cultivar

CLASS 7: 1 Vase of Floribunda roses, 1-6 stems and/or cuts, same cultivar, minimum of 10 blooms

CLASS 8: 1 Vase of Miniature Roses, 3 stems and/or cuts, same cultivar

CLASS 9: 1 Vase of Modern shrub roses, one stem or cut. This section included old types such as David Austin (and their equivalents from other breeders), Hybrid Musk, Ground Cover and Landscaping Roses.

CLASS 10: 1 Vase of Heritage or Old Garden Roses, one stem or cut

### **BEGINNER'S CLASSES**

CLASS 11: 1 Rose at any stage of development

CLASS 12: 1 Vase Bunch Roses, 3 stems, NND<sup>1</sup> (Not Necessarily Distinct)

**Stem** – a stem is defined as original new growth, which carries one bloom or bud and has no check from pinching, stopping or pruning from the time of growth start 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(s).

**Foliage** – should be adequate in quantity and size, undamaged, fresh and clean in appearance and of good colour and quality for the cultivar.

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<sup>1</sup> NND means Not Necessarily Distinct i.e. the stems can be of the same cultivar (e.g. hybrid tea, floribunda)

