



# Macarthur Rose Newsletter

Vol 30, No: 9, May 2024



## Neutrog Update

The Neutrog shop is open for purchases. At this stage delivery is expected to be sometime in early September.

There are several new products available in the Neutrog shop. Popul8 now comes in new size bottles - a 500ml and a 5L container. The 500ml will be useful for those of us who have small gardens or maybe several pots that may need a soil boost. The 5L bottle will be useful for those who have larger gardens and more roses.

There is also a new trial product called Under Cover at this time. It is an organic fertiliser that can be used for all crops.

Autumn and early winter is the ideal time to look after your soils. Applying Popul8 now will refurbish your soils ready for the new growing season.

The Neutrog/Rose Society agreement is beneficial for all of us. A gentle reminder that we have entered into a legally binding agreement with Neutrog that only financial members of the NSW Rose Society are eligible to benefit from this agreement. We are unable to share these benefits with non Rose Society members.



## Dear *Rose Friends*

The cooler weather and shorter days is giving us beautiful colours in our rose gardens. This is a busy time for us as we prepare our gardens for new roses and the coming season. At our May meeting there will be a presentation on good soil structure to help us in our autumn tasks.

Graham Wright reminds us that we need to plan well ahead to make sure that our gardens grow well and autumn/winter is the time to plan. He offers his usual wise and considered advice on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Chilli Thrips have appeared in almost plague proportions since late summer, causing damage to our roses. Our cultural notes provide advice and information about how we can identify and deal with these malicious seeming, little pests. We have also been visited by a beetle, the Monolepta beetle, which is a very efficient chewer when it arrives in huge swarms at the end of summer. Many of us have not encountered this beetle prior to this summer. But this summer it has appeared in hordes across the Macarthur and Hawkesbury regions.

Maureen and Ian Thackeray were once again stars of the Easter Show and represented Macarthur with their winning entries. Graham Wright had a key role judging at the Easter Show. It reminded us all how fortunate we are to have such committed and knowledgeable members in the Macarthur Rose Society. Janet was also there supporting less experienced exhibitors and generally ensuring the Easter Rose show success.

Many thanks to Graham and Janet, who so willingly share their vast knowledge and experience with other rosarians supporting and encouraging us all to learn and enjoy our roses.

Many thanks to the exhibitors and the volunteers who gave up their time and contributed to the Easter Show Rose Society promotion stand. Your help and support was greatly appreciated and helped to spread the load across the regions. It is a vast undertaking to maintain the stand at the Easter Show and your contribution was greatly appreciated.



Aileen Noble and Wendy Satara volunteering at the Easter Show

At our June meeting next month, we will be holding our AGM. All roles will be up for nominations and volunteers will be needed to take up the challenge and support the functioning of the Macarthur Rose Society. It is your contribution that makes the Rose Society successful. I urge you to consider nominating.

Many of you have renewed your membership early. Thank You. The raffle with the opportunity to win a free membership will be drawn at the May meeting. The following month you will all (apart from the lucky April renewing member) have another opportunity along with May membership renewers. Good Luck to you all.

Yours in Roses *Judith*

## May 2024

Whatever the month there is always much to be enjoyed in our gardens. That includes the bigger versions on the outskirts of town to the tidy collection of plants maintained in pots. We certainly need to be adaptable when downsizing or upsizing but these challenges can often give us much satisfaction.

May is a good time to evaluate our garden planning. There will be some plants headed for the bin but there are sure to be some which can be passed on to colleagues. Last year we reduced numbers considerably. This made it easier for us to do a better job on the remaining roses but it also meant that we were able to find good homes for ones which deserve to have another chance. Because roses are such hardy plants they will usually handle the changes. In fact, a new position with new soil will be doing that rose a favour. Of the roses which we handed on the reports have been favourable. The roots will appreciate a trim at the time when the stems are cut back.



Reorganising the garden can be a case of reducing the numbers of a certain cultivar. When exhibiting you need multiple blooms for many classes but sometimes just one or two roses of a certain variety will be sufficient. However, we are allowed to have multiples of favourites. I will certainly always grow Kardinal.

Obviously it is important that when receiving “second hand roses” they be healthy and strong. We need to spend plenty of time with preparations. A lovely big hole with friable soil and a nice sprinkling of Seamungus. In most cases with moved plants I placed a tomato stake next to the biggest cane and attached the plant. We do not want roses rocking around in the new hole. By the second year in that new position we should have very productive plants.

Now that I have created more space and time there is the opportunity to grow new plants of favoured cultivars which other rosarians can enjoy. I am also aware of the need to preserve the ones which are proving difficult to obtain at nurseries. Hopefully next season we can combine that goal with propagation skills for budding or taking cuttings. I know that Gary has already made a start there with providing rootstock for members.



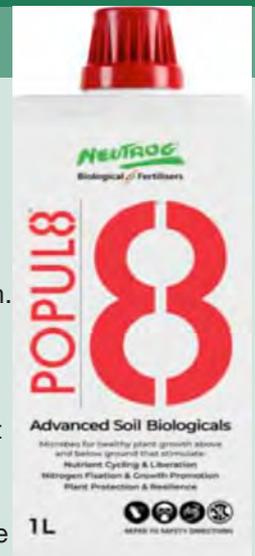
Of course the most common way to change the composition of the garden is to order bare rooted roses. The usual practice has been to study a catalogue and select some enticing new cultivars. The online procedure should be comfortable for us these days. Don't be afraid to ring nurseries to chase up news on availability. Often they have extra roses “hidden away”. At this time of the year the bare rooted version is the best route to take. Plants in pots have usually been there for some time. Foliage growth and root growth always tell their stories.

I used to feel that the plants offered by big stores were inferior but in recent times the quality seems to be better and it is handy to be able to inspect before buying.

I have concentrated on planning but make sure that you continue to give your roses the fundamental care which they require this month. I would anticipate less watering but that will depend on the rain. Any feeding will involve Seamungus in a few months. Ideally keep on top of the pests and diseases as we will want a nice clean start to the new season after pruning.

Best wishes to all rosarians,

*Graham Wright*



# Cultural Notes

## Chilli thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis*)

These are found throughout the world and were first reported in north western Australia about 20 years ago. Chilli thrips are also known as strawberry and tea thrips. They feed on roses, all citrus, and their hybrids and a range of fruit and vegetable hosts.

Chilli Thrip is about two millimetres long with an elongated, flat 'torpedo' shaped body, pale coloured or translucent to black, making it hard for us to see without a magnifying glass. While you would expect to see the larvae on the top surface of the leaves, you will also find adult thrips on the underneath surface too. The first thing you should be looking for is damage to your roses. Adult thrips have four feathery wings.

Similar to Western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) and Plague thrips (*Thrips imaginis*). Chilli thrips' habitat is deep in the flower or on the undersides of the leaves, on the ground or lower leaves when pre-pupal or pupal stages.

All Thrips are most active during spring, summer and autumn. Inspect plants regularly for evidence of thrips to enable early detection and minimise impact by the pest.

- 1 Discolouration of the leaves surrounded by little black dots, which are Chilli thrip poo (faecal secretions).
- 2 Curling leaves with light brown spots. Wrinkled leaves along leaf veins where these insects have tapped into the plant sap and discolouration on any buds.
- 3 Patches on the leaves with clear spots where the thrips have sucked out all the sap.
- 4 Deformed shoots or flowers on infested plants. These are caused by the thrips' saliva.



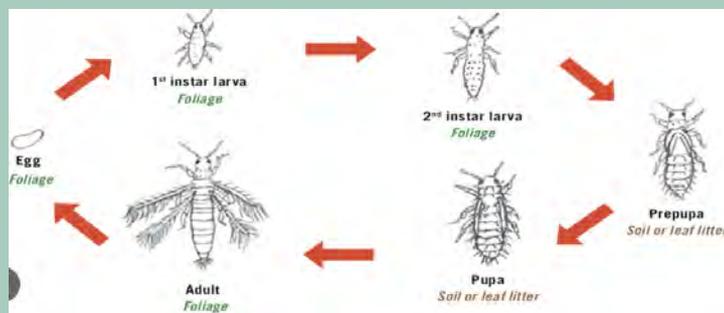
Chilli Thrip infestation on a full bloom rose

Monitoring is vital to start preventative measures as soon as thrips are detected. They are difficult to control once plant damage is evident.

Use an adhesive trap (ideally blue since it will better attract chilli thrips). Examine every few days using a magnifying glass to check whether chilli thrips (usually winged adults) have stuck to them. Tap flowers over a sheet of white paper and examine the black, torpedo-shaped 'specks' beneath a magnifying glass.

## Chilli Thrip Lifecycle

The thrips lifecycle, comprising egg, larva, pre-pupa, pupa, adult several weeks. Larvae emerge from the eggs and feed on surrounding tissues, then fall to the ground or lower leaves when they reach the appropriate stage of development. They live there during the pre-pupal and pupal stages until a reproductive adult appears with fully developed wings. Chilli thrips can have many generations in a single year and populations can build up over time.



## Treating the Problem

Preventative sprays may be required in some situations, especially when nurturing your roses for an exhibition at a Rose show, to prevent all damage to blossom stems. In this situation you need to start preventative spraying when the bud is forming.

A range of products registered to treat other thrips species may be used. Products that contain active ingredients such as imidacloprid (sold as Confidor), spinetoram (Success Ultra), or pyrethroids are effective against thrips, and may be available to home gardeners. Horticultural soap, oils, and other products may be available as organic controls.



Always use products purchased for management of thrips according to label directions. Multiple applications of different treatments, whether organic or not, may be required. Apply treatments to other nearby host plants to protect them from the pest. Take care when applying insecticides to conserve the beneficial predators that will help with thrips control.

While some sprays may work there is only one way to make sure that you can get rid of Chilli Thrips on your roses - at least for a while. Prune HARD - even if it is not the right time of year to prune your roses.

Don't throw loose cuttings in the garbage bin. Place the cuttings in a strong plastic bag, seal with a twist-tie and bin the bag. Loose cuttings help spread the problem. Clean your tools after each plant and KEEP ALERT for their presence in your garden.

# Cultural Notes

## Springtime Effect

Order: Coleoptera, Family: Chrysomelidae, Species: *Monolepta australis*. Also known as Red-Shouldered Beetle.

*Monolepta australis* are yellow with a reddish-purple band across the shoulders and a dot on each wing cover. Similar in appearance to lady beetles, but more elongated. The larvae look like flattened grubs; white with a hard brown formation at both ends of its body with an adult size of 6 - 8 mm



The red-shouldered leaf beetle is a serious pest in coastal and sub coastal areas of northern and eastern Australia with tropical and subtropical climates. The *monolepta australis* beetle may appear in enormous swarms, especially during spring and late summer. The beetles are gregarious and feed together, which can result in severe damage. Leaves and flowers may have a scorched appearance and bark may be stripped. Severe infestations can cause defoliation.

The female beetles lay their eggs in soil and the entire life cycle takes about two months. Larvae feed on roots, particularly grasses. Mature beetles can cause serious damage within a few hours and can decimate a crop virtually overnight.

LADYBUGS OR LADY BEETLES belong in the same order Coleoptera but FAMILY and SPECIES are different. Coccinellidae are good for your garden while *Monolepta* are a huge pest.



*Monolepta* beetles are a huge problem on the eastern seaboard. Host plants include legumes, avocado, corn, eucalyptus trees, grasses, cotton, citrus, carambola (star fruit), lychee, macadamia, mango and strawberry, as well as many ornamental plants such as roses. *Eucalyptus torelliana* is a particular favourite. They can be around all year, but are most numerous in late summer.

*Monolepta australis* beetle likes a warm, dry climate. A hot dry spell followed by good rain seems to be when eggs are laid and following heavy rainfall (typical of tropical climates) the adults emerge, they also swarm when the dry weather is prolonged. They are attracted to yellow and white and can devastate the flowers and leaves. It doesn't seem to be such a pest in cooler areas.

It is best to check your garden quite often after experiencing a heavy down pour in your region. Using a contact spray such as pyrethrum and/or ECO-Oil may help control these bugs.

A suitable drenching product used on the soil may break the breeding cycle by killing the larvae that may already have been laid. Using sticky traps may help to control a small number and white containers filled with water can offer a drowning method.

### Natural Remedies

Spiders /Soldier beetle /Tachinid flies / Braconid wasp will parasitise the beetle and the eggs. Some ground beetles will eat eggs and larvae. *Monoleptophaga caldwelli* is a parasitic tachinid fly that specifically targets the *Monolepta* beetle but it won't have much effect if they are in plague numbers.

### Roses to Grow

Apricot Nectar is a classical old FLORIBUNDA rose, which produces clusters of perfectly formed Hybrid Tea shaped blooms. It is an ideal bush for the back of a border because it flowers absolutely continually. If left to 'have her own way', this magnificent rose will grow to a healthy height of 1.8 metres tall. Some careful light pruning and staking will ensure that it becomes an outstanding rose that performs well every growing season. It is a very versatile rose that is popular on the show bench as its robustness means it stands up well to the rigours of refrigeration and travel. It provides a showy display in the garden and excels as a cut flower in a vase.

Apricot Nectar's buff apricot colour is unique in floribundas. The flowers are large and fully petalled and it has a good fragrance. The entire flower fades to light yellow as it ages. The flower is exceptionally attractive in evening light, and produces the best flowers in warm, dry climates making it an ideal rose for the Macarthur region.



It delivers repeating clusters of blooms from spring until late autumn. It has a well deserved reputation for being a strong, disease resistant rose.



Apricot Nectar

## All About Roses Library



Macarthur Regional Rose Society has its own collection of rose library books. The library has evolved over many years to a collection of books about all things roses and rose gardening. A large majority of our members over many years have donated books to the library. The books are thoughtful, useful and informative. All financial members are able to borrow from the library. Helen Fahey our librarian brings a selection of our library books to the regular monthly meetings. The books are on display on the table at the back of the room near the kitchen. Feel free to borrow a book but make sure that Helen has recorded you as having the book before you leave the meeting. Winter is a great time to read up on roses and think and plan for the coming season.

## Membership Renewal

Membership renewal is due before the end of the financial year - 30 June 2024. Remember to fill in the form and forward it to Maureen Thackeray or give it to her at our regular meeting. If paying electronically, use your name and region as the reference on the bank form. This will help identify you as having paid.

Remember payment in April and May will give you the chance to win your membership fee back.



**Photo:** A full bloom hybrid tea - Tineke. Its pure white blooms, hold their shape and colour in the garden, a vase and on the show bench. It stands up to the heat well and blooms continuously all season. It has a very compact bush making it ideal in smaller gardens and is highly disease resistant. Its long stems make it perfect in a vase. This is a good rose.

## Urgent News

Treloars Roses in Portland Victoria have a sale on and are offering 10% off all roses purchased before 30th April with a spend of \$200 or more. If you are still unsure about what roses to purchase, Treloars website is very easy to navigate. They have a very big range of different types of roses and some excellent growing hints. Happy Shopping!

Wagners Roses offer a 10% discount to all NSW Rose Society members. Use the code 100%ROSES! when ordering.

Both Tims Garden Centre in Campbelltown and Swanes at Dural, will shortly get their new roses for sale. Keep an eye out and be in early to get the best choices.

## Show Bench Competition

May is the last month to accumulate points for this season's show bench competition. Bring along your roses to our May meeting to make the best use of the opportunity to win points towards the trophy.

Below is a beautiful Bud to Full Bloom exhibit of Mr Lincoln that June Hickey and Adam Pearce put on our show bench several months ago. It was a stunning display of a rose that excels in so many ways but is very challenging to stage because of its tendency to open out very quickly. It also loses its 'fresh' look if left in the refrigerator too long. Adam and June got it 'just right'.



Mr Lincoln :  
Bud to Full Bloom



## May Birthdays

14th Penelope Wardle

24th Margaret Crawford

25th Lia Cataldo

27th Marienne McLean



## Macarthur Diary

4 May 2024 - Meeting
1 June 2024 - AGM and General Meeting
6 July 2024 - Pruning Day
3 August 2024 - Meeting
7 September 2024 - Meeting
Neutrog Order Pick up - late September
5 October 2024 - Meeting
21-22 October - Macarthur Rose Show
2 November 2024 - Meeting
7 December 2024 - Christmas Party

We meet at the CWA Camden Hall on the first Saturday of each month (other than January) at 2:00pm. You can access the venue via the Coles carpark. Coles Camden is at 19 Murray Street, Camden.



Camden CWA Hall

**Alternatively, the carpark** of the CWA can be accessed from the first roundabout on Cawdor Road opposite the Camden Bowling and Sports Club.

**We are open from 1:30pm to give you time to arrange** your roses for the show bench prior to the meeting. Oasis can be purchased at the show bench preparation area for \$1 per block.

There is also a Buy, Sell and Swap table for our home grown produce and other products we may want to share. Our library of rose books are available at our meetings.

**Come along, enjoy great conversation,** beautiful roses and meet new friends. All are welcome. For further information telephone: 0410 444 562.