

Macarthur Rose

Macarthur Regional Rose Society Newsletter

Vol 25 June 2019



'Hilton Edward' bred by founding member Robert Stibbard. Signature Rose of Macarthur Rose Society. Highly fragrant.

Chairperson's Report

Dear Rose Friends,

Maintaining good soil health and providing adequate nutrients are basics to grow healthy plants & successful gardening. When plants exhibit symptoms such as poor growth, yellowing, poor flowering and fruiting, curly and small leaves, hard and cracked soils etc; all these could be result of either poor soil health or poor nutrition or a combination of both.

A soil is considered healthy and fertile when it is physically structured well, chemically balanced & biologically active and rich in organic matter. The most common problem we notice in our gardens is soil being either acidic or alkaline. Soils across Australia vary from region to region depending on environmental factors such as rainfall, temperature, soil physical structure (sandy/clay/organic), geochemical factors such as volcanic activity or lime deposits and even debris of building materials after construction in the suburban yards tend to influence the pH of garden soils. Check out how to test the pH and re-balance your soil in the Cultural Notes.

By now you would have ordered your new roses and are eagerly awaiting their arrival by mail order. Check out some of the new releases from Treloars for this year (page 3). Swanes have produced a good video detailing How to Plant a Bare Root Rose. Go to the Video Gallery at www.swanes.com

We welcome Maureen and Ian Thackeray back from their recent trip overseas for the Regional Rose Conference in Nanyang, China. Also welcome back from China to Carol McVeigh, who did a different trip. Thank you for all the photos. See a sample of the wonderful sights they experienced on p4. No doubt we'll see more at future meetings!

Our next Monthly Meeting is on 8 June at Elderslie Public School. It is also the date of our Annual General Meeting. Come along and help elect a new Chairperson and other office bearers. When we join the Rose Society our motives generally are to learn more about growing our roses successfully, to benefit from the Neutrog discount prices for fertiliser, and to enjoy the social aspects of being with like-minded people. At this time I'd like you to take a moment to think about **not** what your rose society can do for you— ask yourself **what you can do** for the society.

Our Annual Fundraiser is on 6 July at Bunnings Narellan. We still need volunteers for the BBQ and for cooking cakes and slices for the Cake Stall. Put your name on the roster at our next meeting or phone me on 4625 6067 or Mobile 0423 050 532.

Annual Subscriptions are due at this time. The renewal notice came with the Autumn edition of the quarterly Journal of the NSW Rose. Please have the correct money clearly marked with your name and the amount in a sealed envelope. We have a new interim State Subscription Secretary, Ralph Parsons. Contact details to follow.

Thank you very much for all the support you have given me over the past six years. It has been a privilege to give to and to serve Macarthur Rose Society.

With very best wishes,

Rosalie

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Cultural Notes for June

Are your plants looking sick with stunted growth or yellow leaves? Are they not responding to fertiliser application? If so, incorrect soil pH could be the cause. Do you know that soil pH directly affects nutrient uptake and plant growth? When soils are too acidic or too alkaline, plants are not able to absorb all the nutrients they need, even when plenty of nutrients are available in the soil. Plants will not respond no matter how much fertiliser you add.

Now is a good time to test your soil, potting mixes and compost to ensure your soils have an optimum pH between 6 and 7 for growing healthy roses. Soil pH is a measure of acidity or alkalinity of soils or potting mix. The pH scale runs from 0 to 14 with the pH value of 7 being neutral. Any pH above 7 is alkaline and below 7 is acidic. Most garden plants grow best in soils that are slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6 to 7). Some plants however, often referred to as acid loving plants (such as Azalea, Camellia, Rhododendrons, Blue Hydrangeas etc.) prefer and grow best under acidic conditions of pH 5 to 6. A few plants such as Lilac, Fig, Pink Hydrangeas, can thrive under slightly alkaline conditions.

Changing/Adjusting soil pH

Lowering pH of alkaline soils: **Sulphur** is the most common and economical soil acidifying product for lowering pH. To lower the pH by one unit (eg. From 7.5 to 6.5) use the following amounts per square metre of soil surface, depending on soil type.

Sandy — 25g/m² Loamy — 50-70g/m² Clay—100g/m²

These amounts will lower the pH of top soil by one unit; to lower the pH by more than one unit, multiply the above amounts accordingly. Sulphur is gradually converted to acid over a period of 4-6 weeks, depending on soil temperature and microbial activity. It is most important to test the pH after this period and repeat the application if necessary.

Increasing pH of acidic soils: Use either **Garden Lime or Dolomite Lime**. Both are effective in increasing soil pH, but the difference is, dolomite has a higher Magnesium content which is ideal for highly acid soils. To increase the pH by one unit (for example from 5.5 to 6.5) use the following amounts per square metre of surface area, depending on soil type.

Sandy — 100g/m² Loamy — 200g/m² Clay — 300-400g/m²

These amounts will raise the pH of top soil by one unit; to raise the pH by more than one unit, multiply the above amounts accordingly. Soils that are naturally acidic or alkaline need regular monitoring and correction.



The Manutec Soil pH Test Kit is inexpensive and readily available from Bunnings and Garden Centres.

Take a teaspoonful of dry soil from the area to be tested, if soil is very wet, it can be air dried on a sheet of paper. If soil is hard and lumpy, crush to finer so that it is easy for mixing and testing.

If you are testing soils around shallow rooted plants such as small plants, shrubs or lawns etc. take sample at a depth of about 10-15 cm below surface. If you are testing around deep rooted plants such as Fruit trees or large shrubs, take sample at a depth of about 1 ft (25-30 cm) below surface. Try to remove any un-decomposed organic matter like leaves/bark etc.

Happy gardening!

Rosalie

Source: www.soilphtesting.com

New Rose Releases 2019



Olivia Rose Austin (Ausmixture) - This lovely Austin rose commences flowering very early in the season and continues well into Autumn. Medium to large fully cupped rosettes of an even mid pink, have a good fruity fragrance and sit on a very healthy, well balanced bush to 1.2 to 1.5m high by 1m wide. Named for David Austins' granddaughter and claimed by David to be his best rose ever developed.

Available at Treloars, however it has been sold out for 2019.

Kiss Me Kate (Kornagelio) - A classic combination of a fully petalled blooms with a strong lemon / green apple fragrance. The large blooms are on average 9 cm across with a good stem length for cutting and framed by dark green foliage. A vigorous climber with the health of a Kordes' rose. This climber has it all! Approx 2m spread.

Fragrance: This rose presents a fresh top note of freshly ground lemon peel completed by a fresh green apple scent. The scent is underlined by a discreet impression of aromatic myrrh in the bottom note. Available at Treloars.



Toni (HAlmoocon) - Bred in Australia by Paul Hains, this striking rose has deep pink blooms with a lighter reverse. The large fully double blooms repeat in flushes throughout the season and can be used for cut flowers. Bushy growth to approximately 1.5 to 1.8m tall. Available at Treloars, however it has been sold out for 2019.

Check out more new roses at :

www.treloarroses.com.au



Regional Rose Convention, Nanyang, China May 2019. Photos courtesy Ian Thackeray

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7th June Robyn Wright

26th June Charlotte Tarbotton

7th June Debbie Cairnduff

27th June June Hickery

12th June Lorraine Hawke

14th June Denise Quinn

16th June Kilwalkar Kuldeep

20th June Judith Oyston



Diary Dates

Next Monthly Meeting and Annual General Meeting: Saturday 8 June 2.00pm Elderslie Public School 170 Lodges Road, Elderslie

Saturday 6 July: 8.00am-4.00pm Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser and Cake Stall, Narellan Bunnings

Saturday 13 July: 10.00am Rose Pruning and Monthly Meeting at Camden Park House, Camden Park Road, Menangle

Saturday 27 July: 9.00am Pruning at Rose Cottage, 14 Barsden St, Camden

Contact Us

Your contributions to the Newsletter are very welcome. Please send items of interest and photos to:

Secretary: Stephanie Judges email : steph07@bigpond.com Mobile 0403 364 112 or

Chairperson: Rosalie Vine email: rosalievine@bigpond.com Ph. 4625 6067 Mobile 0423 050 532