

# Southern Highlands Regional Rose Society

April 2023 Newsletter



Signature Rose Best Friend

*Hello Rosarians,*

The heatwave is over and back to normal time.

April is a lovely month to be in the garden.

The Autumn Rose Show was in the midst of the heatwave and our roses certainly suffered.

Congratulations to everyone who made the effort to bench roses.

Roz Mulligan won the Novice Champion with her entry Rose of Narromine.

A presentation of the members prize winning entries will be shown at our April meeting.

The Miniature and Miniflora roses excelled in the competition winning Champion and Reserve Champion Awards.

The miniature roses coped well in the heat and outshone the hybrid teas and floribunda roses.

The public generously supported our raffle and were eager to win our first prize The St. Patrick Hybrid Tea rose. The lucky and worthy recipient was Jenny Mottram. Jenny has been suffering the effects of Covid for the last two years and was overwhelmed to receive good news.

Our Rose Society will be represented at the Southern Highlands Autumn Plant Fair on Saturday 22 April and Sunday 23 April 2023, being held at the Southern Highlands Botanical Gardens.

Roz, Carol and myself have volunteered to man the stand in the Combined Garden Societies Information tent for a few hours, but we need more helpers. Volunteers gain free entry to the Plant Fair....can I entice you to help us on any of the two days.

*Happy Easter to all.*

*Annette*



**Rose Tip:** A generous application of lime organic material dug into your plot will sweeten the soil and raise the PH level to the required 7 for your roses.  
*Enjoy your Autumn blooms*

# Preparing our Roses for Show Demonstration

## Meryl and Ted Morphett

We must say a huge thank you to Meryl and Ted Morphett who travelled from Emu Plains to be with us at our March meeting.

Ted demonstrated how best to prepare our roses for the show bench.

Using his skills honed over the years Ted very gently manipulated the roses petals to ensure that they looked exactly as they should for the judges eye.

As Ted is our Chairman of Judges for the Rose Society of NSW we were in good hands on the day.

With our Autumn Show coming up in a few days it was excellent timing for our members to be shown and to practice preparing the roses.



Liz and Margaret practicing.



## Cultural Notes for Autumn

Kindly supplied by  
Jacqueline Tweedie  
Sydney Regional Rose Society

Autumn is nearly here. April is the last month to fertilize your roses before the resting period during the colder months.

Early March experienced a couple of hot days which hopefully helped encourage bloom production but cooler days are needed to help with the intensity of colour in the blooms.

The earlier flooding rain may have removed fertilizer that was contained in the soil, but after February, March and April fertilizing there should be enough food stored in each bush to carry it through into Spring.

Do not waste your fertilizer after April as the ground becomes cooler and growth stops.



**Aphids on New Shoots**

New shoots usually start their growth once the weather is cooler.

Aphids may appear on new shoots so take appropriate action when you see them as these insects multiply very quickly.

Last month you were advised to start new bed preparation, not wait until the new bushes arrive.

Fresh fertilizer will damage the new fine roots that the new plant will use to establish itself.

New beds should be dug a spade deep (about 30cm) and let stand for a few weeks before turning the soil over as well as the manure and compost. Superphosphate can be added to the soil, when incorporating manures.

You will need to let the new garden bed settle while the compost breaks down to create friability.

Some **Neutrog Seamungus** can be added to the bottom of the hole when planting the rose.



### Neutrogs Seamungus

Seamungus will help your plants resist heat, drought and frost, along with pests and disease. Seaweed contains a number of naturally occurring growth stimulants – fantastic for promoting plant and root growth and development.

Seaweed is also recognised for its ability to retain moisture and increase the moisture level of the plant's cell sap – this increases the plant's ability to resist frost and heat stress. Seamungus will help increase resistance to pests and disease, stimulate healthy growth (both above and below ground) and most importantly, generally improve the wellbeing of your soils and plants

# Cultural Notes for Autumn

*Kindly supplied by Jacqueline Tweedie Sydney Regional Rose Society...Cont.:*

## Relocating a Rose

If you have clay soil the easiest and quickest way to get good drainage is to add soil and raise the level of the garden bed so that the garden is now on top of the clay.

Wait for the hot weather to finish before digging up and replanting a rose.

When moving and replanting a rose bush you may also need to remove a barrow load of soil and replenish with fresh soil and manures, remove any remaining roots.

The removed soil can be used in other parts of the garden where roses are not grown.

Some rosarians do not remove any soil, as they are just moving a bush to a different location not discarding it because it has died or is diseased

The rose to be relocated to a pot or new garden spot, will need to have its roots inspected and then trimmed of all torn, damaged ends, as disease can enter through these damaged areas.

Have your pot on hand, and prepared good soil ready to fill in around the rose.

Regular guidelines for potting: make sure the weep holes are open, mound the soil so the roots are free to grow out from the root ball, make sure there is growth room in the pot selected.

This can be done in the slightly cooler days in April/May.

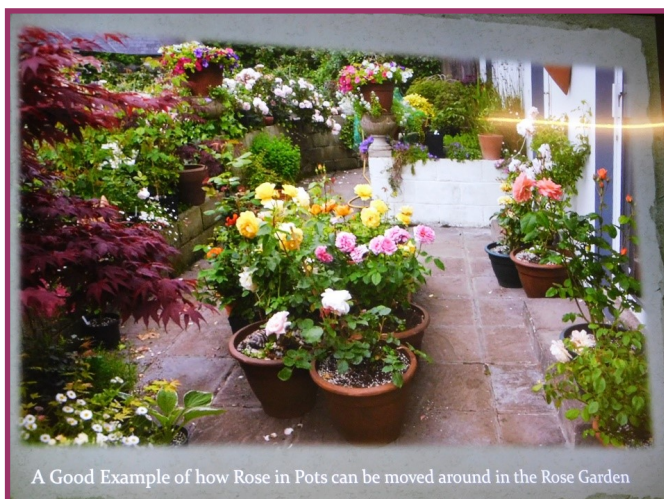
Before starting the relocation or potting procedure prune the top canes, this will help with the shock of being uprooted and will encourage roots to grow in the new soil.

By doing the moving/potting now it will ensure any new leaf growth hardens before the Winter frost as new tender growth can suffer frost burn. Some roses will flourish in large pots while some will sulk, but give it a try rather than throw out an under-performing favourite rose.

One advantage of pot culture, it allows the pot to be moved to a sunny spot in Winter.

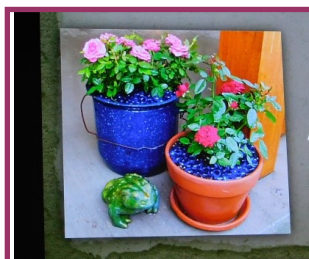
Keep the pot off the ground so ants can be deterred and you can see excess water running from the drainage holes.

Be careful, not to allow the soil around the outer edge to dry out completely as water will just run through the dry soil giving a false impression of drainage run-off.



A Good Example of how Rose in Pots can be moved around in the Rose Garden

Some photos from our July 2022 guest speaker  
Lorrie Zammit, showing some examples  
of growing roses in pots.



# Cultural Notes for Autumn

*Kindly supplied by Jacqueline Tweedie Sydney Regional Rose Society...Cont.:*

## Mulching

Mulching helps retain moisture as well as keeps the soil warm during the colder Winter months.

Optimum growing conditions require 6-8 hours of direct sunlight each day.

Some will tolerate a little shade but sun and rose bushes go together.

Floribunda cultivars will give greater continuity of bloom and are usually more tolerant to inclement weather than hybrid tea roses, but it is best not to try to get the best of both worlds by planting them together in the same bed, as their growth habit can be so different.

Watering will still be necessary although less water is needed over the Winter months but watering at ground level is best. Not in the late afternoon as the foliage needs to be dry prior to cooler nights.

Keep with your spraying program.



## Neutrog's Who Flung Dung Mulch

Who Flung Dung is absorbent, as it helps retain moisture and warmth in the garden, which improves nutrient uptake. It adds nutrients to the soil for both the beneficial bacteria and plants to feed on – significantly reducing, if not eliminating, the nitrogen draw-down issues that are associated with most other mulches.

## Spade pruning

If a rose bush is dying, dead or diseased dig it out! Replace the soil where a diseased bush has been, and also remove all roots.

If moving an existing non-performing plant or one in the wrong place, prepare the soil in the new spot or the soil that will be going into the new pot, as some will grow quite successfully in large pots. This is giving the bush a 'second chance' rather than go straight into the bin. The last action, into the bin, may seem extreme but why spend time and money to keep a non-growing rose holding a spot that could be more productive with a new rose bush?

## Vanishing Lawn Syndrome

This happens every so often as gardeners see new releases in various catalogues or pass through a nursery or gardening store. Don't the pictures look enticing? Catalogues are now viewed on line at the various rose nurseries within Australia. Order early to ensure you can get what you want.

Pruning in the Sydney metro areas usually does not start until August, while in areas subject to frosts you will need to wait later until after the last frost in your area. Have you a fresh supply of lime sulphur?

*Good gardening, Jacqueline.*

# Our Next Meeting

10.00 am Wednesday 19 April 2023

Our meeting will be held at Renwick Community Centre

Renwick Drive, Renwick

## *Southern Highlands Autumn Rose Show Results*

### ***Judging Table***

*For the Judges bench .....a single rose bloom from your garden.*

*Please feel free to enter more than one single bloom if you have more in your garden*

### ***Members Choice***

*A single bloom or arrangement of your choice from your garden which features the rose.*

## Southern Highlands Botanical Garden Autumn Plant Sale

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23 May 2023

Our society will be represented at the show and we are in need of volunteers to help us on the day for a few hours.

Can you let Annette Lane know if you are able to help on 0425 203 981

## *Quote Of the Month*

*Gardening should be done in blinders.*

*It's distractions are tempting and persistent, and only by stern exercise of will do I ever finish one job before being lured off to another.*

*Richardson Wright*

