

# Southern Highlands Regional Rose Society



Signature Rose Best Friend

## January 2023 Newsletter

Dear Rose Friends ,

Can you believe that we are halfway through the summer season?

It is time to plan your summer prune particularly if you are considering entering at the March 17th at the combined Highland Garden Society and Southern Highlands Rose Society Autumn Show.

So looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting for 2023 on January 18th.

This will be a very casual meeting with socializing with your Rose family foremost on the agenda.

Enjoy your roses .

**Annette Lane**  
Chairperson

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**Don't forget to place your order for your supply of Neutrog Products.**

**Cut off is 9th February for delivery in March. Once again Peter and Robyn Miller have graciously offered to have our orders delivered to their home for us to collect from.**

**Remember, as a member of the Rose Society of NSW**

**you receive a discount on products ordered.**

**You can order online at [www.neutrog.com](http://www.neutrog.com)**

**Or call Jacinta at Neutrog on 08 8538 3513**

# Summer Pruning of Your Roses

## Courtesy of Meryl and Ted Morphett

### Trimming Shrub, Hybrid Tea and Floribunda Roses

Summer trimming will improve the quality of blooms produced by the plants during autumn. The length of the blooming period is extended as well. It is thinning out of the plant, rather than pruning.

To determine when to trim if you are entering shows, decide which day you need the roses. ( For us here in the Southern Highlands we are needing them for our show on 17 March 2023)

On a calendar, count back from this date the required number of days for each variety.

In speaking with Ted re this, he suggested we use the formula of 53 to 56 days for our Southern Highlands gardens.

Prior to trimming avoid cutting blooms with long stems during the summer period. One way of doing this is to simply break off the heads of faded flowers, which is called dead heading.

Withholding water will result in the hardening of the canes. In the last week of February, the bushes should be given a thorough soaking of water. This will put life back into the plants and make them ready for trimming. Remove weak branches and trim the remaining wood lightly, just as you would when picking roses for the home. Cut each flowering stem to a plump growth bud, All foliage should be left on the plants to protect them from the hot sun.

A pruning hint from Ted.....  
Pruning to five buds will promote your blooms earlier than if you prune back to six buds.

### Trimming Standard Roses

The trimming of standard roses will consist mostly of removing misplaced flowering shoots and dead wood and the shortening of the remaining wood of the present season's growth. In the case of young plants it is better to do very little trimming, just remove dead wood and any spindly pieces and leave the rest.

### Using Mulch.

Lightly fork in the old mulch and give the bushes a thorough soaking with water to start the plants into strong growth again. Do not be misled by light showers of rain as this encourages root growth closer to the surface where the roots are susceptible to temperature variations. It is wise to have a covering of mulch to conserve the moisture in the soil. When shoots are well on the way, two to three weeks after trimming, apply fertilizer and water in.

### What can Affect Our Success?

All gardens are different and experience different microclimates. Much depends on the weather and this we cannot change. Growers in each area need to modify the dates to suit their own situation. Altitude and distance from the sea must be taken into consideration. Warm days and warm nights will give quick development, whilst warm days and cooler nights will give slower development.

*Happy Trimming.....regards Meryl and Ted.*

# Cultural Notes for January

As the hot summer weather is here, water is probably the most important element of rose culture. Roses are hardy plants and will stand a reasonable drought situation, but they will not thrive unless the soil remains moist.

If the soil gets too dry they may sulk or even stop growing. Constant moist, not water logged soil, is of the utmost importance. It is difficult to supply too much water if the drainage is adequate.

How much water is needed? This depends to some extent where you live, how hot during the summer months, dry winds, humidity etc. In the NW Sydney region, a general guide is around 15 litres per bush (or per sq. metre).

This amount is applied on a weekly basis during summer. If any rain falls accept it as a bonus. Moisture meters are available at most good nurseries; these give a general guide.

You could also push a rod in the soil in various locations and note the dampness of it. This is particularly effective in clay soils. These are some ideas to make a reasonable judgement.

Very porous or sandy soils will require the same amount of water a little more frequently than heavier soils. It will also take less time to saturate the area. Cease watering if any seepage is visible from your beds, this is a waste of water, and leaching of nutrients.

Water your roses regularly and spray to control black spot and mildew, as well as two-spotted mite, as retention of foliage is very important.

Spray on the underside of the leaves as well as this is where some of the nasties live.

Stake all basal shoots and steady the plants as well.

If you prefer to have flowers right through summer and autumn, with quality varying from poor on warm days to fairly good on cool days, continue to remove faded flowers and feed the bushes well in late January.

## When to water?

**Klaus Eckardt from Green E Roses** suggests we water early in the day when the leaves can dry quickly.

Try to avoid watering at night when leaves are in a moist state over a period of time, thereby increasing the chances of fungal problems.

Always water after fertilising or pruning.

## Summer Fertilising

The rose will have used up fertiliser for the growth that has produced flowers, and will need to find more resources for subsequent summer growth.

Some soils can hold nutrients for a long time, most clayey soils do and others can leach out nutrients rapidly, like sandy soils and potting mixes.

If required, replenish fertilisers after flowering flushes, usually 6 to 8 weeks in summer. Make sure to water well afterwards, and watch new growth for water stress.



Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses is recommended as it has all the essential nutrients your roses need.

## Using Sprays during Summer

Insects breed fast in the heat.....lucky us!!! Most chemicals rely on interrupting the life cycle, so spraying before the next target cycle develops is critical. Usually two sprays are needed.

The first spray will kill the current stage of the insects life cycle.

The second spray will prevent any unaffected insect life cycle stages from reproducing.

Do no spray when it is hot!! Spray residue can burn plant tissue, so try to choose a day when it doesn't get too hot and spray early.

## Pest Control

One of the most persistent problems with rose growing is spider mites. Our hot, dry climate is the tiny bludgers paradise. The 'hose them off treatment' will not eliminate mites. It simply knocks them to the soil. They climb aboard again next day. If you have a large amount of roses, it is practically impossible to wash them down every day. Consider treating sources close to your roses as a means of prevention.

Eliminate weeds and unwanted vegetation which may harbour the pests. Be aware of any hot spots in your garden. Miniature roses seem particularly prone to mites. When mites are noticed, action should take place quickly. They can reproduce at an incredible speed. The life cycle from egg-laying adult is as little as five days. Each adult female lays a lot of eggs. The magic bullet action is to use a good fresh miticide. You should spray at four day intervals for the first two sprays, to break the hatching cycle, then a week later for a final knockdown. To obtain maximum results, target the undersides of the foliage. Good coverage is needed to get rid of this pest.

Thrips, small elongated insects about 1mm in length are pests of a wide variety of plants. The most serious damage to roses results from the thrips entering the opening buds and feeding on the petals, causing disfigurement of the blooms. Severe infestation will bruise buds to the extent they will not open. They feed by rasping away the surface tissue and sucking away the sap from the petals. Bud and bloom spot coverage is good (if preparing for a show) in spring time. Recent research suggests thrip control should include good spray coverage of the entire plant as well as the rose beds. Weekly spraying is recommended during the thrips' season. Any spray material (even water) can damage pastel colours (thrips' territory) when applied on hot days. Spray early if possible or spray late for best results.

## Applying Mulch

As organics break down, a good supply of essential nutrients are released including most of the trace elements essential for good growth.

Mulching material is laid straight onto the soil, no cultivation takes place.

Tender young feeder roots grow mostly in the top few centimetres of soil and without cultivation no damage or destruction will occur.

Whatever your choice of mulch, you will grow better roses easier when you use good, thick organic mulch on your rose beds.

**Neutrogs Who Flung Dung** is recommended.

**Source: Jim Cunningham, Klaus Eckardt**



# Our Next Meeting

10.00 am Wednesday 18 January 2023

Our meeting will be held at Renwick Community Centre

Renwick Drive, Renwick

## Happy New Rose Year Meeting

*Morning tea will be served.*

*Members are invited to bring something to share.*

### **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.*

### **Rose Show**

Our next show is being held on 17 March 2023

Following the success of the recent show held in November, we now know that our roses are certainly championship quality, so we have included in this edition trimming hints to ensure your blooms are ready to exhibit. Plus Ted Morphet will be our guest at our March meeting to show us how best to prepare our blooms for display.

### *Quote Of the Month*

*Summer afternoon.....*

*To me those have been the two most beautiful words in the English language..*

*Edith Warton*

