

Southern Highlands Rose Society



Newsletter



July 2020

Greetings Members,

The Covid crisis rolls on and we seem to be no nearer to a resolution. The status quo will remain and we will keep our meeting suspended until at least October.

It was with sadness that we learned of the deaths of two local enthusiastic rose growers. Sue Kingsford who was known to many through both the Rose Society and through her wonderful rose nursery at Fitzroy Falls, Roses and Friends.

Not long after we learned of the death of local member Lynette Lamb who was known widely through gardening circles and as well as a member of the Rose Society was an honorary life member of the Highlands Garden Society. Lynette will be missed at our local meetings.

Jo Babb



Reminders and Notifications

- *Memberships for Rose Society of NSW were due by 30th June. If you have overlooked payment, pay now to keep your membership.*
- *New dates announced for the WFRS World Rose Convention - Adelaide, Australia 27 October - 3 November, 2022*
- *Roses by the Seaside: National Rose Championships and Conference to have been held in October in Kiama has been cancelled.*
- *Neutrog Orders will arrive at the end of July. A reminder that orders must be collected within a few days of notification. As they are stored in the garage attached to the house of our President, it is not hard to understand that Peter and wife Robyn, like them gone as soon as possible. The smell of Who Flung Dung permeating their day to day life is generosity aplenty. Please be considerate and collect as soon as you are advised they are available.*

Reproduced below is a great article from South Australia. Their conditions are not too dissimilar to our own and the article provides some very useful tips and good reading. Thanks to Gavin Woods for allowing the article to be used.

July in the Rose Garden

The coldest month is also the busiest in our gardens as the old is swept away and we prepare for the coming bounty that our roses will soon offer.

With frosts as heavy as I have seen in our area, temperatures dropped to minus 2.7 and as a consequence the roses have largely defoliated. Naked plants makes visualising the location of each pruning cut easier, it makes disposal of the prunings easier; it however adds to the burden of cleaning the beds of fallen leaves much more onerous.

Plants could have been pruned in June this year, I have however held off until July only because I preach the mantra "To prune in June is much too soon"! There is also a psychological hurdle to leap before pruning 600 roses and I wasn't prepared to abandon a routine of 25 years!

Roses can be grown to suit almost any situation in the garden; to climb and cover large areas of vertical structure; to grow straight up a pole to give height to the garden; to provide a colourful hedge; in pots; or as colourful plants for the garden to add to the landscape or to provide blooms for the household. From the diminutive Miniatures, through the moderate growing Floribundas to enormous Shrubs and Hybrid Teas, there is a rose to suit any situation and to meet all tastes. There is now ever a good selection of thornless roses for those who despise the occasional "love-bite" offered by our plants.

In order to encourage our plants of all shapes and sizes to perform to their optimum, they must be pruned annually and pruned to certain "Golden Rules".

Gavin's Golden Rules of pruning

- ***Have clean, sharp pruning tools***
- ***Look after you back when gardening; bend at the knees not at the waist***
- ***Prune for short periods, then rest to protect your back***
- ***Remove the dead wood first***
- ***Reduce growing canes (on bush roses) by 1/3-2/3 depending on vigour***
- ***Open the centre of the plant to encourage air flow HOWEVER:***
- ***Leave a cane or two to provide shade to the crown (growing point) during summer***
- ***Remind yourself that all types are pruned differently, study the techniques***
- ***Remove prunings and fallen leaves from your property***
- ***Spray the dormant plants thoroughly (to run-off) with lime-sulphur***
- ***A follow-up spray 2 weeks later with a horticultural oil spray is a good idea***
- ***Remind yourself that you will not kill a rose by pruning it incorrectly***
- ***Celebrate you hard work with a glass of red wine!***

The completion of the pruning cycle is a good time to spread "Seamungus". This is not a plant fertiliser, rather a soil tonic. I believe that maintaining soil health is as important in the quest to produce good roses as any other aspect of growing.

It is also an ideal time to spread mulch. Once the plants have begun growing again we risk breaking precious shoots off by working amongst the roses. Hills growers should delay mulching until after the first flush of flowers as the mulch may delay soil warming and hence potentially delay the first flush of blooms. I have heard nothing but wonderful reports from growers using “Whoflungdung” with one friend crediting the product as the factor resulting in his best growing season yet!

It is time to plant bare-root roses and any pot grown that have been held over from last season. I recommend hydrating the ENTIRE plant in a tub of water that has been enhanced with liquid “Seamungus”. Leave for 24-48 hours and then use the water to soak the plant once in the ground.

Applications of “Go-Go Juice” monthly to new plants and to unthrifty established plants will be beneficial. Again, this product adds to the soil rather than the plant itself.

Who knows what the “new normal” will look like? The rose garden is a model of social protocols; our roses all maintaining a safe distance from each other and not touching (at least after pruning). I predict that gardeners will come out of the COVID period in a much better state than will non-gardeners. If there is a positive for us, perhaps it is that the garden industry, including the commercial rose industry is enduring its busiest time in recent history, with sales booming. That can only be good for the rose!

Gavin Woods. President of the Rose Society of Southern Australia



Rain, rain and more lovely rain

Last month we saw figures collected by Annette Lane. These figures have been supplemented by Janet Playfair Redman.

Rainfall records for “Farenden” Oldbury Rd Sutton Forest, 22km SW of Mittagong. (Annette Lane’s recordings in brackets)

	March	April	May	June
2018	29mm (38)	22mm (51)	19.5mm(114)	59mm (n/a)
2019	127mm (152)	12mm (22)	11mm (11)	74mm (n/a)
2020	60.5mm(142)	63mm(71)	78mm(96)	25.5mm(n/a)

Always knew we received less rain than those closer to Sydney! May 2018 is a bit of a mystery!

I do keep records of maximum and minimum temperatures but without a Stevenson Screen these are not reliable and I look at the Weatherzones figures!

Thanks Janet and Annette for the figures

Climate change: Methane emissions have gone up everywhere except Europe

ABC News – 16 July 2020



There are more than 1 billion head of cattle in the world.(ABC: Kerry Staight)

US oil and gas drilling, along with agricultural production worldwide, are driving up global emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane, two new studies show.

That marks a shift from the 2000s, when methane output from human activity came mostly from coal mines. But from 2007 through 2017, methane emissions climbed on leaks from fossil fuel operations and on food production as people around the world ate more meat.

In the United States, now the world's top oil and gas producer, increased drilling by the industry contributed most to the rise.

In South Asia, South America and Africa, growing agricultural activities such as livestock operations and farm waste caused methane levels in those regions to spike, both studies showed.

A rise over China was attributed to both agriculture and fossil fuels.

"It's more robust evidence that fossil fuels and agriculture are both equally contributing to the increase of methane contributions in the atmosphere," said co-author Ben Poulter, an environmental scientist at NASA Goddard.

The two studies — published in the journals *Earth System Science Data* and *Environmental Research Letters* — gave an update on both natural and human-driven methane sources, or what is known as the global methane budget. The last update was in 2016 and accounted for emissions up to 2012.

Last year, US President Donald Trump proposed rolling back methane regulations to help drilling companies cut costs.(Reuters: Angus Mordant)

Methane, an invisible gas, is more efficient at trapping heat than carbon dioxide but it lingers for less time in the atmosphere.

Reducing methane emissions could help to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

The only region shown to have lowered emissions between 2000 and 2017 was Europe.

This was likely due to lower meat consumption and stricter regulations on landfills, where decomposing garbage releases methane, said Euan Nisbet, an Earth scientist at Royal Holloway, University of London, who did not contribute to the reports.

"There are huge, juicy targets for mitigating emissions," he said.

The studies used several ways of measuring emissions, including both ground and satellite observations as well as consumption and production trends, which are good at capturing large point sources.

Harder to assess are the emissions from thousands of small farms, rice paddies and more than 1 billion head of cattle.

Identifying sources of methane is an important first step in figuring out how to bring emissions down.

For example, covering landfills and better managing methane-belching cattle could have a big effect, Professor Nesbit said. Even just spreading manure around over a field, rather than having it piled up, can help fight the formation of methane.

"There are a lot policymakers and companies can do to cut methane emissions. But in most places around the world, we aren't doing them," said environmental scientist Rob Jackson at Stanford University, a co-author on one of the new studies and chair of the Global Carbon Project.

US President Donald Trump last year proposed rolled back methane regulations to help drilling companies cut costs.

While the example of Europe cutting emissions gives some scientists hope the region can serve as a blueprint for others, the reports also serve as a warning.

"Given that these reports show that methane emissions are currently increasing globally, it does not encourage me that we will be able to reverse the trend and achieve the necessary reductions within the next decade," said study co-author Thomas Weber, from the University of Rochester in New York.

Reuters



Although not a magnificent bunch of flowers (and apologies to the flower arrangers amongst readers) this little collection shows the confusion in my garden. Although not put into the vase I also had roses still blooming, the daffodils started in mid June and the alstroemeria and salvia just don't want to believe it is winter. The Diosma has been flowering for weeks and for the first time in years I have camellias which have not been ruined by strong winds (a very wonderful thing!) The Hellebores are as pretty as any year but I am sure they started flowering early. There are deciduous trees still full of leaves while other things are ready to burst into bloom. Is anyone else's garden confused?



The Rose Family

The rose is a rose,
And was always a rose.
But the theory now goes
That the apple's a rose,
And the pear is, and so's
The plum, I suppose.
The dear only knows
What will next prove a rose.
You, of course, are a rose -
But were always a rose.

Robert Frost

(copied from Poem Hunter.com)

Garden groundwork in Winter



Year round fertilising for year round health

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year – at least once in each season.

Happy, healthy, well nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.



Lawns: Aerate lawns with a fork or lawn aerator now and remove broadleaf weeds like capeweed before they flower - you don't want to fertilise the weeds too! Then top dress your lawn with **Blade Runner** or **Seamungus Crumble** to help improve root growth over the winter period when leaf growth tends to be slower.

Flowering Plants: After pruning winter dormant plants such as roses and fruit trees, feed the root zone with an application of 100g of **Seamungus** per plant. This will help prepare the roots for the coming spring.

Move cymbidium orchids into a spot so they receive maximum sunlight and feed monthly with **Strike Back for Orchids**.

The cooler months are the best times to relocate plants or divide clumping perennials. Mix some **Seamungus** through the new planting site and water in with **GOGO Juice** to stimulate new root growth for good establishment.

Fruit Trees: Winter is a great time to plant bare rooted fruit trees and ornamentals. When digging the hole for planting, make sure the soil is turned and loosened to two spades depth. Then mix some **Seamungus** through the soil in the hole when planting and water in well with **GOGO Juice**.

Grapevines: Fertilise with **Sudden Impact for Roses** towards the end of July - this hit of potassium will help ensure an abundant crop.

Natives: Winter is a great time for planting natives. Use some **Seamungus** in the bottom of the planting hole to get them started, and water in with **GOGO Juice**. If you need some winter colour in the garden consider planting the colourful climber *Hardenbergia violacea* (commonly called Happy Wanderer) or flowering shrub *Alyogyne huegelii* (commonly called Native Hibiscus).

Vegetables & Herbs: Established asparagus fronds will be bright yellow in colour by now. Prune them back to ground level and generously apply 2-3 handfuls of **Rocket Fuel** per square metre over the soil. Then mulch well with pea straw or sugar cane and stand back for delicious asparagus spears appearing with the arrival of spring.

Plant strawberry runners in raised beds or pots now. They like a slightly acidic soil, so use **Seamungus** when planting and then feed with dose of **Kahoona** fertiliser at the start of spring.



Good gardening. It's time to draw up your pruning schedule.

Jo Babb - secretary. Please forward articles for the newsletter to jo.babb@bigpond.com