

Southern Highlands Rose Society Newsletter



June 2020



Greetings Members,

As Covid 19 is still very much with us, meetings remain suspended. The committee will consider a meeting in October depending on regulations in place at that time.

I have received one contribution to the newsletter for this month. I will forward newsletters from other sources as I receive them. As anyone who has ever produced a newsletter would know, it takes a lot of effort and an inordinate amount of time. With absolutely no feedback having been received I am going to send only a very lean newsletter this month.

Jo Babb



Reminders and Notifications

- *Memberships for Rose Society of NSW are due by 30th June. You received a renewal form in your "NSW Rose Journal" which you received somewhere around 17th March. Please return it as per the instructions on the form. Only members are able to take advantage of the Neutrog offer.*
- *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.*
- *A reminder that Neutrog Orders are now being taken. Details were sent by separate email from Peter Costigan.*



CLIMATE CHANGE

I have daily recorded temperature and rainfall at my home on the Cub. Mittagong for the last three years.

The table below shows the Average monthly temperature and rainfall total for Autumn.

Year	MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
	Aver C°	MM	AV C°	MM	AV C°	MM
2018	22	38	21	51	16.5	114
2019	23	152	22	22	17	11
2020	21.5	142	20	71	16	96

Autumn this year has been the coolest and wettest in last three years.

If the membership is interested I will continue this processes seasonally for the newsletter.

Annette Lane

Annette has been busy keeping a detailed record of rainfall at her property in Mittagong.

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.

