

Queensland Rose Bulletin

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Disclaimer:

This Bulletin may suggest some controls for pests and diseases. This does not mean endorsement of a particular company's product. The suggestions are intended as a guide only and the choice or controls is yours. The information is gained from sources we deem reliable. However, we cannot guarantee its accuracy, and interested persons should rely on their own enquiries.

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Smaller Than a Pencil

Baxter Williams, Houston, USA

If it's smaller than a pencil, cut it off.
It makes no difference whether hard or soft.
If the stems are sized like straws,
They all must have their flaws.
They're just too flippin' small, cut 'em off.

If your leaves are turning yellow, fix 'em now.
They'll be dropping, and cause sadness to your brow.

No matter what the cause,
Blackspot, mites, or drought;
Don't let 'em hit the ground; fix 'em now.

To kill the rose bush eaters, you must spray.
Don't let them, on your winning bushes, play.
Use Avid for the mites,
Thrips and bad guys in your sight,
But ladybugs, lacewings and mantids are okay.

The blackspot, mildew and rust are all fungus.
(My blackspots are really just humongous!).
Some Mancozeb will kill it,
And some Funginex, prevent it;
We don't need maladies like these in among us.

Our Queensland Rose Society is the best,
The biggest from the east unto the west.
Our newsletter has won the Gold
'Cause the principles unfold,
Its advice on growing travels 'round the World.

The growing of our roses will be fun.
Especially when the garden work is done.
Whether in the sun or gloom,
Flowers brighten every room.
I love God's rose creations everyone.

QRS Annual General Meeting – 9 September

Paul Hains, Secretary, Qld Rose Society 2008/9

With the QRS AGM fast approaching you should consider whether you want to be on the committee for the coming year. 2010 is an exciting year as QRS will be holding the National Rose Show and National AGM.

Toni and I will not be standing again for our committee positions as Secretary and Treasurer for 2009/2010. Toni is planning on staying on as Editor of "The Queensland Rose" and I will continue to manage the website.

This has been a very difficult decision for us as we have seen so many excellent developments for QRS in the past year or so with the up-

grading of the newsletter and website, more activities, new brochures and joint functions with DDRS, GCRS and Roselovers. We also just had one of the most successful rose shows in 10 years. We hope to see the Society go on to further strengths in 2010.

Our decision has come about as last month I took up a promotion opportunity at work and now manage a national sales team which means I am traveling interstate every week throughout all of Australia. This sounds glamorous but it means I have limited time for much else. Our roses have suffered a little but I try to get out there on weekends when I can.

My hybridising has become the main focus of my rose growing activities at this point so that is where I have been committing my free time. We love our beautiful rose gardens and just might still have a few roses come out in time for the shows if I am home and haven't ripped all the petals off for breeding. I have told Toni that she shouldn't expect any flowers on our eight Champion winning Moonstones this year as I am using them all for breeding.

The Society is only as good as the contributions of members so call Tony Stallwood on (07) 5546 3975 if you are interested in nominating for the committee.



Mary, Sue and Leonnie enjoy the World Rose Festival

Reader Emails

Send emails to paul@hainsroses.com

Hi Paul,

Thanks for sharing another wonderful newsletter! I hope that you did get enough folks signed up to have your Christmas in July event! (*we did: 63!*)

I thoroughly enjoyed the World Rose Convention in Vancouver, BC. It was great. Unfortunately, I fell and had two pelvic fractures and a broken tail bone on May 27th. That meant that I had three things to deal with. 1) My total left knee replacement in January of '09; 2) a broken tail bone; and 3) my pelvic fractures. Well, I had a torn right groin muscle, too. Quelle joie! But, even with my walker, I still enjoyed the rose show, the reception, the classes, Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, and so much more. The people there are great! I met Glynis Hayne, the President of the Na-

tional Rose Society of Australia at the rose show. She took a wonderful photo of my friend Lonnie Garceau who won three trophies! I'll attach a few photos for you. I noticed how similar your last names are! [Spelling differences, but similar.] Any connection?

The more I learn about roses, the more that I realize that I don't know anything. These lovely plants have a way of keeping a soul humble, don't they?

I can't wait to visit Australia to see many wonderful things including all these magnificent rose gardens that I read about.

Thanks again for sharing the newsletter. :)

Sue Tiffany

President

Rainy Rose Society (USA)

Dear Queensland,

They've just passed me on your March Bulletin. Here in Buenos Aires, Argentina we have a similar climate, so I would like to get it if it's not too much trouble for you.

I was in Adelaide last year for the convention which I enjoyed very much, we are going through a period of drought, not as bad as theirs, its been only a year long, but we are not used to it so we are not prepared, undoubtedly the climate is changing.

Thank you very much

Lillian Basso

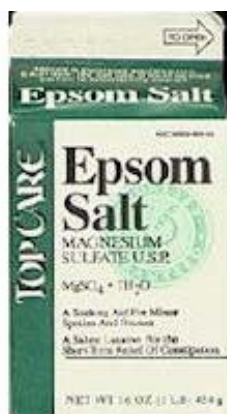
Vice chairman

Asociación Argentina de Rosicultur

Epsom Salt

Mike Jepsen, Reprinted from the April 2009 Rose Lore, Mesa Valley Rose Society

"I do not recommend applying Epsom Salt right after pruning because it is a salt and salts can burn roots..."



Epsom Salt is magnesium sulfate ($MgSO_4$). Magnesium is the only mineral in chlorophyll which causes the leaves to be green. Without chlorophyll plants could not carry out the process of photosynthesis, which is the plants way of producing sugars in order to make food.

Epsom Salt also aids in metabolizing phosphorus. Phosphorus is important for the development of strong roots and better flowers. It also activates many plant enzyme systems.

Perhaps it is a combination of all of these things which helps a rose plant to put out new basal breaks which is what keeps a rose young, vibrant, and healthy.

How to use: I recommend using Epsom Salt twice a year; once in spring (mid to late September) and once in autumn (mid March). Use 50-125ml per bush each application. It can be applied in granular form or diluted in water and the soil should be moist before either application. If you use granular, spread it around the base of the rose and scratch it in; then water.

If you dilute it, put 125-250ml in a 9 litre watering can, then pour around the bush; then water.

NOTE: if you have tired, achy feet, soak your feet in the Epsom Salt solution first and then pour it around the plant).



I do not recommend applying Epsom Salt right after pruning because it is a salt and salts can burn roots if there are no leaves present on the plant. Therefore, I recommend waiting at least 4-6 weeks after pruning before the spring application.

(Adjusted for Australian seasons and measurements)

Donelle's Open Day – 9 August

10am-1pm, 37 Crossacres St, Doolandella (Forest Lake)

Donelle is opening the nursery especially for us on this day. Come along to see her stock for the new rose year.

Bring a Big car as it is very hard not to make a purchase. Queensland Rose Society members also get a special discount at Donelle's. A light lunch and tea and coffee will

be provided. Cold drinks may be purchased.

Experienced rose growers will be present to give tips on planting and care of your bushes. An exhibitor's workshop will also be held at the event to advise people how to prepare their roses for competitions.



Discouraging Possums from Eating Your Flowers

Fauna Rescue of South Australia, www.faunarescue.org.au

It is very difficult to deter possums from eating your roses and flowers once they get a taste for them, but here are a few suggestions.

Put a spotlight or party lights to shine on the area for a few nights as possums, being nocturnal, do not like bright lights and learn how avoid that part of the garden.

Put sheet metal collars around the trunks of your fruit trees at least 600mm wide and 600mm off the ground (these will need changing for a larger size as the tree grows). The possums should then clean up your "windfalls" and leave the fruit on the tree for you.

Some sprays that can be used have a bitter taste and smell that conditions possums (and birds) by their common chemical sense. The negative taste and smell registers that the area is unsafe, and they

move on. This chemical reaction disappears when they go to any unsprayed area - reinforcing the signal that the area they just left was unsuitable. This "learnt behavior" induced by memory or odour is often communicated to other members of the species, and so the sprayed area or plants remains untouched.

Try one of the proprietary brands of possum deterrents which are usually available from garden centers, hardware stores or fodder stores such as:

- Scat made by Multicrop
- D-Ter which is advertised safe for birds and animals
- SkunkShot
- Citronella Oil
- Quassia Spray

To make your own Quassia Spray - boil a packet of Quassia Chips (from the chemist)

in 10 litres of water for two hours. Strain, discarding the chips and reserving the liquid. Add a further 20 litres of water to the liquid. Spray the affected area for 5 consecutive days, and again after rain, until the problem is eliminated.

Quassia chips are a natural pesticide but are also a poison and may affect your domestic animals. The effect on possums is unknown, but the taste is so foul that they should not eat enough to do harm.

Unfortunately there is no fool-proof way to stop the possums enjoying your choice plants, but if you put up a platform (such as an enamel plate nailed to a branch) with a selection of fruit and vegetables (no citrus) a couple of times a week, they would probably turn their attentions to that and you would have the pleasure of seeing them feeding and playing.





Typical blackspot on leaves



Topskcalb

By Baxter Williams, Master Rosarian

Ooops! I spelled it backwards...it should have been written B-L-A-C-K-S-P-O-T. Whatever you call it.... "*rosaea spottus noire*" (my own term), or *Marsonia rosae*, as listed in the Compendium of Rose Diseases, it is sure to give you trouble in your rose garden. And it won't necessarily be of your own doing.

I'm convinced that the blackspot disease initially comes to you from either your having bought diseased bushes, or from spores blowing into your garden from a not-too-careful neighbor. The fact that a disease problem comes to you gives rise to some action, or inaction, on your part. I suggest that "action" is the way to address it.

Most of you know that my stance on using manufactured chemicals in the garden is a positive one. I believe that everyone who grows roses has a duty to the bushes to help keep them free from disease, and I do not know of any natural fungicides, so I apply fungicides to keep my bushes free of disease. But that is not all we do.

Good feeding of your bushes is necessary to keep them healthy, and a healthy bush is much more likely to remain disease free than a weak one. And a healthy bush is likely to be grown in a healthy soil. Such soils are almost all laden with composted materials, which give the soil organisms something edible, too. It is these creatures that enable the rose bushes to absorb the nutrients in that soil through osmosis.

Adequate watering is also required to let osmosis take place. If the soil is drier than the roots, then the plant desic-

cates rather than taking in nutrients and hydrating. A dry plant is a weak plant, exposing itself to attack from harmful bacteria and fungi.

And good "housekeeping" is also really helpful. We manually remove those leaves that have developed blackspot or mildew, rather than letting their spores drop down onto leaves below and causing collateral damage. It should be noted that blackspots on leaves are a sign that damage has already taken place several days before, and that those leaves are doomed to turn yellow and drop off. Some rosarians also pick up any leaf that has dropped onto the mulch below, and believe that such removal of damaged leaves can also help to keep the level of spores at a minimum.

Both research and experience has shown that wet leaves can activate the fungus spores that are on leaf surfaces, if the surfaces are continuously wet for seven hours. If the leaves are wet for a shorter time, the fungus will not be activated. I often tell listeners that watering at night is perfectly acceptable *if their bushes have been protected with a preventive fungicide*,

and I believe that is absolutely correct. It's not the water that allows the damage, it is not having sprayed.

Powdery mildew is another fungal problem, and the cool mornings with high humidity are just right for it to infect your roses. Again, a good fungicide is worth its weight in gold to keep the plants free of the disease. And prevention is so much easier than correction.

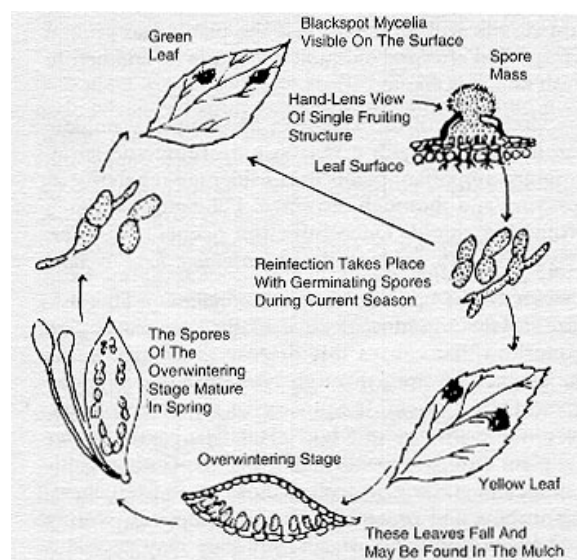
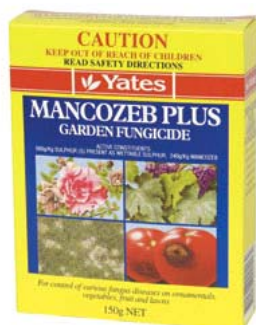
The fungicides available across the counter at your local nursery or garden shop must be regularly applied. Almost all of them give protection for 5-7 days, just as they should (they are designed to "fall apart" soon after they have been mixed, so that our environment is protected).

And for the best effect, begin your spray program as soon as your bushes have been pruned, using a "fungus killer" product (such as Mancozeb) mixed with a preventive (such as Ortho's Rose Pride) each week for at least five sprayings, after which you can continue with only the preventive fungicide. DO NOT keep unused portions of fungicides – mix only what you will use at each spraying.

"Both research and experience has shown that wet leaves can activate the fungus spores that are on leaf surfaces, if the surfaces are continuously wet for seven hours."



Blackspot spores at work



Bulletin Turns One!!!!

This is the 12th Issue

Thanks to everyone who has helped to make the Bulletin a success. It is sent around the world and we also have international contributors. Thanks Baxter for all of your great input and suggestions. Thanks also to Roy Grant and Bev Fo-

tea for your regular input.

The Bulletin lives on and will continue to come to you every month offering rose news and advice.

Toni tells me I have to limit the articles on rose breeding so

I don't skew it too much in that direction. To that end, I have added this fifth page to update those interested in my progress.

Paul



My Hybridising Update

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

My latest count is now just over 300 seedlings from my own crosses and another 70 from open pollination (letting the bees do it). I am still yet to see a flower and the first one will probably show when I am away for a week on holidays.

I have been away each week for work and when I get home I run out to see how my little seedlings are doing (even if it is 11.30 at night!).

Mostly my hybrid tea crosses are up so far, with some mini and mini flora potentials.

There are quite a number with 6 sets of true rose leaves out (see right) and tiny thorns.

I am now planning my crosses for when my roses start blooming again. Off with their heads! ... well their petals.



Moonstone x Holy Toledo
Seedling 1: Germinated 1 June

The Hybridist's Incentive

G Dawson, Ferntree Gully, Victoria – Reprinted from the Aust Rose Annual, 1969

The question is often asked, "What incentive is there for the amateur hybridist in Australia?" Although it is a fact that no incentive is needed, this is hardly an answer. The perfect rose has not yet been produced and perhaps because of the love of rosarians for the ultimate in roses, it never will be found, yet this yearning will be sufficient incentive for hybridists in Australia to pursue the goal for perfection.

When I was a young lad my family grew the wonderful old roses such as Gloire de Dijon, Etoile de Hollande, Hadley and Chateau de Clos Vougeot. These were beautiful roses and might well have been considered the ultimate if the hybridists had stopped at this point and all the pleasure of such cultivars as Mme. A. Meilland, Ena Harkness, Silver Lining

would not have been enjoyed by us. Who will produce a Mme. A. Meilland with an abundance of perfume, Ena Harkness with a stiff neck and a bush with no mildew or a good Hybrid Tea with the colouring of Golden Slippers?

It is safe to assume that those who produced these roses did not have such wonderful creations in mind, but as so often happens when a hybridist follows a certain line of breeding, many excellent additions with desirable improvements are added to our present collections whilst he is trying to produce the rose in his mind's eye.

When a rosarian is able to display one of his own new seedlings at a rose show it is a tremendous thrill and is certainly an incentive to continue breeding more seedlings.

There are many frustrations as you will often produce a new one with many virtues but it lacks some vital quality - a particularly brightly coloured one with insufficient petals or poor and confused form, a good flower with many qualities but the bush may lack vigour or become afflicted with mildew or black spot too readily - these experiences will not deter you but they will linger long enough in your memory to encourage you to continue. The next season cannot come round quickly enough for me. And when you produce a winner which will give years of pleasure to rose-lovers, the great satisfaction of having been the author of that cultivar is beyond words. The challenge of hybridizing will always create its own incentive.

"When a rosarian is able to display one of his own new seedlings at a rose show it is a tremendous thrill..."



My Transplanted seedlings