

Queensland Rose Bulletin

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I have had requests for a
picture, so people can
see who it is putting out
this Bulletin, so here it is:



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.

Merry Christmas - Need Gift Ideas?

Paul Hains

I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas Season and a great start to the new year. A gift of roses is still a great way of showing your friendship. You can usually buy a sheet or two of plastic for wrapping your roses from your local florist to make a really special gift.

If you know someone who enjoys roses or gardening as much as you do, why not

give them a membership of their local Rose Society or garden club. A membership application form for the Queensland Rose Society is on page 4 and Toni can send

the welcome letter to you with a voucher so you can give it to your friend/relative as a gift. Or she can send it to them, saying it was a gift from you.



Queensland Breeders Honoured

Brindabella Country Gardens wins two Bronze Medals

At the Australian National Rose Trials in Adelaide in October John and Sylvia Gray of Toowoomba's Brindabella Country Gardens were awarded Bronze Medals for two of their roses.

Brindabella Bouquet is a white Floribunda reported to be very resistant to black spot. It's parentage is Mountbatten x Baby Love.

Brindabella Blaze is a scarlet hybrid tea.

John says, "we are very proud that 2 Queensland developed roses received Bronze Medals at the trials and one of them is Australian Rose of the Year 2008."

The National Rose Trial Garden of Australia is situ-

ated in the botanic gardens in Adelaide. It provides the opportunity for Australian Breeders like John and Sylvia to compare and assess their roses against the world leaders in rose breeding.

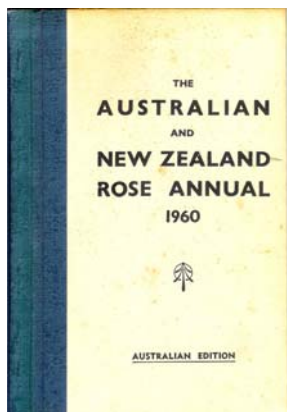
Roses were also trialled by Kordes, Meilland, David Austin and Jackson and Perkins.

Approximately fifty roses are

trialled each year. Every rose is treated the same. Seamungus is used to prepare the beds. They are mulched, watered once a week by drippers and fertilised twice a year with Sudden Impact for Roses. They are not sprayed for pests or diseases during the growing season.

We look forward to more future Queensland success stories.





Growing Roses in Brisbane

H.K. Cresswell, Reprinted from "The Australian and New Zealand Rose Annual, 1960"

*"our climate does
have its
compensations ...
at no time of the
year are we
without blooms"*

It may often be heard said that roses will not grow well in Brisbane, that the climate is too hot, that the soil is too poor, or that it is such hard work that it is just not worth while to try. The weak condition of many plants in suburban gardens certainly seems to be sufficient justification for such a belief, but it is really far from the truth. Good roses will grow here, and where they have been correctly nurtured, first class blooms will invariably be found.

It is true that they seldom, if ever, grow with the gay freedom of bloom of those in Perth or Adelaide, but there are gardens in Brisbane that prove it possible to produce colourful, high quality roses which any enthusiast would be proud to show off to his neighbours.

It is not to be denied that success entails some hard work and constant attention to the plants, but, provided that the soil is properly prepared, that varieties which are suitable for this region are selected for planting, that proper cultural methods and an efficient spraying program are followed, the bushes will cheerfully respond.

Brisbane's suburbs are, for the most part, built on hilly country. The hills are made up of a hard core of schist with fine intrusions of quartz. When these rocks decompose they form a hard and stony clay soil but on the steeper slopes and the tops of the hills this soil is frequently little more than a thin layer above the solid rock - not conducive to easy gardening.

Thus, in order to produce a sufficient depth of soil for any

rose beds, it is often necessary to break into the underlying rock; even fifteen to eighteen inches required may involve a lot of hard labour, and perhaps problems of drainage may have to be considered as well.

To open up this clay and to keep it loose enough for the roots to penetrate, much humus-forming material must be incorporated, and that is where the compost heap shows its real value. The best methods of preparing new soil have been described many times, and it is hard to think of any part of Australia where thorough conditioning is more important than on Brisbane's hills. Not only are they hard, but they are naturally deficient in plant food.

Having our roses at last planted in fertile and well worked beds, the next problem is water. This city has a permanent ban on the use of fixed hoses and sprinklers, so the hose must be held in the hand - all the time; thus watering in dry weather is a tedious and time-consuming job.

As in most other parts of Australia, much of the labour of watering can be avoided by using a heavy surface mulch. During the main rainy season in south-east Queensland (December to March or April), water may still prove to be a problem, but in reverse. Unless properly drained many gardens may become waterlogged, and no rose bush can survive that spends weeks with its feet in water. At the same period of the year we see at full power what is the worst enemy of the rose in these parts - black spot. A warm saturated atmosphere and foliage that is wet for days or weeks at a time, provide ideal

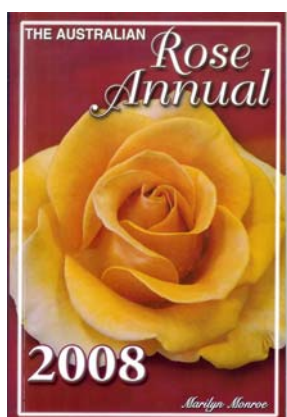
conditions for the growth and spread of this scourge. No rose bush will thrive if it has been defoliated by black spot, and I feel sure that is why so many growers became discouraged and declare that roses are just not worth while in Queensland.

However our climate does have its compensations. The rain eventually eases, we spray our plants, feed and cultivate them, and reap our reward. At no time of the year are we without blooms.

It is frequently said that rose bushes need a period of dormancy during the winter in order to gather strength for their spring and summer growth. In coastal Queensland the winter temperatures are never low enough to force them into a fully dormant state, but the continued health of those plants which have been well cared for and fed throughout the year shows clearly that they suffer no disadvantage by missing a winter sleep.

As may be seen from the lists of Recommended Roses for the various States, many varieties which flourish in other parts of Australia are seldom grown here, and vice-versa. Susceptibility to fungus disease is probably the main factor in this respect. High humidity in summer will soon find weaknesses in varieties which revel in the hotter but drier air in the south and west.

Printed in 1960, this article is still very relevant today. The Australian Rose Annual lists recommended roses for growing in Queensland. This is available to all Rose Society members in Australia. - Paul



First Blue Roses Go On Display In Japan

Genetically engineered blue roses to go on sale in Japan in 2009.

The rose has a very long history. It was first cultivated by ancient civilizations 5,000 years ago, and more than 25,000 varieties have been produced since then. Colours include red, pink, white, and yellow. One colour that had proved impossible, however, was blue as the rose doesn't include this pigment in nature.

In 2004, in a joint venture an Australian biotechnology company company called Florigene along with Suntory, a company known for it's Japanese Whisky and Beers, developed

the first truly blue roses. The rose was publicly launched at the Flower Expo in Chiba, Japan last month. Suntory plan to begin sales in 2009.

By inserting genes from the common Pansy and Iris into Rose DNA while at the same time switching off a Rose gene that prevented the production of the blue pigment known as "delphinidin", Florigene and Suntory believe that they will be able to synthesize and express a full range of hues from palest baby blue to deep navy.

The new rose is an attractive

shade of mauve, similar to the current generation of mauve-lilac roses like 'Blue Moon'. But where these cultivars express cyanidin, and are thus incapable of yielding blue flowers, the new rose, with further 'tweaking', has the genetic potential to be truly blue.

The introduction of the blue pigment also opens the possibility of a black rose, the holy grail for breeders. How all of this genetic modification affects scent, vase life, growth habit and disease susceptibility is yet to be seen.



Going Potty

By Roy Grant, Margate, Qld

Alex Wrigley in charge of horticulture at Redcliffe Shows this year, 5th July, displayed five rose bushes growing solely in coconut fibre. They were two year old and in full flower.

To this idea my planting in late July was in a 70/30 blend of quality potting mix/coconut fibre.

The health and vigorous growth was outstanding as similar to the late September advanced potted plants from Donelle's. When released from

their containers, their mix was a mass of new roots.

Perhaps taking delivery of new season rose plants from your supplier in may and GOING POTTY is worth considering.

Roy

Coconut fibre has been used widely in hydroponic growing situations. It is naturally high in the hormones that stimulate root growth and for protection from

root diseases and infections. The purpose of the fibre in nature is to provide a growing medium for the coconut to create roots when it hits the soil.

It has good water retention ability while also allowing for good drainage. The pH for coconut fibre is 5.5-6.5.

I am going to try a mix of this with some cuttings and will give feedback on it's success - thanks for the tip Roy. - Paul

"The health and vigorous growth was outstanding"

Rose of the Month – Makybe Diva

Roy Grant, Margate, Qld

Purchased July 2007 this rose has been a real challenge with long canes of 160cm reaching skywards and the half dozen flowers in two seasons on 60cm shoots have been frustrating.

I have been in contact with Treloar Roses early in 2008

and again with two telephone conversations today .

Their thoughts are that I have been too generous with water and food. LET IT STARVE to produce FLOWERS was their only solution.



More Photos from the World Rose Meeting in Adelaide

Courtesy of Capt Eddy, Consulting Rosarian, Virginia, USA



Capt Eddy, Gerald Meylan



Ruston's Roses, Renmark



National Rose Trial Garden of Australia, Judging



David Ruston Floral Arranging Demo



Renmark Garden Tour



Renmark Garden Tour

Bob & Bronte Day's Garden, Houghton

Queensland Rose Society Membership Application Form

If you know anyone wishing to Join the Queensland Rose Society, or wish to give it to someone as a gift

Please enrol me/us as a member of The Queensland Rose Society Incorporated. A household is regarded as a single membership.

First Name (s)			
Surname			
Email Address			
Postal Address		Post Code	
Town/Suburb			
Home Phone			

I enclose \$30 (\$25 annual subscription + \$5 joining fee), I understand annual subscriptions are payable annually on July 1.

Signed

Please post to QRS, GPO Box 1866, Brisbane Q 4001. Note: New members joining after the 21st Jan 2009 are deemed to have joined starting on July 1 and are therefore paid up until the June 30, 2010. They do not receive this year's Australian Rose Annual.

THIS IS A GIFT: ☐ Please send the welcome letter and a Gift Certificate directly to the new member above:
☐ Please send the welcome letter and gift certificate to me at the below address so I can give it to my friend/relative.

Name/Address	
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