

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.

Coming Events

April 8th, Wednesday
Qld Rose Society
Monthly Rose Show
and Meeting at the
Church Hall, 459 An-
nerley Rd, Annerley
Junction, 7pm Rose
Show. 8pm Judging,
8.30pm Meeting

May is Rose Show season.

2-3 DDRS at
Toowoomba Garden-
fest. Tafe
9-10 Qld Rose Society
at Mt-Coot-tha Bo-
tanic Gardens Audito-
rium
16-17 Roselovers' at
Ashgrove Bowls Club

Why remove a perfectly good rose bush?

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

I hear this a lot. In fact, I used to say it to my wife Toni. Back when I was a philistine and left rose growing to the fairer species I used to be appalled by her lack of emotion when it came to culling rose bushes. She would tell me which ones she was going to remove and I would argue why they were "still good." Apparently my arguments weren't good because I would come out the next day and they would already be removed. I would ask where they were and she would say "in the bin."

Now this is where we have both been re-educated.

Educating Paul

I now look at our rose bushes and decide if they are fulfilling their purpose. In gardening there is a purpose to everything. Some people grow roses for exhibiting in competitions, some for cut flowers in the house and some just for how they look in the garden. If the bush is not fulfilling its purpose then

it is taking up precious resources (land, water, fertilizers, etc..) that could be used for a bush that will do better for us.

Educating Toni

If a bush is not fulfilling its role for us, that doesn't mean it can't be good for someone else. There are a number of factors here:

Roses grow differently in different conditions, ie, different aspect, different regimes for caring for them.

Different people have different objectives for their bushes. Toni likes cut roses, I like competition roses. If we have one that doesn't do this for us but looks spectacular in the garden, someone else might love it.

Solution

Step 1: Decide what you want from your rose garden, no matter how large or small. If there is a bush that you don't like or that doesn't flower as well as you like, decide whether it is worth spending

more effort on it.

Step 2: Find someone who wants to adopt it. Last year we gave away about 15 rose bushes to friends. Most are doing well in their new homes and are appreciated by their new owners.

If you have a bush you want to adopt out but don't have an avenue for finding a new owner for it, send me an email and I will add it to an "adopt a rose" section in this bulletin. I am sure we will find homes for your bushes.



Rose catalogues are out now

Sick of Reading only My Stories?

Email qrsed@bigpond.com with your stories or comments

I am more than happy to keep sending you stories that I find interesting on rose growing. However, I am certain that people would love to hear about the challenges

or triumphs other people are having in their gardens.

I have had great feedback from articles written by people like Roy Grant and Bev Fotea. People will love your

stories too. This publication goes to all rose growers, regardless of club affiliation or the size of their garden, so all stories are interesting.



Scarlet Mimi (ARS Floribunda, QRS MiniFlora) & Irresistable (ARS&QRS Mini)



Princess (ARS Floribunda, QRS MiniFlora)

*“about one third
of all minis
registered may
be incorrectly
classified”*



Antique Rose (ARS Miniature, QRS MiniFlora)



Debut (ARS Miniature, QRS MiniFlora)

Focus on Rose Types – Mini Floras

By Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

American Rose Society Classification:

Mini-Flora (MinFl) - A newly introduced class that covers cluster-flowered bush roses less than 2.5 feet tall but larger than Miniatures. Replaces the common term Patio rose.

J. Benjamin Williams of Silver Spring, Maryland is accredited with the invention of the term “mini-flora”. He was a famous rose hybridizer and subsequently in 1999 he allowed the ARS to take this trademark term and use it to denote a classification of roses.

Since this new classification has been introduced, many new roses that are bigger than a mini, but smaller than a floribunda are classified by the breeder as mini-floras. Many existing roses have also been reclassified as mini-floras.

However, many roses that would, or perhaps should, fit into this category have not been reclassified and are still ill-fitting in their former categories. Why would this happen?

The answer may be fairly simple, and I speculate based on the research and reading I have done. It is based on the world of competitive rose showing, so apologies for those readers who do not compete, but I hope you find this interesting anyway.

There is a very prestigious award in America known as the Ralph Moore award. It is named after a famous breeder of miniature roses. If a mini is reclassified as a mini-flora it becomes ineligible for this award. It also becomes ineligible in many American competitions from being the “Queen of Minis” which is their equivalent of Champion Bloom. These are strong disin-

centives for breeders to reclassify their high performing minis that may really be a little large for the category.

The challenge here is that minis are supposed to be small. A mini-flora is larger and makes it challenging for a mini to compete against it. Mini roses from years gone by include small roses like Jean Kenneally or the petite Magic Carousel. Many of our current minis now dwarf these and make it hard for the truly small minis to compete in shows.

Exhibitors also have shied away from the mini-floras in the USA in many cases due to fear of being disqualified if they have incorrectly put it in the wrong place.

In 1967 the ARS classified minis as “leaves 1/2” wide, 3/4” long, low growing, flowers 1 1/2” dia. or less.” To be fair to allow for growing conditions such minis might grow up to 2 3/4” across. Even so, from the 2800+ miniature roses listed by the ARS, more than 70 are larger than 2 3/4” and over 900 are between 1 1/2” and 2 3/4”. This means about one third of all minis registered may be incorrectly classified.

In floribundas there are over 1,000 that would have no problem being reclassified as mini-floras if you considered their bloom size and growth habit.

This brings me to growing conditions. Scarlet Mimi (see left) and Princess are floribundas according to the ARS. In Perth they also grow like floribundas. In Queensland they grow smaller than many of my minis. Certainly Delicious outsizes them when in full bloom as does Pink Petticoat. Even Irresistable grows

larger (see comparison at left). They cannot compete with the likes of Seduction in the floribunda categories in shows, but are a little too large as minis.

This all leads me to the conclusion that the way QRS organises shows at the moment works well. Exhibitors have a list of Mini-flora roses in their competition schedule, eliminating heart-breaking disqualifications. The roses are also classified taking into account local growing conditions and according to the spirit of the ARS classification: Larger than minis, but smaller than floribundas. This is likened to a “local rule” at a golf club, whereby it allows for local conditions.

I found this quote on a forum on gardenweb:

“The main part of our hobby is to have fun, not get too wrapped up in more and more rules, and to put on the show table as many roses as we can for the public to see, smell, and enjoy.”

What we must remember is that it is the Breeder who determines the classification, so the ARS cannot just change them arbitrarily. **We must!** To put more roses on display we must make sure that they are able to compete equally by ensuring that we continue to use our local discretion to classify them appropriately. This has to be an ongoing process with input from all of the local competitive rose clubs.

Some of these roses like Princess and Scarlet Mimi are not sold commercially and only remain in gardens because of rose competitions. It would be a shame to see them lost to future generations because they weren't able to be competitively shown.

Upcoming Events: Pruning Day at Ted's

Email Toni: qrsed@bigpond.com to register your interest

NOTE CORRECTION OF DATE—SATURDAY!!!!

27th June 2009

The Queensland Rose Society will join the Gold Coast Rose Society and the Roselovers' Association at Ted Hayes' property on the south of Brisbane.

This event is for members of these societies and will not be open to the general public due to the logistics of catering for so many people. The address

and time details will be in the upcoming Newsletters for each of the clubs. RSVPs will be essential for catering purposes.

We are expecting Finbar O'leary from Swanes Nursery. Last year Noel Deakin came from Swanes and gave us all free rose bushes. Who knows what this year brings?

What we do know is that we have a Squirt 30 litre rechargeable sprayer as a major raffle

prize. This is valued at \$450 and comes from Goldacres. Their local agent is Black Trac (07) 5541 0566. We have had one of these sprayers for about 3 years and have a 5 metre hose attached to it for spraying. It has made a huge difference for us with 230+ bushes to spray. We bought it when we had 50. There will be other raffle prizes and a sausage sizzle lunch.

QRS members can email Toni to register.



Systemic Sprays

With information from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries website

The first systemic fungicides were released to Australian horticulture in the early 1970s. They offered new standards of control for diseases such as grey mould, powdery mildews and rusts. The mode of action of these systemic fungicides differed from that of older protectant fungicides. They had selective toxic activity effective against certain life processes in the fungi and could be absorbed into the plant.

Many of the most effective fungicides are at risk of the fungi building resistance if the product is continually used.

Strategies to avoid resis-

tance:

Alternate: You should have heard of this one where the "at risk" fungicide is used in rotation with one or more fungicides.

Mixtures: Fungicides from different groups are mixed together. If you use a protectant such as Mancozeb or Copper along with the "at risk" product it can act on the plant surface to prevent fungus germination and reduce the challenges to the systemic product.

The most critical thing is to develop a resistance strategy

early.

Consider Sap Flow. When you think of sap flow in a rose bush, it is easy to think of it like the circulation of blood in our own bodies where it flows around our whole system. This is not the case with roses. Sap flows through the cambium layer of the stems from the base of the plant upwards towards the tips, the flowers.

When applying a "systemic" fungicide therefore it doesn't flow around the bush, but will only flow upwards. This stresses the importance of spraying the whole bush, including the stems.

"Many of the most effective fungicides are at risk of the fungi building resistance"

My Hybridizing Update

By Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

Many of you will have read Richard Walsh's articles on hybridizing and will be waiting with anticipation at hearing Peter Long talk at the QRS Christmas in July function.

My own personal quest to start in the world of rose breeding continues. I now have over

1,500 seeds in my fridge awaiting planting in April. One of the rose fruits (hips) from Melinda Gainsford produced 67 seeds! The hip was almost

the size of a golfball, My average number has been 10.8 seeds/hip. I am hoping for mini floras from Melinda Gainsford, fingers crossed.





National Logo Competition

Email qrsed@bigpond.com with your Logos

Australian Rose Society Members are invited to submit designs for a new logo for National Rose Society of Australia Inc.

The current logo that appears in the Australian Rose Annual pictures the rose from the Victorian Logo and the NRSA now wishes to have a new and unique design.

The Queensland Rose Society

will forward a short list of designs to the National Body who will consider them with other designs received from all states.

A prize will be given for the best design. Please forward your designs to qrssec@bigpond.com or by post to GPO Box 1866, Brisbane Qld 4001.

The original logo can be seen

on the left along with a design I have created as a competition entry. You have to be sure that any images you use do not breach any copyright (ie, not someone else's image or photo).

Some other logos Australian and NZ logos are shown below to help you with ideas. Submissions are due by June 30th, 2009.



Queensland



South Australia



WA Regional



New South Wales



New Zealand



Trial Gardens

"Legionella long can be found in potting mix, soil, peat, mulch and garden composts"

Potting mix and Legionella

With information from the WA Heath Department

I put this here as my GP suspects that I have legionella and started treating me yesterday with antibiotics and steroids. I am now going to be a lot more careful in the garden with potting mix. I have to admit that I haven't taken the warnings seriously in the past. The previous owner of our house also had legionella and was very sick as a result.

Potting mix and other compost materials coupled with the warm summer sun is a recipe most gardeners follow to promote garden growth, but - the Health Department warns - beware of what else these ingredients may grow.

The warning follows the notifications of nine cases of Legionella longbeachae in the past two months before the press release during summer, possibly contracted through contact with potting mix or other compost materials.

Legionella infection can cause severe pneumonia in suscepti-

ble people. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pains, difficulty in breathing, cough, diarrhoea, vomiting and mental confusion. "Legionella long can be found in potting mix, soil, peat, mulch and garden composts," Environmental Health Director Michael Jackson said.

"And the warmer weather is ideal for the Legionella bacteria to grow."

People should take the following precautions in the garden:

- Wear a particulate disposable mask to avoid breathing in dusts. These are available from large hardware stores;
- Wear suitable eye protection such as good quality sunglasses, or goggles/safety glasses;
- **Do not** shake the bag before opening it, as this will produce dust particles;
- Moisten contents of bag by spraying lightly with water upon opening. Do this by making a small opening and

insert a garden hose to dampen potting mix to avoid creating dust;

- Always open potting mix bags at arms length in a well ventilated place with care to avoid breathing in airborne particles;
- Store potting mix products in a cool dry location to limit growth of bacteria;
- Clean up by sweeping whilst the product is damp to reduce dust;
- Wash hands on completion of use of potting mix and wash work clothes regularly;
- Take the same precautions when handling soil, peat, mulch and garden composts.

Males over 50 years of age were most at risk, especially smokers and former smokers, as well as people with diabetes, liver disease or lowered immunity. Nearly 15 per cent of hospitalised cases resulted in death, but antibiotic treatment, if not delayed, was very effective in treating the infection.

