

Queensland Rose Bulletin

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Secrets To Creating Perfect Frontal Vases

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

This is something useful for anyone wanting to make a nice display at home as well as those wanting to win rose shows.

I was asked at the last show what made a successful vase arrangement. Toni and I only found this out through grilling some of the other competitors after shows. We used to think that an entry requiring 5-7 roses in a frontal presentation simply meant throwing in the maximum number of flowers and straightening them a little so they all faced the front. There is a trick to it!

The key is to make the rose arrangement like a diamond. If possible all the roses should be equivalent sizes and at the same stage of development (ie, all three quarter open, or all 1/2 open etc..). If some roses are larger than others, keep the smaller ones at the top of the arrangement. Typically a frontal arrangement calls for 5-7 roses. In this case six blooms is ideal. Firstly as it is a frontal arrangement, everything should be forward of the halfway point in the vase, creating a flat back to the arrangement (see the photo in the centre of City of Newcastle).

With six roses, have a single rose at the top, two in the

middle, and three on the bottom row. The largest flower should be at the centre on the bottom. To help them hold this shape you can wedge oasis foam into the

want.

The same principles apply to frontal vases with unlimited numbers of flowers. In this instance you may wish to throw in some buds too for interest. Discard all the old flowers though as often it is only one tired flower that makes the difference between champion and disappointment.

Good luck and stay tuned for more tips.



vase and place the roses directly into it in the position you want them to stay. Alternatively you can use wedges of wet paper towel to jam between them to hold them in their positions with a rubber band around the stems before they go into the vase.

A note of warning for home: if you use the oasis method keep the oasis moist or the roses will suck the moisture out quickly and the roses will wilt. The same display with seven roses would have three in the middle row instead of two.

The picture right shows a near-ideal vase. The other photo shows the roses held in place with the back (bottom of picture) being almost perfectly flat so the roses project forward. You can do this on your hand, or try lying them flat on the table to create the look you





Above: Thrip
Below: Thrip Damage



*“A good bush
can be grown by
cutting shorter
stems when
grooming away
blooms or spent
blooms, by
keeping good,
clean foliage,
and by fertilizing
and watering
well”*



Red Spider—Two Spotted Mites

What are Rosegrowers doing in Nov/Dec?

Edited for Aust conditions from “The Rosette” from the Houston Rose Society

Fungus prevention

(by spraying with a fungicide) should begin immediately after the roses are pruned. If pruning is spread out over a period of time, spray with your favorite fungicide as you complete each bed or section of your garden. Blackspot spores are always present, and rainy Winter/Spring weather will only help to spread and incubate them.

Prevention is the key! Spray your roses with Triforine (or your favorite fungicide) every seven days. If blackspot is already present, add Mancozeb Plus to the Triforine and spray both the bottom- and top sides of the leaves.

Red Spider mites.

We have been having a battle with red spider (two-spotted mite) already this season. Spider mites can be detected by observing the lower leaves of your plants. If your lower leaves look dry, turn grayish brown, and then turn yellow and fall off, you can be sure that you have spider mites. Close inspection of the undersides of the leaves will show a trashy look with very tiny red spots, which are nearly undetectable by the naked eye. Take that suspected leaf and rub it across a sheet of white paper. If you see orange streaks, you have mites.

If you have a small number of plants, washing the undersides of the leaves with a high pressure water spray will knock the spider mites off the plant. Do this every other day for a week, for mite control. Mites have to be on the plant to reproduce. You can also try an oil-based spray such as Eco-oil on the underside of the leaves. Just don't spray this if temperatures are going to be over

35 degrees celcius.

If your garden is too large for this kind of attention, Omite is an effective miticide. It is a soluble powder and kills the adult mites. This will need to be repeated after three days to break the cycle.

Thrips

Thrips are just around the corner and will come into the blooms as soon as the sepals begin to show the smallest separation. Thrips are light sandcolored insects (very small) that bruise and discolor the petals of roses causing the blooms to turn brown. Thrips can also cause petals to stick together, which can prevent bloom opening. Pull a petal back, and look for these little pests scurrying around in the bloom. Studies have shown that dry plants, or plants lacking sufficient moisture are most likely to suffer attack by thrips, so adequate water placement by irrigation and mulching can be the first defense in controlling thrips.

To control: spray buds and blooms (thrips damage is only in the buds and blooms) with Maldison (sold as Malathon). Mix only the amount you anticipate using. Do not save any for later spraying. A pump-up sprayer can also be used effectively; spray with less pressure so that your spray can be directed more effectively. Don't lose those beautiful blooms to thrips; those blooms are for you!

Water-Water-Water

The most important element in growing roses is moisture in the soil; water is what makes everything else work at its fullest. Watering should not be taken lightly or for granted. Roses require the equivalent of 5cm or more of water per

week. Most Rosarians in Queensland have raised beds (built above ground level), since there is little chance of over-watering with raised beds and good drainage. Water both before and after fertilizing roses, and also before spraying. In our drought conditions don't depend on predicted rain.

Grow A Good Bush First

Think before you cut. The first year of growth is very important for that rose bush which you have just planted. A good bush can be grown by cutting shorter stems when grooming away blooms or spent blooms, by keeping good, clean foliage, and by fertilizing and watering well. A good foundation is of great importance in growing roses. Keep the trashy, spindly growth removed also.

Check Soil pH

A pH of 6.5 to 6.9 is ideal for roses; you will get the maximum growth and production for a rose when soil pH is between these readings. pH should be checked before fertilizer is applied. Dolomite lime is used to raise the pH; sulfur is used to lower it. The trace elements in fertilizers are more readily available to roses when soil pH is in the range stated above.

Are You Protected?

Have you considered that you might no longer be protected from infection? As busy as we are at this time of year, amongst the thorns, sharp tools, manures, and composts, it might pay us to check our medical records; how long has it been since you got a **Tetanus Booster**? You just might be a ripe candidate for one.

Spring Rose Show Pics

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Queensland

The rose shows this year have had to compete with unseasonal heat and the winds and dust storms we had in late September just as the blooms were forming. Entry numbers were down, but there were many wonderful exhibits.

The Gold Coast Rose Society has proven itself to have the strongest competitors this season with a very good showing by their members. Robert and Grace Warren and Terry Burke from the Gold Coast almost swept the pool at each of the shows claiming most of the major prizes. Congratulations for some fantastic

blooms and displays! Grace is always tough to beat with her vases. I was amazed by how clean Terry's roses were and then he explained his spraying regime. His dedication has paid off and he will be a challenge to beat now he has retired.

Despite my move towards hybridizing, Toni (my wife) convinced me hold off my cross-pollinating for a couple of weeks and enter one last Queensland Rose Society rose show. We ended up having our most successful Spring Show due to the unseasonal early heat that helped with our

blooms. Liquid potash on the flowers also brought the colour out and increased flower sizes.

I intend showing some of my own roses one day when I have some good ones from my hybridizing efforts. Watch out! When I retire from work I might get back into showing seriously at the QRS shows again. In the mean time I will help anyone I can with how to win championships. We managed more than 50 championships in two years so I hope we can give some good advice.

Please enjoy the photos Toni took at the QRS show.

"The Gold Coast Rose Society has proven itself to have the strongest competitors this season"



Floribunda Champion: Robert Warren



Miniature Champion: Robert Warren



MiniFlora Champion: P & T Hains



Floral Art Champion: Bev Fotea



Create Your Own Roses!

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

I now have 50 of my rose seedlings potted up to 200mm pots (plus about 500 in 75mm pots). These are the ones that we have deemed to be sufficiently different to continue assessment over the coming months. Most will be discarded when it comes to potting on to the next stage or planting into the ground. I have put them into a 50% mix of high quality potting mix with fertiliser additives along with 50% vermiculite.

The seedlings have responded very well to this treatment and are starting to exhibit full-sized leaves.

I started pollinating again in mid-October. Presently I have around 700 crosses which on this year's experience would equate to around 7,000 seeds

and 3,000 seedlings. Toni is telling me to stop, but there are about 50 large Moonstone flowers out there that I will pollenate this afternoon. She asked me this morning if she could have some of the Moonstones for a Christmas display she was doing on Sunday. "No," I snapped quickly. Oops. I conceded a large bucket of other roses from the pollinating bushes though (update—I cut 30 Moonstone for her in the afternoon).

I have seen the dismay on her face as I tear petals off perfect unmarked Kardinals right at their exhibition prime. Breeding is a ruthless thing—you have to see the rose simply as a parent to something truly new that will be outstanding. Well, that is the goal.

I know I should have one goal, but this year there are three:

1. Scented rose
2. Exhibition Hybrid Tea
3. Mini Flora

My concentration has been more in the hybrid teas this year as my success was much stronger with them for the 08/09 breeding season.

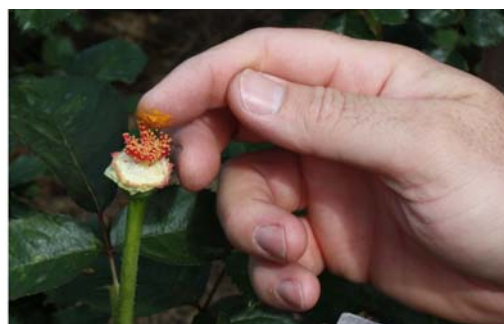
There are at least ten of each cross with the aim of having 100+ seeds of each to grow up and evaluate. I am also working with the plants that showed strong germination

last year to increase my chances.

I would encourage everyone to try this rewarding sideline to our hobby of growing roses. See the pictures below for how to do this. Simple steps to growing your own roses:

1. Rip the petals from one rose (no need to be gentle here).
2. Cut or pull the stamens off with the pollen on them. This can go into a small jar or a paper envelope. Leave the pollen open to air (not where bees can get it though) so the pollen can burst forth as tiny orange dust. In a warm area this will normally take 24 hours.
3. Dip your finger in the pollen the next day if it has made fine orange powder, rub your finger on the stigma (centre) or another different rose you have removed the leaves and stamens from.
4. Write a tag with the name of the roses on it and the date you made the cross.

This will produce a cross of the two roses. In four months time the hip will have ripened enough to remove and take the seeds out. If you the above and make some crosses, email me and let me know. In Feb/March I will tell you what to do with your seeds.



A couple of my new roses now in 20cm (8") pots