

# Queensland Rose Bulletin

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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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## What is a Floribunda Rose?

Judy Bonds, Consulting Rosarian, [www.humboldrose.org](http://www.humboldrose.org)

Floribunda roses were developed by crossing polyantha roses with hybrid tea roses. The resulting cross was a repeat-blooming plant which produced blooms in inflorescences or sprays, rather than one bloom per stem, and which retained the color range of the hybrid tea. The plant is upright in shape like the hybrid tea, rather than having the usual lax shape of the polyantha. The typical floribunda provides a plant full of color that is rarely out of bloom.

Much of the early work was done by D. T. Poulsen who was motivated by the need for a plant hardier than the existing hybrid teas for his Danish climate, and which provided more color during the relatively short growing period. Gene Boerner is known as the —father of floribunda roses because of the extensive hybridization carried on throughout his 45 year career working for Jackson & Perkins. His introductions earned 11 AARS awards. Among his creations are Gene Boerner (medium pink), Ivory Fashion (creamy white with beautiful golden stamens), and Apricot Nectar (apricot), all of which do well here. While the early floribundas were shorter than hybrid teas, many modern plants are as tall as the typical hybrid tea. Earlier floribundas usually had smaller, flatter blooms than their hybrid tea counterparts.

We now have roses registered as floribundas which have what is called —hybrid tea form (high centered, opening symmetrically, triangle-shaped bloom when viewed from the side), some of which will also bloom one-bloom per stem. Typically, these are smaller blooms than hybrid teas produce, although, as with hybrid teas, we have many types of bloom: single, semi-double, etc.

Floribundas can be used in many ways in the garden. They can be used as hedges, accept companion plantings well, and provide lots of bloom. Personally, they are my favorite type of rose. I just love going out and cutting one stem and having a ready-made bouquet.

Floribundas which do well here are (in no order really): Margaret Merrill (white, fragrant, healthy — if I only had one rose, this would be it!); Iceberg (white); Burgundy Iceberg (you guessed it — burgundy); Julia Child (very nice soft yellow); Goldmarie (bright, non-fading yellow); Playboy (yellow-red blend single); Charlotte Anne (mauve single); Apricot Nectar (apricot). There are really lots of floribundas which do well here. If you are interested, visit the website — ask a member — visit a garden!

## FLORIBUNDAS GOOD FOR QUEENSLAND:



Playboy



Playgirl



Seduction



Hannah Gordon



Love Potion

# In Memorium: Merv Sugars

Toni Hains, Queensland, Australia



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Merv Sugars and with great joy we reflect on the life of a true rosarian and gentleman.

Marv joined the Queensland Rose Society in 1975 and from then on has been a permanent fixture at society events and rose shows.

Paul and I joined the society about 4 years ago and started exhibiting not too long after that. It was not long before we had Merv at our side at the shows, giving us the low down on tricks and techniques for showing roses. Merv showed us how to reattach a rose head you had broken off by mistake just long enough to be judged by sticking a piece of wire down the stem and into the head.

He was a marvel at imparting his knowledge and encouraging everyone to grow better roses and more of them. The picture left is Merv demonstrating pruning to new members in our front garden.

Our thoughts are with Joyce at this time. Merv is now forever in the rose garden...

*"the Romans ...  
created the  
world's first  
greenhouses"*

## Interesting Rose Facts

Rainy Rose Society, USA

The first guide to roses was written around **300 BC** by Theophrastus, a pupil of Plato and Aristotle. Pliny the Roman went into more detail 200 years later with the equivalent of the world's first catalog, which listed thirteen roses.

Napoleon gave his officers bags of rose petals to boil in white wine to cure lead poisoning from bullet wounds.

trunk is nearly six feet in diameter, and its branches form a canopy large enough to shelter a crowd of 150 people.

Determined to find a way to get roses to bloom all year round, the Romans piped hot water into special growing rooms, creating the world's first greenhouses. The oldest living rose bush, grows against a cathedral in Hildesheim, Germany. Documentation proves it has been there since A.D. 815. During World War II, the bush caught fire from Allied bombs dropped nearby, but the root system was undamaged and the bush still flourishes today.

### How do the rose petals grow?

The —Rose Research column in the May/June ARS *American Rose Magazine* carries an ab-

stract of research by lead researcher K. Yamada as published in *Planta*. This abstract tells us more about how rose petals grow: —Cell Division in rose petals is almost complete as the sepals begin to separate. Thereafter, flower growth depends on the expansion of the cells that form the petals. The sugars fructose and glucose play a key role; their levels rise rapidly, which increases the osmotic pressure in the petal cells. This facilitates the influx of water, which contributes to cell expansion, the enlargement of the petals and the opening of the flower.¶

This research reinforces our understanding that roses need to be well-watered to produce beautiful flowers.

The world's largest rose-bush is located in Tombstone, Arizona (see pic left). It is almost two hundred years old and is adorned with more than two hundred thousand white blooms when in full bloom. Its



# Pruning Time Again - This is the week

By Nanette Londree, Marin Rose Society, [www.marinrose.org](http://www.marinrose.org)

There seems to be a lot of mystery surrounding rose pruning, as well as lots of "rules" to follow in order to do it correctly. If I have learned anything over the last decade of pruning hundreds of roses, it is that roses are very forgiving. If you cut too high, too low, at an inward facing bud rather than an outward facing one, in the long run, it really will not make a lot of difference. If the resulting growth does not grow in the fashion or direction you desire, cut it again to correct it. Once you realize that there is not too much one can do wrong, it makes the whole job much easier.

## A few lessons learned by this rosarian (the hard way):

1. Do not prune old roses (once bloomers) at this time. The blooms on the old roses are produced on current growth. If you prune them now, you are pruning your spring flowers away!

2. Do not prune newly planted roses - they need to get established before you remove any growth (other than dead wood).

3. Prune first year roses (those you have grown for one season) lightly. They may not have developed a lot of top growth the first season, and need all their canes to continue to thrive.

## Now for a few general pruning tips:

1. Invest in a good pair of shears and keep them oiled, adjusted and very sharp! Anvil-type shears bruise the bark so make sure the anvil is on the bit that you are removing.. If you use loppers, make sure they are also the pass-through type. A small pruning saw is a necessity for large canes and for getting into places that cannot be reached with shears or loppers.

2. Wear good, strong, durable gloves. They should be sturdy but flexible. It is also beneficial to use gloves with gauntlets that cover the forearm. Wear hard finish clothing such as denim and wear long sleeves.

3. Remove every leaf from newly pruned bushes; diseases tend to carry over in winter on old green leaves left on the bush. Once pruning is done, it is an excellent time to do a dormant spray; this will reduce insects and disease in the upcoming season.

4. Pay attention to where you are placing your hands. Roses don't stick you; you stick yourself on the roses! Experienced pruners rarely get severely scratched but it is a good idea to check to see if you have had a tetanus shot in the last 10 years.

5. Start at the bottom of the bush but look to the top before cutting. Do not let the "decisions" about what to cut make you tense or slow you down.

6. The cane will tend to grow in the direction the top bud is pointing - cut to an outside bud on uprights bushes and to an inside bud on sprawling bushes. Cut about 1/4" away from the bud, If cut closer, the new growth may break off. If cut longer, an unsightly stub will remain.

7. Cut back to good healthy wood. Discolored pith (interior of cane) may indicate frost or disease damage, and while such a cane may bloom, it will usually die back come summer. At best it is a poor framework for future growth.

8. Remove about one-third to one-half of the volume of the plant, leaving healthy canes, and the center of the plant open.

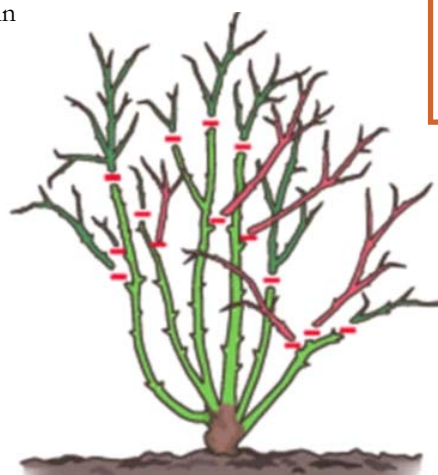
9. Large canes can be cut easily with sharp shears if they are bent slightly away from the cutting edges of the shears.

10. Do not worry if the cut cane bleeds; there is no evidence to show that it is harmful to either roses or grapevines. It is not necessary to

*"roses are very forgiving. If you cut too high, too low, at an inward facing bud rather than an outward facing one, in the long run, it really will not make a lot of difference"*

## Editor's Notes:

- The last week in July or first week of August is the ideal time to prune in Queensland.
- Remove every leaf and spray with Lime Sulphur.
- Floribundas generally need a lighter prune.
- Don't prune like in southern states, you only need 1/3-1/2 off the bush unless you are in a frost prone area.
- Prune the same distance above the bud as the stem is thick. (if stem is 5mm thick prune



# My Hybridising Progress

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

*"It is making  
me more  
ruthless than  
last year"*

Ok, we cancelled our purchase of the acreage block due to issues with the flood levels on the block. We still have our house for sale anyway and I have all of my breeding roses at my parent's house. This includes my seedlings coming up for this year with 4,500 seeds planted.

It is making me be more ruthless as my method last year involved transplanting every seedling as it came up. This is not possible when I can see them only once a week and have limited time. So this year I am simply tagging the better seedlings and will transplant the best ones from each seed raising box at the end of the season. In the mean-time I am culling the weak ones. I have loads of powdery mildew as I have to rely on automatic sprinkling only a couple of days a week so the watering is no-where near the ideal. What I am finding is it shows the strong disease resistant ones in

the middle of the mildew.

We are still looking at acreage sites where there is space for greenhouses and polytunnels to allow for better seedraising and growing of budded plants.

I have a large potted garden of transplanted roses at my parents and am about to start potting some more up before winter ends.



Above: Last Year's Seedlings  
Below: Breeding Parents in Pots



## Rose of the Month: St Patrick

Name: St Patrick

Introduced: 1996. USA

Hybridiser: Frank Strickland

Type: Hybrid Tea

Parentage: (Brandy x Gold Medal)

ARS Colour: Yellow Blend

Blooms: 40 Petals

Fragrance: Mild

This is one of the best vase roses you can get and is very long lasting when cut or on the bush. It isn't a huge bush but puts out plenty of blooms to reward you. It was bred by an amateur hybridiser in the USA. St Patrick won the prestigious AARS award and is only the second rose bred by an amateur to win this..

The colour ranges from a paler yellow to

quite bright depending on the soil conditions and the location. I would recommend plenty of sun and lots of potash to enhance colour. It has green blending outer petals, hence the St Patrick name. This is the best yellow hybrid tea out there and does not fade.

It has great exhibition form too and we have won multiple championships with this one.



QRS Champion Exhibition Rose Autumn 2008



Roselovers' Champion Vase 2008



**australian  
rose  
championships  
&  
qld rose society  
spring show  
1-4 Oct 2010**

**Auditorium  
Brisbane Botanic Gardens  
Mt Coot-tha**

The Queensland Rose Society would like to invite all Rose Society members to attend the 2010 National Rose Show.

With members from through out the state, the Queensland Rose Society has two subsidiary Societies, The Gold Coast Rose Society and the Darling Downs Rose Society. When you attend the Australian Rose Championships in Brisbane you will see roses grown in many differing microclimates from Queensland as well as those who have travelled from interstate.

We have organised special rates at the Hotel Grand Chancellor for guests of the Championships. All of the functions will be held at this site except for the Championship Show which will be at the Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tony Stallwood

President, National Rose Society of Australia & Qld Rose Society

**Show Times:**

**Saturday Oct 2**

**11.30am-4.00pm**

**Sunday Oct 3**

**9.00am-3.00pm**



Friday Welcome Cocktail Party and Monday Bus Trip  
For more details and registration forms go to:

**[www.rose.org.au](http://www.rose.org.au)**

**[www.qld.rose.org.au](http://www.qld.rose.org.au)**