

Queensland Rose Bulletin

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Monthly Rose News and Information

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My First Flowers Arrive

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld



Almost a year since I started cross pollenating rose flowers I have seen my first flowers arrive. I thought the first flower would open while I was in New Zealand on holidays but it held on until I came home, finally opening on the 27th August.

It is a buttery yellow miniature rose. I am hoping it doesn't fade too quickly. It seems to have held its colour very well over the two weeks while it has been opening so it's looking good so far.

This is a cross between Moonstone and Holy Toledo. It has the form of

Benardella's Ruby and is so far disease resistant. I will be interested to see what the second flower is like from this bush.

I have had 9 flowers bloom so



Moonstone



far and have over 100 more seedlings with buds on them. I go our first thing every morning and as soon as I get home from work to watch their progress..



Holy Toledo

QRS Annual General Meeting – 9 September

Annerley Church of Christ Hall, Annerley Road.

With the QRS AGM fast approaching you should consider whether you want to be on the committee for the coming year. 2010 is an ex-

citing year as QRS will be holding the National Rose Show and National AGM.

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.

Qld Rose Society Day at Donelle's

Toni Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

"New members used this time to talk with the more experienced growers about rose selection for their personal needs."

Recently Donelle of "Roses by Donelle" very kindly opened her nursery on a Sunday for The Queensland Rose Society. We had a great roll up and mother nature did her bit to provide lovely spring weather.

Donelle provided a great spread for morning tea on arrival and then it was down to business. Members wandered the huge area of the nursery inspecting the new stock. New members used this time to talk with the more experienced growers about rose selection for their

personal needs. We then all gathered in the beautiful shade provided by a massive tree for the formal part of the day.

Tony Stallwood our President welcomed all to the event and then Donelle gave a short talk on planting roses and rose care. It was then over to John Dale who provided information on showing roses and how to prepare a bloom for the show bench. Although many of our members are not exhibitors and not looking to become an exhibitor some of the

tips and tricks used to show roses can enhance to look and longevity of the roses you cut for yourself or friends.

When we were all educated Donelle and her mum Bev provided lunch. It was then back to the paddock for members to select their purchases. Many members left laden with roses and items from the gift shop. Needless to say, a good day was had by all.



Recipes – Rose Hip Jam

<http://www.celtnet.org.uk/recipes/>

Ingredients

This is a very old recipe for a classic hedgerow. Indeed, versions of this recipe are known from the early 1700s.

450g rose hips (weighed after de-seeding and chopping)

250ml water

100g sugar per 100g pulp

Method:

Combine the rose hips and water in a pan. Bring to a boil then reduce to a simmer, cover and cook for about 20 minutes (or until the rose hips are very soft). Press the mixture

through a sieve to purée (and to remove any stray seeds) then allow the pulp to cool and weigh.

Add the pulp to a pan along with 100g sugar for every 100g pulp. Bring to a simmer and continue cooking until the mixture thickens to a jam-like consistency. Bring to a boil then boil rapidly, stirring all the while for about 10 minutes. Test for setting by placing a plate in the fridge. Spoon a little of the jelly onto the plate, allow to cook then move it with your fingernail.

If a crinkly skin forms then the jelly is ready. If not continue boiling for 5 minutes more and test again.

Skim the surface with a slotted spoon then ladle into sterilized jars that have been warmed in an oven set to 110°C for 15 minutes. Allow 1cm of head space then secure the lid, allow to cool and store.

Remember to use this recipe you should use rose hips that have not been sprayed with chemicals. You do not want to be eating the chemicals!

Advantage: Dry Wrap

Glenda Whitaker, Nashville USA. Glenda passed away in March this year. This article is a testament to her work.

Would you like to have an advantage in the art of exhibiting roses? Then the art of dry wrap for your rose blooms may just be your answer.

Rosarians like to expound on the great roses they had in their garden a week earlier that had bloomed out by show time. The dry wrap method, provides the potential to exhibit specimens cut two weeks or more before their use. If you have a special event such as a special graduation reception, the dry wrap method has the possibility of allowing you to store more roses, cut over a longer period, thus requiring less refrigerator space.

Blooms should be cut in late afternoon or early morning. Late afternoon has the advantage of the rose having stored more sugar from the photosynthesis action of the day.

Morning cut roses have more moisture content in the stem. Do not dry wrap a rose that has morning dew on it, for the rose will discolor and rot in the dry wrap. For morning cutting, wait until the dew has completely dried and the rose is still retaining the night's moisture within its stem. The degree of opening $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{3}{4}$ stage is a matter of experimentation, realizing the bloom does not continue to open while in refrigeration, but the "reawakening" process may see some further opening of the rose, depending on how many petals the cultivar has. The more petals a bloom has, the slower it will open. No conditioning of the stem in warm water prior to wrapping and storing is necessary.

The wrapping is akin to wrapping Christmas presents, or in this case, wrapping a potential show winner! Basic materials include extra wide clear plastic refrigerator food wrap material that clings to whatever it touches (extra width facilitates the wrap-

ping procedure and eliminates splicing pieces together). Cut the plastic wrap to extend above and below the length of specimen to allow fold over to seal the ends of the wrap. The material seals to itself. I usually lay down one long sheet on the counter, place the rose on top, then take another sheet of the plastic wrap and lay on top of the rose, sealing the sides and ends of the wrap to each other. Then I gently roll up the excess on the sides and ends to further protect the rose and give the "package" extra strength. Then a third piece of plastic cling can be wrapped around the sealed package to give extra insurance against air leakage. Extra air or moisture inside the enclosure is to be avoided so petal rot will not develop in the longer storage period. Some advocates of the dry wrap method go as far as using a Styrofoam cup around the bloom itself for further protection, but I have not found that to be that necessary.

After wrapping each specimen, refrigerate immediately; either vertically against one another with the bloom upright, or in horizontal layers. Be careful not to stack so high as to crush the blooms. The same temperatures used for wet storage are ideal for dry wrap (34–38 degrees F). Leave the roses wrapped until time for the "reawakening" --- anywhere from one to two hours before placing in an arrangement or exhibit. An important step is to re-cut the stem under water before plunging the specimens into deep warm water --- very warm to your hand. The specimens will be wilted and lifeless at this point, and you may undoubtedly be thinking "How can anything come from this limp thing?" Relax and watch the life come back into the stem and bloom as the stem takes up the

warm water, re-hydrating itself. The lifeless specimens will begin lifting their drooping heads in about 30 minutes and gradually take on the look of a potential winner.

Do not expect to have 100% success from this dry wrap method anymore than you have from conventional refrigeration where roses are kept in water.

Why go to all this trouble? If you have blooms that look great many days before you would ordinarily be cutting and putting the blooms in water and refrigeration, whether for a rose show or an upcoming event that you are wanting to have yourself or help someone else with, this can be your ticket to meeting your goal of a collection of beautiful roses. I have personally had success with this method saving the last roses of fall to use at our NRS Christmas banquet in bouquets and in our own Nashville Rose Shows and even in a national show.

For the St. Louis ARS National Convention several years ago, we took a chest full of dry wrap roses with ice-filled milk cartons in the chest to keep them cold. Upon arrival we re-cut the blooms in the hotel lavatory, plunged them into a deep bucket of warm water and entered horticulture and arrangement sections with the roses. We won many ribbons on the specimens and I won Princess of Arrangements with an all white bouquet of Garden Party roses, my first national arrangement award. What a thrill! Remember that the stage of opening at which one should cut the blooms from the garden in the first place should be geared to the number of petals a particular cultivar has and how quickly it may open. The fewer the petals, the faster it will open and move out of its exhibition stage of a high center.



"The dry wrap method, provides the potential to exhibit specimens cut two weeks or more before their use."





Blind Shoots

Paul Hains & reprints from the Australian Rose Annual, 1970

A blind shoot is a new growth after Winter pruning which does not bear a terminal bud but is "blind."

This is something I have had many questions on over the past couple of years from both new and established growers. I was able to find a symposium on the topic in the 1970 Australian Rose Annual with comments from many then prominent Queensland growers and exhibitors. I have included their thoughts below:

Mr. S. Cottrell of East Brisbane, Queensland, writing in the September, 1969 issue of "The Queensland Rose" commented: "At our pruning demonstration this year many questions were asked concerning why growers' roses had given so many blind shoots the previous Spring. In answer to questions, it was almost invariably found that they had pruned their roses too early. Many inexperienced growers also misinterpret the meaning of light pruning, and leave exhausted wood on their plants, which should have been removed. This wood is only capable of producing blind growth. Light, medium or heavy pruning only concerns the amount of cutting back the plant receives after all the useless wood has been removed."

Dr. R. J. Bovey of The Gap, Queensland, says: "In Southern Queensland blind shoots occur only to any extent in the Spring. Apart from those caused by insects and grubs eating the developing growth tip and those burnt by sprays, blind shoots appear to be more prominent in a cooler than usual Spring and after earlier than usual pruning. They also appear to be a weakness of particular cultivars:

Super Star, Chrysler Imperial, Duftwolke and Avon being the chief offenders. The plants are in no way affected afterwards and I would think that blind shoots are more nuisance in the cooler Southern climates."

Mr. K. Paterson of Brisbane, Queensland, canvassed some members of the executive committee of the N.R.S.Q. (*Old Rose Society*) and their considered opinion is: "Blind shoots occur on some cultivars at all times of the year and they are at their worst in cold and windy conditions. This disappointing trait does not seem to be confined to any particular cultivars and blind shoots have been observed on Chrysler Imperial, Roundelay, Climbing Queen Elizabeth, Merry Widow, Thais, Papa Meiland and Suzon Lothe. Although the cause is unknown we think that under-pruning and not removing the old wood together with a sudden cold snap after pruning may be a cause. We do not think blind shoots are due to soil conditions."

Mr. R. Kent of Geebung, Queensland writes: "Blind shoots occur regularly with early pruning, variations of Spring conditions are so slight here that bushes pruned late are unaffected. Chrysler Imperial is the worst affected. Thais, Silver Lining, Garden Party and Burnaby have some blind shoots also. I suspect that the causes of blind shoots are pruning too early (in this climate) and pruning to weak eyes. Blind shoots can be accentuated by the presence of red spider and caterpillars as when the growing tip is damaged the resulting stem will appear as a blind shoot."

To conclude this discussion on blind shoots, there is a plant of Christian Dior in my garden which regularly has no Spring blooms but my best blooms for Autumn shows are produced from this same plant. Nearby other plants of Christian Dior bloom normally in the Spring!

What do you do?

Deadhead the stem as if it had a rose on it. If the stem is small and would not sustain a new flower then take it back to the main stem.

It has been found that other buds on blind shoots will form new flowers. For this reason, if the blind shoot is close to a pencil thickness through the stem cut it back to a new bud and a new flower stem will shoot from there.

The thing to remember is that blind shoots are not hurting your rose. The leaves on the shoots are creating sugars in your bush through photosynthesis. You cut them back only to help grow new flowers. Conservation of leaves during the growing season is important as they all make contributions to the health and growth of the plant.

"It has been found that other buds on blind shoots will form new flowers... The thing to remember is that blind shoots are not hurting your rose"

Rose of the Month – Crépuscule

Noisette, France, 1904, Dubreuil

Crépuscule is a rose that we saw everywhere we travelled in South Australia. In many country gardens it forms a lovely tree covered in cream blooms. If you have the space this rose makes a lovely feature.

All the warm colors of the last glimmer of a late Summer sunset shift through the richly fragrant blooms of this lovely Tea-Noisette. Grow Crépuscule over an arbor, or near a garden path, where you will pass it often. This fragrant

beauty never fails to delight the senses. In common with many of its race, graceful, bountiful, beautiful Crépuscule loves warm temperatures and sunlight.



My Hybridising Update

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

With 430 seedlings potted into tubes now and about 200 others that I have left in their foam tomato boxes I am hoping for one or two nice flowers. I have encountered lots of powdery mildew along the way and some roses just don't look

like they will perform at all. I am giving them the benefit of the doubt at the moment as I have done some reading that suggests that I should wait for the second flower before completely abandoning them. Some are already making the

scrap heap though and I know I will have to be more brutal over the coming months as more flowers arrive.

The photos below are of some of the early arrivals. Many are singles which will be the first to be culled.

"I am giving them the benefit of the doubt at the moment..."

