

Huronian Rose Society



GROWING ROSES
IN A NEW ERA

*Tips to enjoy growing roses in your garden
without a lot of work*

April 2009

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Huronian Rose Society's first objective is to "Promote interest in and create a love for, the care and cultivation of the rose".

Rose gardeners have been told in the years since W.W.II that a heavy regime of spraying roses with many chemicals must be followed to prevent insects and diseases and produce the perfect rose.

For some people this made the growing of roses a burden rather than a pleasure, and we now realize it also caused a health risk that need not be taken.

As members of the Huronia Rose Society, we have been proponents for sometime of organic rose growing and rose care.

Now, in 2009, as residents of Ontario, the pesticides and insecticides that used to be available, won't be.

So if we haven't been gardening environmentally in the past, we certainly will have to be now.

By following good gardening practices when planning a garden with roses, one builds a good foundation for beautiful, healthy roses without spending hours every week caring for them when you could be relaxing and enjoying them.

The following guide will help the home gardener to grow roses to enjoy their beauty and to share their roses with others while not being a slave to your garden unless that is your passion above all else !

Pointers for Beginning a Rose Garden

- Choose a well-drained location, with good garden soil enriched with compost or very well aged manure.
- a minimum of six hours of sunlight is essential
- good air circulation is desirable, but not too windy a location (a fence can be installed on the windy side)
- buy well-grown, hardy rose bushes, that have been grown in Ontario. There are Ontario rose nurseries that one can visit or ask the garden centre where their rose bushes have been produced. The Huronia Rose Society sells hardy rose bushes each Sat. in May at the Barrie Farmers' Market and at the Orillia Farmers' Market, at least one Sat. in May.
- plant the bush with the graft (where the roots join the main stems) at least 3" to 4" below the surface of the flower bed.

- water well for a month after planting, and if rain is scarce throughout the summer, water deeply weekly..
- mulch with compost, bark chips, etc. to hold in the moisture and prevent weeds from growing.
- For detailed instructions on planting and caring for rose bushes, see the pamphlet “Your Guide for Planting and Caring for a Rose Garden”, produced by the Huronia Rose Society.

Tips to Grow Roses Organically

For new Rose Gardens

- Choose healthy bushes, with no sign of diseases with smooth, green (or red – some roses have red canes) bark, not dried out from poor watering.
- Some rose bushes are more resistant to insects and diseases than others. Any rose that has *Rosa rugosa* in its background is one of the best. The foliage will have a “quilted” appearance, to indicate the *rugosa* trait. Examples are Blanc Double de Coubert, Hansa, Jens Munk*, Martin Frobisher*, Therese Bugnet*.
Roses with leaves that have shiny surface with thick texture are less susceptible to insects and diseases.
- Follow the tips below throughout the growing season.
- * Canadian roses – extremely hardy as well.

For Existing Rose Gardens

- In early spring, when the daytime temperatures are around 10 degrees, and no rain for 24 hours, an application of Dormant Spray should be applied to the rose bushes and the ground around them. This is a kit with 2 kinds of natural ingredients:– lime-sulphur which kills any over-wintering disease spores; and a horticultural oil to smother any over-wintering insects. Do this when the little leaf buds are red, but not yet showing green growth as these ingredients are applied at a strong rate.
- Grow healthy roses, watering when necessary to give approximately 1” of water per week. Early morning waterings are best, as having foliage wet going into night encourages diseases.
- Be sure to keep all debris gathered off the surface of the ground so any possible insects or diseases don’t have a hiding place.
- A quick look over the roses once a day will keep one ahead of any major insect or disease problems.

- Planting the annual plant “Sweet Alyssum” around the edge of a garden acts as an attraction to a beneficial insect that keeps Saw Fly larva away.
- A handful of Epsom Salts once or twice in spring and early summer helps to produce healthy bushes.

Insect Control

- Hand picking insects such as aphids, or green worms will control most insects. If one is planning a holiday and a few insects are seen, one may use insecticidal soap as a spray to get rid of a potential problem while one is gone.
- A strong spray from the hose will dislodge small insects.

Disease Control

- Neem Oil is a natural insecticide and fungicide that can be used when a problem seems to be developing
- A dilute form of the Lime-Sulphur in the Dormant spray can be used against fungus diseases such as black spot. Follow directions.

OR

- Mix 1 tsp. of baking soda in 1 quart of water, stir well and leave over night. Pour off the clear liquid into the sprayer, so the burning salts on the bottom are not used. This will help prevent diseases on the foliage.
Black spot fungi like a neutral ph, therefore if you make leaf surfaces either acidic (lime sulphur) or alkaline (baking soda) it will discourage growth of the spores that cause the disease.

We at HRS wish for everyone, beautiful roses without a lot of work. Sometimes we can accept a few insects or a bit of disease without dragging out a lot of equipment.

Enjoy the beauty and fragrance of your roses and enjoy a clean, healthy environment to live in.

Visit our **Millennium Memorial Rose Garden**
of hardy Canadian roses
South Shore Community Centre, #205 Lakeshore Rd., Barrie