



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

Rosebuds

April 2014

E-mail: bgrs@twc.com

Meeting
April 4
WCEO
6:30 p.m.
Program:
The Plant Lady
Yvonne McQuitty

Pruning After the Big Snow by Gus Banks, MCR, West Jersey Rose Society

We had a lot of snow this winter and some very cold temperatures. Winter may not be over yet so don't be too quick to remove your rose's protection. Just make sure that the weather forecast is above freezing as you start to remove the protection from around the bushes. All the snow has been slowly melting. This will help to ensure that there is a lot of ground water as we go into spring. This will help to get our roses off to a good start this year.

This year it seemed like that before every deep cold snap we received several inches of snow. This blanket of snow provided insulation to the bud union of all our roses and helped to protect them from the cold. At least that's what I've always been told and it gave us something good to think about when were out shoveling.

If you have roses in containers in a protected area it is a good time to bring them out during these warmer days. Water the containers thoroughly and let them drain. Then, return them back to their protected area. Although they may appear to be growing strongly, their growth is not that strong and even a small freeze could severely injure the bushes. So, don't rush to get to containers out this spring.

Go out and look at the roses in your gardens now. You will see lots of dark canes. Some of them are dark brown and some of them are black. Generally, in either case it is an indication that that cane is either dead or will soon be dead. For your rose bush this is a very serious situation. What you need to do is prune

the cane down until you have a clean, white wood center. If you leave a little brown in the center what will happen is that you may get a bloom from that cane but all of a sudden later in the spring it will turn black and die on you. Much better to keep cutting down the cane until you get to the white wood. As with all pruning you want to try to make the cut just above a healthy node.

I said the black and brown canes represent a serious situation. If not corrected the rot caused by this freeze damage can continue to travel down the cane until it reaches the bud union. In which case, it may kill your rose bush. When you have a majority of the canes on the bush damaged and you cut them back to the bud union, all you can do at this point is to wait and see if new growth will appear. The greatest chance of this occurring is on plants that are growing on their own roots and are not grafted. Most miniature and miniflora rose bushes are on their own roots. So, don't be too quick to shovel prune the bushes. Give them a good six to eight weeks to recover. They may not give you a bloom for the spring show, but it will save you the cost of replacing them.

It is very hard to time your rose bloom under these conditions. The loss of entire canes will definitely affect your plants because there are now fewer leaves to produce energy. You need those leaves to have great blooms. But, this will give you a

choice of either trying to save your plant or replacing it with a new variety.

You need to look at your plants several times over the next few weeks. You're looking for any canes that you failed to cut back that are now showing that they had been damaged. This is a good time to make sure that you seal the end of your canes. As you cut further down the cane you're leaving a larger surface area exposed. This exposed area is just what the cane borer is looking for to make their nests.

You may also find some healthy canes that have been bent over from the weight of the snow. If they're not in the way and not damaged, you can leave them bent over and you get growth from the laterals on the cane. This will mean you will get more blooms. If the canes are in the way you prune them out as you normally would.

One final thought, is that as you remove the protection at the bottom of your rose bush do it very gently. Often-times, new growth will have started under the protection. Remember that new growth is often a reddish color.

Editor's Note: This issue contains several articles about pruning as we will be pruning here soon. I included this one as much of the information applies to us also.



Claire Campbell April 4
Georgia Snyder April 30

Rose Pruning in 5 Easy Steps from Heirloom Roses

Pruning is about more than just looks. Proper pruning improves the health of your rose bush, prevents disease and encourages better flowering. There are different pruning strategies for different times of the year, but overall the goal is always the same: keep the bush fresh and open for better air circulation through the center of the plant.

At Heirloom Roses, we use the acronym PRUNE to remember the key points of the basic pruning process. These pruning techniques apply to the most popular garden roses (e.g., hybrid teas and floribundas). Some varieties, such as climbers and ramblers, require more specialized techniques. Visit our [in-depth pruning page](#) to learn more.

Prepare the plant

- Cut the plant back so you can work safely. Hybrid teas and shrubs should be cut down to approximately waist height

Remove all broken, dead, dying or diseased wood

- Any branches that look dry, shriveled or black should be removed as they will no longer produce new growth. Healthy canes are brown or green and firm.
- Also, remove canes that are crossing and rubbing, which can create weak spots.

Understand the plant

- It's important to understand what type of rose bush you are pruning.
- Determine what you want the bush to look like after it grows out.
- Shape the plant to meet your needs.
- Make your final cuts at a 45-degree angle and about 1/4 inch above outward-facing buds eyes.

Nothing left behind

- Clean up all cuttings, dead leaves and other debris from around the

plant. Do not compost, as this could potentially spread pathogens.

- Leave a clean area free of material to minimize the growth of diseases.

Enjoy your roses

- Enjoy the roses in your garden or cut roses and bring them inside.
- To cut roses, cut the stem right above the first five-leaflet leaf under the flower. Immediately place the cut stem into a clean bucket of lukewarm water.

Source: www.heirloomroses.com

Kentucky Live! & WKU Libraries present Judy Lowe, author of gardening columns and several gardening books, will be at Barnes & Noble on Thursday, April 10 at 7 pm to discuss her book *Tennessee & Kentucky Garden Guide*.

Rose Rhetoric by Rich Baer, MR, Portland Rose Society

Last month I really covered pruning fairly comprehensively. However, once I got out into the garden there was one thing that I seem to have forgotten and it is rather a basic part of pruning. Many years this would not be important, but this year it may be. The two cold spells we had this year, the one in December was perhaps the worst, and then the one that came with the snow, more than likely killed many rose canes, but hopefully very few whole bushes.

So, when we are pruning how can we tell which canes are viable and which are not? It is quite possible that a dead cane will be black on the outside and this is a pretty good indication that that stem was killed and should be removed. However, some canes may look perfectly healthy from the outside but when we cut into them they will tell us that they are dead and should be removed. The Picture at the right depicts two canes. The upper cane has a cream to green cream center and is healthy and should produce good growth and flowers this season. However, some of the canes we cut into will look more like the one at the bottom. In the picture the bottom cane depicts a rather severe case of showing that it is dead. Many canes will be slightly dark or perhaps just a little dark. Canes that show any damage should be removed down as far as the winter damage has affected them. If, when you make a cut you find your cane has a dark center, cut it off a few inches lower. If it is still dark cut off a few more inches. You may get all the way to the bottom of the stem and it is still dark, that is a lost cane. If along the way you find the cream center, the cane is alive at that point and you do not need to prune any lower. Some canes that show slight damage may produce growth early in the season. However, once warm sunny weather arrives the growth emanating from them will likely wither and die because the damaged stem is not able to transport enough water to the heat stressed foliage. So, you might as well remove any damaged canes now and not wait until June to remove them. Removing them now will allow the rose to produce new, healthy growth which will produce good flowers and not be bothered by the heat.

Editor's Note: This information was excerpted from an article in the March 2014 issue of Portland (OR) Rose Chatter, Rich Baer Editor.



April 2014

April and the Rosarian by Dr. Kent Campbell (from BGRS archives)

The sequence of chores we face in April lays the groundwork for the whole summer of successful blooms. It matters little if you feed and then prune or vice versa. What does matter a great deal is that you begin everything with a clean bed, and end it all with a good, thick, clean mulch.

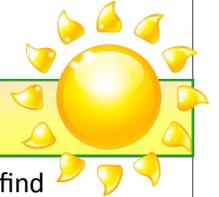
1. Remove any winter mulch, or at least very, very carefully rake or wash it and any hilled up dirt away from the plant. I use a gentle spray of water around the base of plants because quite often new basals will be peeping out of the warm ground. They break off very easily, and there goes a new long stem with a potential blue ribbon blossom on the end when it reaches its full growth. Dig all unwanted grass from the beds and douse them with *Preen*, even up close to the base of each plant. (You may wish to feed before doing the *Preen* because you must "rough" the food into the ground a bit.

2. At this point, I usually feed, because the pruning takes several days to complete. You can feed, even if it is a bit cold, because the plant will not use the food until it is ready. At one time, I mixed my own "spring start-up" fertilizer. The literature is full of different formulas. But close inspection reveals a basic grouping in all of them. Start with 3 parts 10-10-10 garden mix; add one part 45-0-0 nitrogen; add one part gypsum, add one part bone meal or blood meal; and one half part magnesium, and finally one-half part, or less, of pelletized lime. (The chances are slim that your beds are "sweet" enough. To be sure, check your pH.) Eventually I learned that the easy way to do all this is simply apply *Mills Magic Rose Mix* as per directions. After I do the Mills, I apply Monty's liquid every week or two. With Monty's you need to add a big spoonful of magnesium at least once before the show. Other possibilities for the short-term feeding sequence are *Peters*, *Mirical-Gro*, and *Mills Easy Feed*. I apply the solid food again in July. Some individuals I know use *Osmicote* twice a year, which is very expensive.

3. Count back 55 days from the rose show to begin to prune. Remember, CUT TO THE WHITE!

4. Apply the mulch of your choice as you finish pruning. Avoid straw, hay, and the ground leaves or you may be digging unwanted grass from your beds.

Have a great spring!! I, for one, am more ready for it than I can ever remember!



Pruning for our Rose Show by M. Hext, CR

With the hard winter for south central Kentucky, you are probably wondering as I am, what will we find when we start our spring wake up for our roses. When we see the forsythia start to bloom, we know it is time to get to work. I am seeing many black canes, but hopefully there will be a white center somewhere when I start pruning.

Remove all the dead canes and small spindly canes and any crossing branches. Shape the bush the way you want it to look. Cut the canes back to a healthy white pith. Remove canes smaller than a pencil. Keep the center open to allow air to circulate which will help to reduce the chances of disease and mites. Hard pruning (6-12) inches will produce fewer but larger flowers on thicker, longer canes. Little pruning or just shaping the bush will produce smaller but more blooms. We may have to prune more severely this spring due to our winter temperatures being much colder than the past few years. Don't cut back fortuniana bushes as much.

Since our rose show is later this year (May 31), you will need to prune a little later than we usually do, probably beginning around April 6 for hybrid teas which is 55 days before our rose show. Miniature and minifloras would need to be pruned about April 15 about 45 days til the show. Floribundas take about 60 days so cut about April 1.

President's Corner by Mary Ann Hext, CR

Spring is finally here!!! So now our rose work begins; but it will be well worth it when we have beautiful blooms to enjoy until the frost next fall. We were delighted to have three guests at our March meeting. Carolyn Batchelor from Logan County learned about our rose society when she was at the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show. She brought her mother and daughter with her to meeting. Carolyn has been growing roses for years and just ordered several new David Austin roses for spring planting. She has already ordered Mills Mix and some products from Rosemania after hearing recommendations from our speaker at the meeting. Ron Daniels from the Nashville Rose Society presented us with a wealth of rose information. Ron is a master gardener and master rosarian who is involved with Beaty Fertilizer and Holy Cow products since his retirement. He shared with us how he became involved with roses with a mentor, his many activities with growing roses, how he recently moved 100 roses to his new home, and about his rose ministry with his church. Other highlights of the meeting included finalizing some of our meeting dates and places and hosts for the year's meetings.

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Bowling Green Rose Society

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We're on the Web!!

www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org

LABEL

BGRS Rose Show

May 31

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- Our rose show schedule is available on our website: www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org and on the Tenarky site: www.tenarky.org
 - Make plans now to enter. There are categories for novice exhibitors in horticulture and arrangements.
 - Please purchase or sell an ad to help with expenses. Contact Ann Jacobs for information.
 - Mark your calendars to help with the rose show set up on Friday afternoon, May 30.
 - Volunteers are needed to help with the many rose show jobs. Contact Bob Jacobs or Kathy Dodson to help.
 - If you would like to clerk at the show, contact Kathy Dodson.

IMPORTANT DATES - 2014

- May 9-12: ARS National Convention & Rose Show, San Diego, CA
- May 31: BGRS Rose Show
- May 14-15: Nashville Rose Show
- July 25-27: ARS M/MF National Rose Show, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- October 5: Tenarky Rose Show
- Oct. 15-19: ARS National Convention & Rose Show, Tyler TX

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