



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

# Rosebuds

May 2020

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[www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org](http://www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org)

Meeting  
May 17—2 pm

**CANCELED  
DUE  
TO  
COVID-19!**

## BGRS 57<sup>th</sup> Rose Show—Is Canceled! by Mary Ann Hext, CR

This spring we find ourselves in a crazy and stressful time—something that we nor anyone else have ever experienced so it is hard to find answers or know what or what not to do. I hope that all of us are following our federal, state, and local guidelines in order to keep our selves and others safe from the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

With “Staying at Home” and “Social Distancing” recommendations; and with most of the places we would be visiting, shopping or eating closed, we are for-

fortunate to have our rose hobby and love for gardening to occupy our time. At our house, we have already done more yard work, cleaning fence rows, repairs around the house and barn, than we did all last summer. My roses have been pruned, fertilized, covered for two frosts, re-pruned from frost damage, and several bushes removed and replaced. With so much spring rain and the extra attention, our yard looks really nice and the roses are coming along slowly.

It just makes me a little sad that none of the societies across the country are able to have spring rose shows, to share our blooms with others, see our rose friends or even our own members until an unknown time in the future. However, our health concerns for ourselves and others by not holding these types of events must take

priority. Hopefully, we are all doing our part in helping to get this pandemic under control.

Right now we are waiting to learn from Governor Beshear when we will start opening our state and be able



to meet with each other. As this process begins, we will still have many procedures in place which will make it impossible to have our spring rose show. After much discussion, BGRS board members have decided to cancel our May show. We have considered the possibility of holding it the second or third Saturday in September which would will depend on whether the building will be available and whether we will be able to get judges. We already have our Tenarky District Fall Convention and Rose Show scheduled September 26-27 and the Louisville Rose Show the following Saturday. The Birmingham Rose Society is planning to reschedule their rose show in the fall and Huntsville-Twickenham Rose Society and Greater Cincinnati Rose Association spring shows are cancelled for

2020. If you have any thoughts concerning having our show in September, please contact a BGRS board member.

The Nashville Rose Society will be hosting our Tenarky District Fall Convention and Rose Show in September; and we hope that all BGRS members will attend and exhibit. Details will be coming soon along with the rose show schedule which will be posted on the Tenarky District website and sent to each society for distribution.

In the meantime, we still have our BGRS “Rosebuds” newsletter, our BGRS Facebook page, and website to communicate with each other. Please send photos of your roses to me to include in our next newsletter and to share on our BGRS Facebook page so we can all keep in touch and share our roses.

I attended an on-line ARS Board of Directors meeting on Saturday and learned more about how to use the software they are making available for district and local societies to use to hold meetings and share speakers so this is also a possibility for us to do.

For now, follow the guidelines, wash your hands frequently, practice social distancing and get a mask which will be required in Kentucky in May. Stay safe and enjoy your rose gardens!



## From the President *by Ricky Lockhart*

Hello rose growers. Well, it's the end of April and things are not looking too good. This virus is keeping us from having meetings or anything else. We have decided to cancel our spring show; but possibly have it in September. If you have any ideas or thoughts on this, please contact me or one of the other board members. We will keep you informed.

The freeze killed all my new growth. I cut them all back to 6 inches or less. I replaced some roses with new and better varieties and saved my old ones by repotting them.

Mary Ann and I will let you know what we will do for the May meeting. We can't make any plans right now. Hopefully we will get a show in this year.

## BGRS Public Garden Report

*by Dan Wernigk, CR*

In March, Ricky, Bob, Ann, and I worked at the rose garden at Riverwalk Park preparing it for spring. We pulled weeds, and pruned. Unfortunately, we had more roses with rose rosette disease. Last fall we dug up four bushes and then another four bushes on the work day. In addition, we cut infected canes off of three other bushes. Since the hillside on the banks of the river behind the park have been cleaned off, we discovered that there are several multiflora rose bushes on the banks infected with RRD.

After discussion with other members, we agreed that we will continue to maintain this garden through the summer with weeding and deadheading and removal of any additional bushes having RRD, but we will not plant any new bushes there. BG Parks & Rec will be contacted about the problem and we will no longer sponsor the rose garden after this year.

Plans are underway to have a new smaller rose garden at another location. Mary Ann (who is also a Kentucky Master Gardener) was asked to discuss the possibility of BGRS having a new rose study garden at the WC Extension office with the horticulture agent. She was asked to submit a proposal to them and is in the process of writing it to be submitted to them very soon. We will keep everyone posted on the results of this proposal which will have to be approved by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Office in Lexington.



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## May in My Rose Garden *by Mary Ann Hext, CR*

Things I will be doing to my roses in May:

- Applying mulch to my beds deeper than last year to prevent so many weeds and help to maintain moisture.
- Keeping up my regular spray program for diseases and checking on each rose as I spray to assure it is healthy.
- Watering as needed.
- Check for insects such as aphids and spider mites water to wash them away, only spraying if necessary.
- Deadheading when needed by cutting back to a 5-leaflet on the cane.
- Applying another application of Mills Easy Feed or other supplement.
- Keep my roses dead headed on regular basis cutting back to a 5<sup>th</sup> leaflet of the stem.
- Taking photos of my blooms to enter in future roses shows and to share on the BGRS Facebook page and in our next newsletter.
- Sharing my roses when possible by leaving bouquets at the door of shut-ins or at the lobby of the nursing home since we cannot enter.
- Hoping all my roses friends are safe and that we will see each other at a rose society meeting and a show soon!

## Fungicides Made Simple *by Gaye Hammond, Houston Rose Society*

Disease is a major source of plant damage in roses with the most common rose diseases being caused by fungus. While some rarely-contracted rose diseases are caused by viruses or bacteria, more often than not, it is fungi that wreak havoc in our rose gardens. Nationwide, blackspot fungus (*Diplocarpon rosae* Wolf) is the most common rose disease. Powdery mildew (*Alphitomorpha pannosa*) runs a close second in its commonality, but unlike blackspot outbreaks tend to be seasonal. Occasionally, outbreaks of downy mildew (*Peronospora sparsa* Berkeley) and botrytis blight (*Botritis cinerea*) may be found; but these diseases appear much less frequently than either blackspot or powdery mildew.

Damage due to fungal attack can range from one extreme to another on the seriousness scale - from repeated loss of leaves (weakening the plant) to less damaging symptoms of minimal lesions (spots) on foliage and canes. Roses with high levels of infection produce less new growth and fewer blooms because their leaves (which are needed for photosynthesis) are affected by disease and fall off. Because of the important role that foliage plays in the overall health of the rose bush, repeated defoliation ultimately impacts the health and longevity of the plant.

Roses differ in their susceptibility to fungal attack with modern hybrid teas being the most susceptible. If left untreated, infected susceptible roses can lose a large percentage of their leaves. Fifty years ago Dr. Griffith Buck, identified the correlation of leaves to plant hardiness finding that roses with the ability to hold onto their leaves even when infected by fungus were hardier, more disease resistant landscape plants. This correlation has been reinforced through the Earth-Kind™ Rose Research Program being conducted through a partnership between the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Houston Rose Society.

### Managing Fungal Diseases

Fungal diseases are best managed through a multi-disciplinary approach that includes: (1) plant selection, (2) planting times, (3) level of fertility, (4) sanitation and (5) applications of fungicides. Some roses exhibit more tolerance than others to attack by common diseases. The susceptibility of a rose variety to disease will dictate the management practices that must be employed to maintain the health of the garden site.

There are many roses on the market that have exhibited tolerance to disease. However, there is an even larger population of roses that are highly susceptible to fungal diseases. The gardener's job is to balance plant selections so that management of fungal diseases in their roses can be attained within the maintenance parameters the gardener has available. Planting young new roses at times when environmental conditions are ripe for disease development without protecting those plants against attack tends to invite the disease process. Some hypothesize that excessive fertilization in early spring and late fall (when weather conditions support disease formation) can initiate the process. There is some logic to this theory as blackspot and powdery mildew tend to attack new plant growth first. Heavy fertilization encourages the development of new growth that, if left unprotected, is fair game for fungal pathogens seeking a host. However, cultural practices alone will not eliminate diseases from the garden.

"Fungicides" are a specific type of pesticide that controls disease by inhibiting or killing the disease-causing fungus. They work by (a) attacking and damaging cell membranes, (b) interfering with energy production, or (c) interfering with the life cycle of the fungus.

Some of the newer disease treatments on the market do not directly affect the fungus itself, but instead boost the plant's natural defense system causing the plant to produce thicker cell walls and anti-fungal proteins so that the plant is better able to defend itself when disease pressures are high. Examples of this would be products like Messenger and similar "biorational" treatments. While most fungicides are only capable of protecting uninfected growth from disease, only a handful are effective against pathogens once infection occurs. For this reason, to be effective most fungicides should be applied (a) when environmental conditions are right for disease development, (b) before disease occurs, or (c) at the first appearance of symptoms.

### Types of Fungicides

Fungicides fall into two categories - "curatives" (products that attack fungi that have already infected the plant) or "preventatives" (products that inoculate plant tissue so that the plant is better able to fight off disease). Fungicides with curative properties would include products sold under the trade names, Mancozeb, Manzate and Fore and products containing Maneb. Preventative fungicides would include products such as Rose Pride (formerly (continued p. 4)

## Fungicides Made Simple (continued from page 4)

known as Funginex), Rose Defense, Daconil and products containing Neem oil.

Some homeowners start applying fungicides to their roses only when the plants lose all their leaves and then stop spraying once new growth emerges. Other gardeners use fungicides for the wrong purpose - for example using a preventative on a bush exhibiting symptoms of heavy blackspot infection. These treatment approaches are wholly ineffective in controlling fungal diseases. Once defoliation occurs, preventative fungicides become ineffective. In this instance, applications of a curative fungicide, such as Mancozeb, applied every five days for three weeks (or as directed on the manufacturer's label) is critical to establish disease control. I have found that it takes three weeks of regular applications of a curative fungicide in addition to good garden housekeeping to re-establish disease control. The need to spray should be dictated by four factors: (1) the health of the rose, (2) the environmental conditions, including the level of disease pressure that may be present, (3) the disease susceptibility of the rose, and (4) the desired level of plant perfection.

### Disease Control with Fungicides

Fungicides come in powder, granular and liquid form. Most are mixed with water and applied by spraying the mixture onto the plant. A few fungicides are applied to the soil where they break down into compounds taken up by the plant making the plant toxic to the disease. For spray applications, coverage of all parts of the plant (upper and lower leaf surfaces and from the top to the bottom of the plant) is critical because very few fungicides have the ability to be absorbed into plant tissue and move through the plant. One exception would be Aliette, which is applied as a spray treatment and then translocates through the plant's system from the leaves to the roots and back to the foliage on a "seek and destroy" mission.

On susceptible roses, effective control of fungal diseases may necessitate multiple applications of fungicides - sometimes as frequently as once weekly from the first flush of new growth in the spring until the first hard frost in the fall. These repeated applications are necessary to protect emerging new growth and to replace fungicide product lost by decomposition, degradation by sunlight and/or removal by wind and water. Unfortunately, repetitive applications of the same fungicide can lead to the fungus developing resistance to the treatment - making treatment applications ineffective.

Keeping susceptible roses healthy requires some application of fungicides, especially when conditions support disease development. Blackspot spores germinate and infiltrate cell tissue when temperatures are between 65-85° F and when moisture is present on the foliage for seven hours or more. Powdery mildew tends to appear when humidity is high but conditions are dry and cool (warm days / cool nights).

Fungicide labels contain the words "contact" and "systemic," which is a general description of the method by which the product kills fungal pathogens. "Contact" fungicides are applied to and remain on the plant surface and do not penetrate into plant tissues. Contact fungicides must come in contact with the disease-causing pathogen to be effective. Examples of contact fungicides are Mancozeb, Fore, Manzate and Daconil. Often these types of fungicides leave a spray residue on leaves and stems and only the parts of the plant with spray residue are protected from infection. Contact fungicides are very sensitive to the environment and are usually effective for 7 to 14 days, however product life depends the amount of rain/irrigation the bush receives and the amount of UV rays the chemical is exposed to. One to 2 inches of rain will reduce the residue of contact fungicides by half, but rainfall of 2 inches or more will eliminate the product from the plant. The product label will provide direction on application frequency.

Systemic fungicides, sometimes called "penetrants", are absorbed into the plant and have the ability to move from the application site (similar to how blood moves through our bodies). The distance that systemics are able to move within the plant is dependent on the nature and type of fungicide used. Some systemic fungicides stay in the leaf tissue. Others have the ability to travel from the leaves to the root system, but not back up through the plant structure. Only a few systemic fungicides, like Aliette, can travel up and down freely within the plant. Some of the common systemic fungicides used in rose gardening are Aliette, Fertlome Liquid Systemic Fungicide, Monterey Fungi-Fighter, Rose Pride (Funginex) and Bonide Systemic Fungicide.

### Mode of Action - How They Work

How a fungicide works is called its "mode of action." Fungicides are manufactured in such a way that their modes of action attack either "single" or "multiple" sites within a fungus. Single-site fungicides target one critical component (usually an enzyme or protein) needed by the fungus for survival. The slightest mutation of the fungus impedes the effectiveness of the fungicide treatment by camouflaging the product's target. Fungicides with single-site modes of action (continued p. 5)

## Fungicides Made Simple *(continued from page 4)*

are Rose Pride (Funginex) and Green Light Systemic Fungicide. Genetic mutation of fungi is more common than we may think. There are 54 known variations of blackspot fungus in North America and these variations or "races" of the disease are frequently geographically specific. Roses resistant to one race of blackspot fungus may prove susceptible to other races of the disease.

Fungicides designed to attack multiple sites are usually affective against different types of disease components within a fungus. These types of fungicides treat a variety of disease components so that in the event that there is a mutation of one particular enzyme/protein in the pathogen's make-up, there are usually other non-mutated disease components for the fungicide to attack. Contact fungicides typically affect multiple sites in fungi. Examples of multi-site fungicides are Mancozeb, Manzate, Aliette, Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide, Ortho Garden Disease Control and Daconil.

### To Spray or Not to Spray

In North Texas, it is not uncommon for hybrid tea roses to require 15 to 20 applications of fungicides per year to maintain plant health. Along the Gulf Coast, environmental conditions can dictate even more applications and for a longer period of time. Sometimes even hardy roses may require a few spray applications when environmental conditions support disease development and disease pressures around the garden are high.

A good disease management approach includes cultural and environmental controls, in conjunction with the right type of fungicide, including:

- Plants must get six to eight hours of full direct sunlight;
- Having adequate spacing between plants (a minimum of 2 feet between mature plants);
- Avoiding wetting the leaves during irrigation and not watering plants at night;
- Removing leaf litter in and around the bushes;
- Moderate fertilization; and
- Rotation of fungicide products that have different "modes of action" to delay the development of the resistance to chemical treatments.

A gardener need not hold a Ph.D. in chemistry, toxicology or plant pathology to effectively treat fungal diseases. With all of the rose care products on the market today it may seem a daunting process to select the right product for the disease process in your own garden. This is where a local Consulting Rosarian can help.

*(The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial firms or products is made with that understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement of those firms and/or products by the author, the Houston Rose Society or the South Metro Rose Society is implied.)*

*Editors Note: Reprinted from the American Rose Society website: [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org). The article originally appeared in "Basal Breaks", Jeff and Cindy Garrett ([rjrjeff@aol.com](mailto:rjrjeff@aol.com)), eds., Tri-State Rose Society of Chattanooga. Gaye is a member of the Houston Rose Society, the American Rose Society, and has been a speaker several times at the Tenarky Winter Workshop.*



### BGRS Rose Show—Canceled!



- Our rose show which was to be held on May 30 has been canceled due to the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 virus.
- We will discuss at a later meeting the possibility of rescheduling it in 2020 or not.
- We are encouraging BGRS members to attend and exhibit at our Tenarky District Fall Rose Show and Convention hosted by the Nashville Rose Society September 26-27 and the Louisville Rose Society show on October 3. There will be no registration fee to exhibit at either of these shows. More details and show schedules will be on the Tenarky website soon.
- We are looking at the possibility of holding a virtual rose society meeting in May.
- Please send your rose photos to be included in the next newsletter!

*Photos: M. Hext—Past BGRS Winners*

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## Bowling Green Rose Society

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*We're on the Web!!*

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The American Rose Society is offering a four-month trial membership for only \$10 to anyone who is interested in becoming a member of our organization. Most ARS members are home gardeners who enjoy growing roses and want to expand their knowledge of rose culture.

#### Four-Month Trial Members receive:

- Free advice from Consulting Rosarians
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## 2020 IMPORTANT DATES

- ~~May 30: BGRS Rose Show~~
- August 26-30: ARS National Convention & Rose Show, Colorado Springs, CO
- September 26-27: Tenarky District Fall Convention/Rose Show hosted by NRS
- October 3: Louisville Rose Show
- November 20: 60th anniversary of the organization of BGRS

## 2020 BGRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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