



***“Rosé in the Garden”***  
*The Lower Cape Rose Society Rose Letter*  
*November 2011*

*An affiliate of the American Rose Society*

**Meetings are generally held at 10AM on the third Saturday of the month  
At the Harwich Community Center  
100 Oak Street, Harwich, Massachusetts**

**Please Note:** This month’s meeting will be held earlier than normal on  
**November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Winterizing the Rose Garden**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**December 17th**

**Christmas Party/Yankee Swap**



# The President's Message

It's not what SHOULD BE, but what WILL BE. During the next few months the Lower Cape Rose Society will be putting some mulch on the roses at the Millie and Tip O'Neill Rose Garden, the LCRS will be hosting a Christmas Party featuring a "Yankee-Swap" and delicious home made delights by its members, the Society will present a special program to jump start the new year, and finally we will return to Alberto's Restaurant for our Annual Luncheon which will feature a guest speaker and honor our newest ARS Honor Medal recipient for outstanding service. WOW! That's a jammed packed four months of rose enjoyment, entertainment, education and camaraderie. I hope that you plan to attend every event that the Society has planned for you. This will be the first step to keeping our LCRS strong and healthy. I know what you SHOULD DO, but what you WILL DO is up to you. Saturday's meeting will begin at 10:00 in the multi-purpose room at the Community Center. After a brief discussion on "Rose Protection", we will go outside and mulch the roses, then back inside for some pizza and drinks. Bring your work gloves, some buckets, and a smile.



## A Beautiful Cape Cod Sunset

Fall is almost like a beautiful sunset in the garden. Whereas just a short time before, the day was warm and our gardens were filled with God's beauty, Fall finds us with cooler days and different beautiful things we can appreciate. Picture all the different leaves as they turn colors and compare them to the sky above. Just as a sunset marks the end of the day, Fall marks the end of the growing season in our rose garden.



## WINTERIZING ROSES by John Fleck

There are about five steps to winterizing roses. These should be probably be done in the order I will go through them and at about the time period I suggest. As with any rose task, the need and amount of winterizing depends on many things:

1. the microclimate of various areas of your yard
2. the type of roses you have
3. how winter tender your roses are
4. how concerned you are about your roses

Each of these can determine how much winterizing you do. In fact, various roses in your garden can be winterized to various degrees based on these factors. One thing to remember is that the wind is more detrimental to the roses than the temperature.

### **Microclimate**

If your roses are near the south or west side of the house, they will get more heat reflecting from the house and need less protection. If they are out in the open and exposed to the prevailing winds, they will need more protection. If they are in raised beds, they will need even more protection.

### **Type of Roses**

The type of roses may determine how you protect. True climbers bloom on last year's growth, so you may need to completely cover them to ensure blooms in the spring. Some shrub roses are very hardy and can do with little protection. Miniatures tend to trap leaves because they are so low to the ground and therefore may not need to be protected as much.

### **Winter tenderness**

Some roses are more tender than others. *St. Patrick* and *Color Magic* are two examples of tender roses. Mauve and yellow roses can be more tender. Own- root roses do with less protection than grafted roses. Roses on fortuniana stock need more protection since the roots are near the surface. You need to learn the tendencies of your roses and act accordingly. If you lose a favorite rose to winter kill, you know that its replacement will need more protection.

### **Concern for a variety**

If you have some roses that are not too exciting or that you plan to get rid of next year, you may choose not to protect them. If they survive it will be fine and if they don't, get out the shovel.

**Step 1**

In early November, you may begin to prune roses a little. Pruning is generally not done until we have had two frosts of 28F or less. I like to prune to about 30-36 inches. The primary purpose of doing this is to keep the wind from whipping the roses about and exposing the bud union. If the bud union becomes exposed, it can freeze and kill the grafted rose, leaving only the rootstock. Pruning creates less interaction among the canes, thus lowering the chances of one cane's thorns scratching another and damaging the cane or just two canes constantly rubbing against each other and damaging one or both canes. If you have time, you may want to prune out some of the spindly inner canes that could be involved in this action. This is a job I usually save for spring, but it really is more effective in the fall. If you have time, you may want to thin out some of the miniatures so they aren't so dense in the spring when they start to leaf out. Again, fall pruning is not a necessity, but it may help prolong the life of the bush.

Many people want to prune back very low in the fall, but this may be counterproductive. We have had some mild winters recently and in those cases, if longer canes do not dieback, they will be ready to produce more blooms in the spring than if you cut them back to a lower height. Some people like to pull off all the leaves before winterizing, reasoning that there may be blackspot spores getting ready to develop on untarnished leaves, so by removing all leaves, the chance of overwintering disease is eliminated. The one fallacy there is that blackspot can overwinter on the canes, also. If we have had some good frosts, many of the lower leaves will fall off on their own and when you prune the upper part that still has leaves, many of the bushes will already be defoliated and you won't have to worry whether to strip leaves or not. I generally only pull off diseased or dying leaves, particularly from varieties where the leaves come off easily. You can get scratched pretty good pulling off some of the more stubborn leaves. I have heard someone state that it is better to prune the leaves off rather than pull them. I don't have an answer for that.

**Step 2**

In order to try to keep diseases in line, many people like to remove all the leaves that have fallen to the ground. This is not too difficult with larger roses; however, I generally throw up my hands with the miniatures. On varieties where a couple of frosts will cause leaves to fall, I will pick up as many as possible, but I have long ago given up trying to pick up all the mini leaves. The bottom line is that once you get the first spore in your garden, you will have blackspot forever regardless of how careful you are. Therefore, you really just have to maintain the best sanitation and spraying program you can to minimize blackspot. A little blackspot should not be of great concern. If you make a decent effort all year long, you will have a pretty clean rose bush with lots of nice blooms. It's also a good idea to remove weeds before winter sets in and treat the soil with a preventive like Preen. It may cut back on the weeding required in the spring.

**Step 3**

Check pH. As time goes by the soil in our area tends to become more acid. Typically, we want the pH to be about 6.0-6.5 to allow the nutrients (N-P-K, Fe, Ca, etc.) to be taken up by the root systems. As pH gets out of that range, the roots are not able to use as much of the available fertilizer you put down. In order to correct this, crushed or pelletized limestone needs to be added. There are a number of methods for determining the pH. You may buy expensive or inexpensive pH gauges and take your own readings or get a soil sample bag from the WVU Extension Agency in Institute and mail in a sample. Now is a good time to apply limestone if needed. I usually take two-three readings in each bed with my pH meter and average them. Since there doesn't seem to be a definitive report on how much limestone to add, I put about 1/2 cup on those that are 5.7-6.0 and 1 cup per bush on beds below 5.6. Since the limestone is slow to go through the soil, by putting it down now it will have some time to work its way into the soil by spring. It's best to scratch it into the soil rather than just let it sit on top.

At our October meeting, not only did we learn about the stinking rose, but we used cuttings to start new rose bushes. Oz and I have been making roses from cuttings for years, and our success rate varies from 75-90%. It is fun to see the roots coming out from the bottom of the container, and new leaves forming. Here is another spin on making new roses from cuttings - I am looking forward to trying this approach! Audrey

## OWN ROOT ROSES FROM CUTTINGS

By Jim Zimmerman

### CUTTING SELECTION

Old hard wood cuttings are difficult to root and young, tender red color cuttings will usually wilt before the roots develop. A stem that has just bloomed is ideal to use as a cutting. Remove the bloom and peduncle above the top set of leaflets and keep at least four sets of leaflets on the cut stem.

### CUTTING PREPARATION

Cut the stem 1/16 inch below the bottom leaflet and remove the leaflet. Leave the top three or more sets of leaflets on the stem. Do not allow the cuttings to dry out. Keep the cuttings in a container of water or wrapped in a moist towel. Store the cuttings in a refrigerator and they will be usable for one week or longer.

### SOIL SELECTION

Purchase a bag of light potting soil that contains perlite.

### ZIP LOCK BAG

Fill the bag one half full with moist potting soil. The wetness of the soil is determined when the soil will hold in a ball-like form. Before inserting the cutting into the soil, the cutting end where the roots will form can be dipped in a rooting stimulator such as Rootone or Dip & Grow, but that is not absolutely necessary. Insert one or more cuttings into the bag. Seal the bag and identify the cutting name on the bag. Do not open the sealed bag until the roots are several inches long and can be seen in the bottom of the bag.

### BAG LOCATION & ROOTING TIME

The stem and leaflets must remain green while rooting. If the stem and leaflets turn dark, rooting will not take place. During the SUMMER, place the bag in a semi-shady area or under a lawn chair where part sun will pass through. The contents of the bag will become over heated and die if the bag is placed in direct sunlight. It will take three to six weeks for the roots to appear.

During the WINTER, cuttings can be grown indoors, but it will take longer for the roots to form. When the cuttings in the bag are placed three inches below a regular fluorescent light, quicker growth will be stimulated. It is not necessary to use the expensive grow lights. The ideal and less expensive method is to use on cool light and one warm light in the fixture.

### PLANTING

After roots have developed on the stem, remove the cutting from the bag and grow the plant in a pot Until NEW GROWTH appears. It is now ready to be placed in the garden Have fun and enjoy your new hobby,

## RAMBLING WITH OZ

What did a sweet lady, Lee Tanner, have to do with the Stinking Rose? Well if you were at the October meeting you would know. The so called "Stinking Rose" is garlic and Lee is truly an expert concerning all aspects of its culture. Lee's presentation covered the many different varieties of garlic, when to plant them and in what type of soil, and where to obtain the best bulbs for your success. Thank you Lee for sharing your knowledge, it was a most enjoyable lesson, and many pens were busy taking notes for our future gardening and cooking pleasure. Later that meeting, Audrey led a presentation of miniature and miniflora rose cuttings. She brought a tray of recent cuttings to show the end result of the process, as well as several plants for her demonstration and a hands on workshop by the interested members. Hopefully the new cuttings of the group will survive the winter indoors and will be ready for a spring planting. Good Luck!

Last month's "Rambling" had information about the beauty of Autumn roses, deeper colors and longer form on the canes. But it came with a caveat - keep up the watering schedule and maintain your spray program, keep the garden clean of weeds and fallen leaves, and any flowers for the house should be cut with very short stems. Now it is time to get serious with your winter protection for the roses. In fact, we (you and I) will be putting mulch on the Millie and Tip O'Neill roses THIS Saturday as part of our November 12th meeting. There is so much information on the internet, that you don't really need me to tell you how to protect your roses. Although it's true that I know everything about roses, ( I am the original ROSE MANiac ), I do want to remain humble and stay on target. I will only discuss the methods that Audrey and I have used over the years, and we have lost very few bushes. Of course the best thing you can do for a rose bush's survival is to send it into the the winter as healthy as possible. It should be well watered, fertilized several times during the summer, and still have most of its leaves. The two biggest enemies of the roses during the winter are the drying winter sun and wind. Just think of the person who goes on a ski vacation and comes home with sunburned and dried facial skin. We do not usually apply any type of mulch until after Thanksgiving because of the mole and vole problem in our gardens, we have to wait until these critters find their winter rentals.

Did I mention that we (you and I) are mulching the Harwich Community Center this Saturday - no moles or voles there. It is time to gather the material that you will be using for this winter protection. This year our roses will be mulched with horse manure from several local sources. I am gathering it now on several strategically placed large blue tarpaulins. We will also throw a soup can sized application of an organic fertilizer before applying the manure. Some of the larger roses might need a stake to secure them against the continual winds that might loosen the soil and pull on the roots. The wooden stakes don't look that great, so we won't use them when we (you and I) mulch the rose garden on Saturday. Finally I will wrap the raised mini beds and the hybrid tea garden with a wind breaker which will give their canes maximum protection. Of course I will bring the tree roses into a secure area such as the closed outdoor shower in order to protect the special high rose graft. I always end the annual rose protection article with the most important reason for winterizing your roses. Some freezing winter afternoon, when you're standing inside, sipping your hot chocolate, and looking out at your skeleton like rose garden, you'll feel a whole lot better, knowing you did your best!

See you Saturday.

OZ