

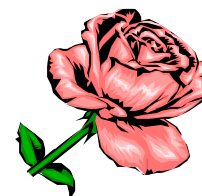
June Consulting Rosarian Report

1. Drink lots of water AND use sunscreen (SPF 30+) AND wear a hat AND long sleeves before working outside. If you are experiencing heat stress, imagine what your poor roses are going through.
2. The summer months represent the middle of the growing season. If you want a good display of roses in the fall, you've got to concentrate on growing good leaves throughout the summer. Inspect your roses carefully for yellowing leaves and any leaf drop and keep up with your spray routine for all of these problems. *Be sure and spray before you go off on vacation.* Remember to spray early in the morning or in the evening to prevent spray-burn. About 4-8 hours before you spray, water plants thoroughly. Spraying in direct sun can easily burn you and your plants.
3. Keep deadheading roses throughout the summer, either just above the first five-leaflet leaf or just at the neck to leave the maximum amount of foliage on the plant to promote immediate growth and a quicker return to flowering.
4. **Lightly** prune in late August and first week in September for mid-October blooms. Stagger the pruning since it takes 5 to 7 weeks after pruning for blooms to form (5 weeks for single petaled roses and 7 weeks for fuller blooms).
5. Apply Epsom salts and fertilizer sparingly to boost your fall blooms and mulch and mulch and mulch to keep weeds down, the soil cool, and to conserve water. *Don't go on vacation without at least 3-4 inches of mulch.* Last year's mulch has decomposed. As you fertilize, be careful to avoid phosphorus build up in your soil which is a common result in our heavy clay alkaline soils. Don't overdo it and go easy on the manure if your soil has excess phosphates. Phosphorus is immobile and cannot be leached from the soil.
6. Keep watering your roses regularly and often. And, *check your watering system before you go on vacation.* Just because your roses are slowing down, try not to slow down too much. Many roses are lost during the heat of the summer – especially those roses in pots. Now is the time to do all you can to help your roses survive during the summer. Wash down your roses once in a while with cool water during the heat of the day to refresh them.
7. Just as you were getting your aphid problem under control, now come those spider mites! They love it when it's hot. One thing I didn't know was that growing roses against the house or fence where they get afternoon sun creates **the** prime condition for the spider mite. I got spider mites at the top of my Dortmund that was growing against the brick over the garage door that faces west. No spider mites on the lower parts of the plant which is where I was looking for them. They are devastating to your roses, sucking the leaves dry, which is especially bad in the summer when your roses need their leaves to deal with the stress of the summer heat. Use your Water Wand to blow them off from below or try a miticide such as Avid or Floramite. Regular

insecticides will not kill them. In fact, some Rosarians say that Orthene contains spider mite eggs! [Editor's Note: This is not a confirmed/proven statement.]

8. Now is a good time to cut back companion plantings to increase air circulation around your roses.
9. Keep watering your successful cuttings and transplant the best ones to bigger containers. Be sure and spray and fertilize them, too. Set aside a few cuttings for the raffle and/or as door prizes at our next meeting on **June 4, 2004.**
10. Stay Cool!

— Barbara A. Martinez



Wreath Vase — A Unique Antique Solution to Short-Stemmed Roses

Some of the most fragrant roses like Maggie or Zephirine Drouhin are difficult to use in regular vases because the flowers grow along the cane on very short stems. Many Bourbon roses and other old garden roses are short-stemmed roses as opposed to long-stemmed roses. Also, one might be reluctant to cut an especially beautiful floribunda rose or any rose that forms flowers in clusters or sprays since the center flower or terminal bud opens several days sooner than the other buds in the cluster. Cutting such a cluster of roses may prevent some of the side buds from opening. If you want all the flowers to open at the same time you must disbud or nip out the center bud to ensure all the buds in the cluster mature at the same time. But what do you do then with the nipped bud?

One solution is a very short vase or flower bowl in which buds or short-stemmed roses can be floated in water. Another short-stemmed rose solution is the donut or wreath-shaped vase. (See picture below.) (Note: If you are aware of what these donut or wreath-shaped vases are called, please let me know. I was unable to find them on-line, and I've only rarely seen them in antique shops.) These antique vases are specially designed for short-stemmed flowers such as violets or even daylilies, but Zephirin Drouhin never looked better. Also the terminal buds of Graham Thomas and Golden Celebration can be saved and enjoyed for the table.

— Barbara A. Martinez

