

Volume 19 - Number 4

May 2005

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 4, 2005 7 p.m.  
Harry P. Leu Botanical Gardens  
1920 North Forest Avenue - Orlando, Florida



## CENTRAL FLORIDA ROSE SOCIETY

*Affiliate Member of The American Rose Society*

A Non-Profit Organization

# Wind Chimes

### *President's Message* by Elaine Pawlikowski

Spring is upon us and with it comes the results of our recent pruning and primping - glorious rose blooms. This year's cooler than usual spring temperatures certainly slowed down the time from prune to full bloom, and therefore, in our garden, we did not have as many roses as expected for the rose show and rose walk. But how can we complain about the cooler temperatures? To walk out in the garden on a crisp morning surrounded by sparkling dew on new green leaves -- everything fresh and renewed. To experience the deepened colors of the unfurling buds. To be able to "work" all afternoon under brilliant blue skies and never perspire, actually wanting to do all those tasks we usually put off because it is too hot (like spreading mulch and weeding!!). If only we could experience this weather year round. (We can dream, can't we??). Enjoy these last few weeks of Spring ... before you know it, it will be back to usual in our Florida gardens.

As I am writing this message before the Rose Show and Open Gardens actually occurred, I need to put on my "rose colored glasses" to look into the future ... I see we had a successful "Rose Extravaganza Weekend!! My thanks to all who unselfishly volunteered their time and talents on rose show activities. And congratulations to all of you who exhibited roses, especially those who entered for the first time. I hope you had fun and discovered that rose shows are an enjoyable extension of our wonderful hobby. Those attending the show were awed by the beautiful blooms and hopefully inspired to join our society and learn how they too can grow these beautiful flowers in their gardens. The open gardens on the Sunday following the

show provided a much needed time to kick back, socialize and enjoy even more roses. Bernie and Shiann Piekarski and Marty and I enjoyed your visit -- you are welcome any time!! And a BIG THANK YOU to Bernie and Shiann for topping off our rose weekend with a great cookout at their home. A perfect ending for our hard working group!! My thanks to everyone.

Some long time society members may find a few of the articles in this issue sound familiar. This issue is geared towards new rosarians -- I am sure all members will agree we must present the basics. Information to help new growers be successful ... In this issue you will find an updated list of suggested rose varieties for central Florida, articles on how to plant, how much to water, and what to feed your roses. We all can learn something new by getting back to the basics. If you ever have any questions please call or email one of our society's Consulting Rosarians listed on the back of this newsletter. Or ask at the monthly meetings at the "Dr. Is In Table" -- We are here to share information, answer questions or assist with problems.

It's been a busy, but fun, last few months -- with more to come!! On Saturday, April 30th "Rose Day America" will be held nationwide!! (see page 4). And our ever popular bus trip on May 7th (see page 3) when we will head out to the Ocala/Gainesville area for another rose filled day. Bus trips are a great way to relax, visit and get to know each other! See you at the May "Beginners Meeting". Please bring a friend, some snacks for refreshments, roses for "Share-A-Rose" and entries for the In-House Rose Show. Until then, **ENJOY SPRING!!**

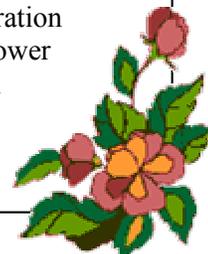
**THANKS!!!**

To our sponsors who advertised in our Show Schedule or donated items for Rose Show awards. **Please support these businesses that support CFRS.**

A & L Laboratories  
The Weed Patch Rose Nursery  
Fafard Soil Mixes  
Purely Organic - H. L. Shealey  
MerryGro Farms  
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Trail Saw and Mower  
BWI Corporation



# 1st Vice President's Report

By Shiann Piekarski

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The May 4th meeting is geared for all you new rosarians ... **OUR ANNUAL "BEGINNERS MEETING"** featuring a slide program "The ABC's of Roses" by **Elaine Pawlikowski**. This program touches on many aspects of rose growing, from types of roses, site selection, planting and spraying. **Please bring a budding rosarian along as your guest.**

**Connie Vierbicky**, from the Bradenton-Sarasota Rose Society, will be our **special guest speaker at the June 1st meeting**. Connie has extensive experience "testing" **David Austin Roses** in her Florida garden and will share with us, through her breathtaking photos, **recommended Austin varieties that thrive in our area**. The only thing missing from Connie's slide show is the fragrance of these beautiful roses -- Hopefully we will have Austin Roses for all to "sniff" on our "Share-A-Rose" Table.

## ROSE SHOW AND ROSE WALKS

This newsletter will reach some of you before the Rose Show and Rose Walks and some of you after. For those of you who receive this issue before these society events, I would like once again ask you to please help with setting up the rose show at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 22nd (in our regular meeting room at Leu Gardens). Set up should go quickly with lots of extra helpers. Help will also be needed with tear down on Saturday at 5 p.m. Plan on attending the **Rose Show on Saturday, April 23rd --- if only for an hour -- come to see all the beautiful roses that fellow CFRS members and other Central Florida gardeners have grown in their home gardens**. If you have a few hours on Saturday your help is needed throughout the day. **Our annual Rose Walks** will be held on the afternoon of **Sunday the 24th**. Please come out and **see the gardens of Marty & Elaine Pawlikowski and Bernie & Shiann Piekarski**. Both families have worked very hard to get their gardens ready for your visit. We love to show off all our hard work. **Times and directions were given in the April issue**. If you need any information about the Rose Show or Rose Walks call me on my cell at 321-217-9083 or my home at 407-886-5221.

**For those of you who received this issue after the big "Rose Show -- Rose Walk" weekend** -- I want to say **"Thanks!!"** to everyone who helped. (A proper thank you will be in the next issue.) I also hope that everyone had a great time and discovered varieties of new or old roses

that are now on your "must have" list. Keep those lists handy as we will have opportunities to buy roses on our May 7th Bus Trip and again when we place our special order for Fortuniana grafted roses to be delivered by Jim Mills, owner of K&M Rose Nursery, in Mississippi. Full detail on our K&M order will be announced at the May 4th meeting.



**Bring Your "Rose Questions" To The May Meeting ....**

**Jim Small**  
**Consulting Rosarian**

**Will be manning**  
**Our "Dr. is In" Table!**  
**From 6:30 to 7:00 pm**

## **CFRS 2005** **Executive Board**

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CFRS meets at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month except July, August and December at: Harry P. Leu Botanical Gardens 1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando Florida.

Each meeting features a speaker or program on rose related topics, refreshments and good friends.

**Visitors are always welcome!**

### **Newsletter Editor:**

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### **Publisher:**

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Email: Shiann@sunnyorlando.com

# Annual Rose Outing

Saturday, May 7th, 2005

Parking at

The Center Pointe Two Building

220 E Central Parkway

Altamonte Springs, FL



## Coming from the South

1. Take I-4 East to Exit 92 (old 48) (State Road 436/Apoka & Altamonte Springs exit).
2. Make a left off the exit ramp, heading west towards Apoka.
3. Stay in the right-most lane and make your first right onto Douglas Ave. (a Mobil and Texaco are on the corners).
4. Follow Douglas Ave. for less than one mile.
5. Make a right onto E. Central Parkway, and we will be on the left side of the road after crossing over the I-4 overpass and after the first stoplight.
6. Make a left into the parking lot. We are meeting in the Center Pointe Two building parking lot.

## Coming from the North

1. Take I-4 West to Exit 92 (old 48) (State Road 436/Apoka & Altamonte Springs exit).
2. Take a right off the exit ramp and stay in the right turning lane.
3. Make the first right onto Douglas Ave. (a Mobil and Texaco are on the corners).
4. Follow Douglas Ave. for less than one mile.
5. Make a right onto E. Central Parkway, and we will be on the left side of the road after crossing over the I-4 overpass and after the first stoplight.
6. Make a left into the parking lot. We are meeting in the Center Pointe Two building parking lot.

## All Aboard!!! It's Time For Our Annual Rose Outing

Get ready CFRS Rosarians to "hit the highway" on Saturday, May 7th (the day before Mother's Day). This will be a special treat for all Central Florida Rose Society Moms. **So don your shorts, sneakers and hats. Bring your camera, sunscreen, your picnic lunch and a rosy attitude.** Then you can sit back, relax and leave the driving to us as we head to the Ocala/Gainesville area to tour three private gardens, making stops at the homes of Ralph and Jean Stream, Steve Felts and "The Weed Patch" - which is home to John Tucker and Dan Mills. At the "Weed Patch", in addition to touring John and Dan's beautiful garden, we can relax and enjoy our **Picnic Lunch under the trees**, divulge in our **Decadent Dessert Party** and **Buy Roses**. John and Dan sell many old garden roses and climbers on their own roots and some grafted onto Fortuniana. Before you buy anything be sure to ask them "How big does this grow?" And let's not forget that we will be able to touch, smell and photograph all of the **hundreds of roses** that we see in all three gardens.

Lets make our **Decadent Dessert Party** the "Icing on the Cake" for our memorable day!! Calories don't count on bus trips ... and if you eat too much you can always nap on the way home. Volunteers are needed to bring the desserts. To volunteer please contact Shiann Piekarski at 407-886-5221 or by email - [Shiann@sunnyorlando.com](mailto:Shiann@sunnyorlando.com).

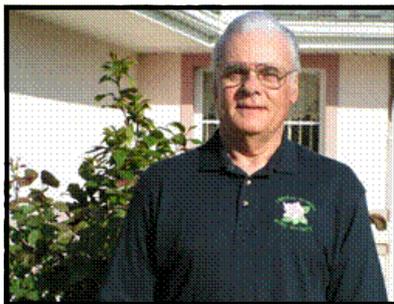
We will park and depart from The Center Point Two Building, 220 E. Central Parkway, Altamonte Springs (see map above). It's easy to find, but if you get lost call Shiann on her cell - 321.217.9083. The bus will begin to load at 8:00 am and we will depart at 8:15. After a rose filled day, we will return to Altamonte Springs before 6:30 pm. Our bus trips are always a popular event and this one will include three things that rose growers just love to do: **talk about roses, visit rose gardens and buy roses!**

## "ROSE DAY AMERICA" AT LOWE'S

Rose Day America is just a few days away. **Plan now to attend on Saturday, April 30th.** Take advantage of this great opportunity to share our knowledge and love of rose growing with the greater Orlando community as we promote both the Central Florida Rose Society and The American Rose Society (ARS). The ARS, in partnership with Lowe's Home Improvement Stores, Jackson & Perkins, and Bayer Advanced products, will be conducting a one day, four hour nationwide emphasis on rose care. The Lowe's stores are hosting this event, featuring **two 40 minute seminars -- at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** CFRS members will be on hand to conduct the seminars, distribute information and answer questions. Please attend and show your support for CFRS and the ARS. Come out to learn more about roses or to help distribute information. **We would appreciate your support.** You will find CFRS presenters at the following locations:

Lowe's of Altamonte Springs, 110 N. State Road 434 -- Tom Burke  
Lowe's of Orlando, 8700 W. Colonial Drive -- Shiann Piekarski  
Lowe's of Orlando, 2800 W. Sand Lake Road -- Ron Kast  
Lowe's of Oviedo, 1155 Vidina Place -- Wayne Gamble  
Lowe's of S.E. Orlando, 3500 South Semoran Blvd. -- Leah Godbee & Vivian Shaw  
Lowe's of N. Kissimmee, 1300 Osceola Parkway West -- Carol Darnell  
Lowe's of Sanford, 2700 Orlando Dr. -- Marty and Elaine Pawlikowski  
Lowe's of Lakeland, 3525 Lakeland Highlands Road -- Karen Barnes  
Lowe's of Lake County, 9540 US Highway 441 (Leesburg) -- David & Sylvia Lewis

### Getting to Know Your CFRS 2005 Executive Board



**David Lewis**  
**CFRS Board Member**

I was born and raised in Haverfordwest, Wales. After leaving grammar school I joined a local firm of Auctioneers and Estate Agents (Realtors to you on this side of the pond) as a General Clerk (concentrating on Livestock, Farm and Furniture Auctions). After seven years living at home, I decided I needed to move to the big city (London) to further my career.

On arrival in London I found employment with United Glass Limited (glass container manufacturers) as a sales office administrator in the Foods and Beverage Section. Again after seven years with the company (must have a seven year itch) I decided to accept a sales representative position with Bowers Limited (Paper Sack Division) and after four years was

offered a promotion to join Blowmocan Limited (plastic container manufacturers) as their Sales and Marketing Manager. In 1979 my wife passed away, and a few years later I met Sylvia through work. We were married and moved to Cheshire, England. The year was 1982 and we purchased a new home and planted out our own yard, which included 5 rose bushes. This was our first attempt at growing roses.

Sylvia held a position in the U.K. as a packaging buyer/designer for a photographic film manufacturer (fully owned subsidiary of International Paper). After traveling to the United States for many years, she was offered a position in U.S.A. and until her early retirement in 1992 worked on both sides of the Atlantic.

After Sylvia's retirement we moved to Florida in 1992 and planted out 6 rose bushes from K-Mart --- Without much success, as we did not know about Fortuniana rootstock. We met CFRS member Carol Darnell at the Annual Rose Show and she encouraged us to join CFRS and the rest is history. Each year we dig out more grass to increase the size of our rose beds, but no more as we have run out of spare grass. Our garden contains 16 Hybrid Teas, 6 Floribundas, 3 Climbers, 2 Grandifloras and 5 Miniatures. We choose the varieties of roses we grow for different reasons -- some for color and others for fragrance. Some of our favorite roses are Moonstone, St. Patrick, Double Delight and Heart of Gold.

Sylvia must always have roses in the garden to supply cut blooms for our living room and special events in our Royal Highlands subdivision.



# Lady of the Dawn

## Floribunda

By Michele Hicks, Rosebriar Gardens

Lady of the Dawn is one of those roses where the overall effect in the garden is much more effective than any of the individual blooms considered alone. With ruffled, semi-double blossoms that combine informality with elegance, it's as if someone sat down to design a rose with would fit into an idealized vision of a cottage garden. Lady of the Dawn is excellent in the perennial border, standing out without overwhelming.



**A fully open spray of *Lady of the Dawn***

Photo by CFRS Member Elaine Pawlikowski

Although classified by the American Rose Society (ARS) as a floribunda (ARS rating is 8.2), I usually find Lady of the Dawn listed as a shrub or landscape rose in catalogs. Its vigorous bushy growth is more shrub like while its prolifically-clustered blooms are typical of a floribunda. Lovely ivory-pink flowers with petals as ruffled as a petticoat are lit from within with a warm golden glow. Their refreshing scent reminds one of fresh-cut apples. Growth is to about four to six feet on an upright bush. The tall canes are clothed in leathery, disease resistant foliage. Blackspot may show up on occasion, but spraying is normally not required in order for the plant to maintain good health.

I wish I had more than one of these roses! My Lady of the Dawn is one of four rose bushes planted between our front porch and sidewalk (yes, we have a very long front porch). It put on quite the display this year and was completely covered in blooms. I highly recommend this variety for landscaping. The blooms, with multiple buds clustered on a stem, also make an interesting display as a cut flower.

## FROM THE DEEP SOUTH DISTRICT \*



For you members who are computer accessible, you will find a wealth of information on the **new Deep South District website!** This website was created to provide information regarding the cultivation of the rose and events and activities of interest to Rosarians in the Deep South District. **The new webmasters are Jim and Kay Harrell** (who are also the editors of the award winning quarterly *Deep South District Bulletin*). This website is a super place to discover a variety of information about growing roses and rose happenings throughout the tri-state area. Check it out at [www.deepsouthdistrict.org](http://www.deepsouthdistrict.org).

With spring upon us, our roses are producing some of the best blooms of the year. As we watch Mother Nature do her thing, what a wonderful way to capture some of those "points in time" with a snap shot. It's time to get out the camera and begin taking pictures for the **Deep South District 2005 Digital Photo Contest**. The judging panel is made up of ARS horticultural and/or arrangements judges and qualified digital and film photography professionals. . For a **detailed description** of the rules of the contest please visit the DSD website at [www.deepsouthdistrict.org](http://www.deepsouthdistrict.org). If you have any questions, please contact Rob Russell at 404-870-0973 or [rob@russellproperties.com](mailto:rob@russellproperties.com)

\* The American Rose Society is divided into 18 districts. The Deep South District is made up of local rose societies within the states of Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

# Thoughts to Grow By

## By Eric C. Yount, CFRS Consulting Rosarian

Growing great roses is easy. Mother nature has already given the plant the genetics to be outstanding. Your job is not to mess that up. They call it death by rosarian. If you accept the fact that the rose can only be as good as its genetic potential, then you can relax and have fun. No amount of fertilizer or chemicals can make a rose bush or bloom better than its genetics. The beauty is already in there so get out of the way and let them grow.

Roses need sun, soil, spray, food and water. A limitation of any of these five will produce less than perfect results. A minimum of six hours of direct sun is required. Eight is a lot better.

Good rose soil in Central Florida contains two parts sand to one part organic material. That means about one third organic material by volume or 5% to 7% by weight. That's because sand weighs much more than organic material. Yes it is easy to have too much organic material. That causes soggy soil resulting in lack of oxygen to the roots. This is a common problem for over enthusiastic rose growers. Soggy roses are sick roses.

Leaves are the reason we spray. Yes we spray to prevent or kill a specific fungus but the ultimate goal is lots of nice green leaves. Damaged leaves are less than productive or fall off the plant limiting growth. Chlorophyll is the key to powering your roses. If you have power leaves you will have power roses. Mother Nature's law, not mine. A good spray program is like brushing your teeth. Preventing disease is the key, once you have an established fungus (or cavity) it is a much more painful experience to get rid of it.

Fertilization is the most controversial topic of all. Fertilizer sales in our country are in the many billions of dollars. That is big business! All those companies promising to make your plants bigger, greener, healthier. Having tried almost all types of fertilizers at least ten times along my rose journey (Yes, I am a little hard headed!), I have come to the following conclusions. Hopefully my pain will be your gain.

Generally, organic fertilizers are superior to chemical. They last longer, help build your soil and do not spike the plant as severely as highly refined chemical fertilizers.

I prefer to think of fertilizers as minerals. It is really minerals that we are trying to get to the plant. It is important to remember that your soil and your soils nutrients are not the same. Rain or irrigation causes nutrients to leech out of your soil but the soil remains. Highly organic soil may or MAY NOT be highly nutritious soil.

Mushroom compost is the backbone of my organic feed program. It is the discarded waste product of the mushroom

farming industry. It is rich in manures and other minerals. I use two to four gallons per bush depending on the size of the plant, twice a year. Mushroom compost is available in bulk at some garden centers, in our area it sells for about \$18 a cubic yard. A cubic yard is 200 gallons.

If you choose to use a liquid feeding program my choice would be Peters 10-30-20 at one tablespoon per gallon or less. It has slightly less nitrogen than most liquid feeds and that is good for the plant.

Nitrogen is like Tequila. It makes a great Margarita but you won't want to drink it straight. Roses like steady, low power nitrogen. Not highly concentrated shots. It gives them a hangover. Low power nitrogen comes from Milorganite, a couple of cups per bush. Available everywhere.

Having done umpteen million soil tests over the years there are a couple a valuable lessons I should pass on. Potassium, Calcium and Sulfur are usually in short supply. Particularly Potassium has a hard time sticking in our soils. The good news is we have an easy solution. Sulfate of Potash Magnesia (or Sul-Po-Mag as we call it) is an excellent fix for Potassium depleted soils. It also contains sulfur and magnesium, which is a bonus. Gypsum contains both sulfur and calcium. I put this stuff in my fertilizer spreader and feed it to the whole bed. For you a cup per bush every 45 days would be fine. Sul-Po-Mag and Gypsum are available from some Agricultural Fertilizer Suppliers. Ask for Granular SPM and Pelletized Gypsum, less than \$10 per bag. Getting it is harder than using it.

Want dark green leaves? Try this combo per bush, ½ cup of Epsom Salt (Magnesium Sulfate), one tablespoon chelated iron and one tablespoon manganese sulfate. It will make your leaves look like Augusta National.

Water, but not too much, is the key to getting these minerals to the roots of your roses. Irrigation requirements change with the seasons and the weather. In Central Florida we experience everything from droughts to massive hurricanes that swamp us. Generally the tender young tips of your plants will wilt if your soil is too dry. Use that as a guide and use common sense.

Temperature is the key to achieving perfection in your roses. Roses love cooler temperatures. When we get 50 to 60 degrees at night and 70 to 80 degrees during the day you will see magnificent things happen in your garden. Many blooms will double or triple in size and the color will be much more intense. This phenomenon is part of the genetic make up of the rose. You cannot affect it, just count your blessings and enjoy the display. Mother Nature's law, not mine.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

Pruning is probably the most misunderstood concept for roses grown in Central Florida. Up north dropping temperatures in the Fall force the sugars built up in the rose over the summer down into the roots. When spring comes these sugars are available to power the rose through its initial growth spurt without leaves.

Here our roses are not in dormancy, not even close. So when you whack them down to the ground you severely set the bush back.. If it's hot the bush will go into a funk and may never recover. Time and time again I have learned this les-

son. Never cut more than 1/2 half off your roses in the spring and never more than 1/3 in the fall. Do not remove the leaves ever. Mother Nature's law, not mine!

Try to keep in mind that roses are living things. They respond to changes in the weather, too much food, being knocked down (pruned severely) and disease just like we do. If you master the basics of growing good roses you will have that knowledge for life. The beauty of the rose is already genetically in the plant, let them grow and you will be astounded at what they can do

*From the March 2002 edition of Wind Chimes*

## **Growing Tips for Beginners by A. J. Sparks**

- ◆ Don't let roses intimidate you. They are just plants and respond to water, fertilizer, sun, and a little attention to disease and pest control.
- ◆ Be willing to try new things. As long as it isn't detrimental to your health or the health of the plants, give it a try. Why not?
- ◆ On the other hand, don't try everything all at once. Also, be aware of and prepared for contradictory advice. Find a Consulting Rosarian and follow his or her advice. Try it for one season. Do whatever is suggested by that successful rose grower, or at least be selective and do what seems most practical for you. In the following seasons, experiment a bit more. After a few seasons of growing roses, you will arrive at your own set of preferred practices.
- ◆ Watch what you read. Often things which appear in local newspapers or magazines are based on what is correct for somewhere, but not necessarily your location. Go visit gardens of local rosarians. If you like what you see, you know that advice will work.
- ◆ Don't get discouraged. Some seasons are better or worse than others. Even the very best rosarians are disappointed some years. Just do the best you can for your bushes. The rest is up to them and whatever nature has thrown your way.
- ◆ Visit your roses daily. The best teacher is the bush itself. If it looks happy and healthy, all is well and you feel encouraged to continue whatever good things you are doing for it. Daily visits allow you to spot problems before they get out of hand.
- ◆ Don't panic over every leaf hole, tear, discolored edge, or petal streak. Nobody's perfect and your roses won't be either. Be satisfied with overall good health, bloom production, and vigor
- ◆ Throw out old wives' tales. Many bits of rose "wisdom" have been repeated so often, they are taken for fact. The old "don't let the leaves get wet" is probably the topper. File this and other tidbits not derived from your local consulting rosarian in the same file you use for unwanted child-rearing advice from well meaning friends and family. Don't argue - just smile a lot, nod, and ignore.
- ◆ Don't take your roses too seriously. They are for your enjoyment! Lighten up!!! Yes, prune, feed, spray, water, pray, and prod ... But take time to smell the roses.
- ◆ Join the American Rose Society in addition to your membership in the local society. The ARS magazines and annual are full of information. You read, you learn, you absorb. Growing roses is a never ending learning experience. That's what keeps rosarians excited about each new growing season.
- ◆ Share your roses with friends, neighbors, family, even nursing home residents. You'll be glad you did.

*Excerpted from an article by A.J. Sparks, The Buckeye Rose Bulletin and appearing in The Rose Mite, edited by Carol Shockley*



# MAY IN THE ROSE GARDEN

By Dr. James Small, CFRS Consulting Rosarian

It is early April and as I sit down to write this article. I am looking out the window at my rose garden and wondering if I will have anything to show at the upcoming CFRS Rose Show. Although I pruned the correct number of days prior to the show, the weather has been a bit cooler than I expected so my roses seem somewhat behind. I suppose time will tell if I will have roses for the show. You may either see me there with roses or not. Hopefully, enough of you will have enough roses to bring to make our show a success. Rose shows are fun, educational, and a natural addition to our hobby. I hope that a great many of our members participated and were winners. But, by the time you read this article, the show will be over and it will be time to think about care of your roses over the summer. That will be the focus of this month's article after we answer a few questions submitted by my readers.

There were several questions submitted by readers this month. **The first was "Can you use a product called "Greensand" instead of chelated iron (Sequestrene 330)? I have used the chelated iron but it stains my white wall behind them and does not come off. My local nursery recommended the greensand. So what do you recommend?"** For those who are not familiar with it, greensand is a mineral named glauconite that is mined from sediments of marine origin. It contains the elements potassium, sodium, magnesium, aluminum, iron, silicon, hydrogen and oxygen. It is a significant source of both iron and potassium, nutrients needed by your roses. In addition, the greensand can help to bind and increase the cation exchange capacity and water holding capability of our sandy soils. In clay soils, it retards soil compaction. It is certainly a good product to use as part of your fertilization program. However, greensand iron is not as available as chelated iron. Iron tends to be tightly bound to soils with an alkaline pH and is unavailable to plants, causing chlorosis. The availability of the iron from your greensand and soil is therefore highly dependent on your pH. A pH between 6.0 and 6.5 should allow adequate iron uptake. But, chelation makes the iron more quickly available to your roses and its' uptake is not as pH dependent. My recommendation to you is to adjust your pH to that range and to use the greensand. As long as no chlorosis is present, I see no reason to use the much more expensive chelated form. I should also mention that another organic fertilizer, Milorganite, can provide a significant amount of iron as well but it's availability is also pH dependent.

Another reader asked **"There is a lot of publicity about pH and how it affects spraying, in this month's Wind Chimes. However, no one addressed the issue of when to put Indicate 5 (or other products) into the tank. I have been putting mine in before adding any products. I achieve that nice delicate pink with one teaspoon per gallon. The minute I add a chemical, the pink disappears. Is my pH still at a good level?"** The color change indicates that the pH is no longer at 5 after you added your other products. Whether that is good or bad is another question. Research has shown that many pesticides (but not all) work better and last longer when sprayed in pH 4.5 to 5.5 solutions. To obtain these benefits, your water should indicate pH 5 (light pink color) after the pesticides (including fungicides) have been added. Products we commonly use like Cleary's 3336, Banner Max, Dithane, etc. benefit from adjusting the pH. But fungicides like Kocide and some others should not be used with Indicate 5. Therefore, when using Indicate 5 you should strive for a light pink color after all pesticides have been added. It should also be noted that Indicate 5 is an excellent surfactant and may have much benefit in that capacity as well.

Another reader wrote **"You were kind enough to come by our home last year and advise me on my Don Juan roses. Since your visit I applied your comments and the roses now reach the eve of the Carriage House. Your recommendation to work them horizontally is also successful. I'm now at a point of needing additional advice once again. I realize the roses need some level of pruning for rejuvenation and wonder now at this point in time to what degree? Part of the joy of owning them is working with the growing cane structure and blooms over a greater area."** You seem to be doing a good job with the Don Juan roses. Climbers are pruned differently from other roses. Remove any dead or dying canes and continue to shape your bushes as we discussed. Lateral (vertical)



*The climbing rose Don Juan Adorns CFRS Member's Carriage House*

branches off the arcing canes could be trimmed to about 4 buds if you desire but, basically, if you are satisfied with the way it looks, don't mess with it too much. There are no rules that say you have to do a lot of pruning. With climbers, my approach is to keep it within boundaries and to remove bad wood. Otherwise, leave it alone.

This reader also wrote **"The April Wind Chimes just arrived with your suggestions about pest control. Until about three months ago I had been fortunate to only have black spot on occasion but now I'm overrun with aphids, etc. Your suggestion of a more powerful agent such as Malathion may be what I need."** If you have a bunch of aphids, I would go with either the Malathion or Bayer Advanced Garden Rose and Flower Insect Killer. I actually like the latter one the best but either will work. It might take a couple of sprays, a week apart, to completely get rid of them. But after dealing with the aphids, be on the look out for spider mites. They tend to move in rapidly after you get rid of other pests.

My final question for the month, somewhat paraphrased, was **"I have recently moved to Central Florida. I love roses and would like to include them in my landscaping but am unable to proceed with it [without proper information]. I have a couple of questions. [First, do you have a list of roses recommended for Central Florida?]"** The Central Florida Rose Society periodically puts out a list that can be obtained at the meetings of our group. Other information can be found on our website: (<http://www.centralfloridarosesociety.org>). My personal favorites include Moonstone, Veteran's Honor, Louise Estes, Crystalline, Hot Princess, and Bride's Dream among the hybrid teas. For shrubs, I like English Garden, Molineux, and Ambridge rose. For OGRs, you can't beat Souvenir de la Malmaison and, among floribundas, my all time favorite is Ivory Fashion. But, there are many other great roses out there and part of the fun is trying new ones. If they don't work out, you can always replace them. The main thing to remember is to use good horticultural practices. Information can be obtained from this publication, society meetings, and from our consulting rosarians. Unfortunately, most of the available books are not specific for Central Florida.

This reader also wrote **"I have a small square patch of lawn in front of my entry door. This lawn has [a] garage wall on one side providing shade and one of my bedroom walls on other side providing shade. [It probably receives only 4 hours of sun per day]. I was thinking of growing 2-3 feet roses in this patch with a center piece. Can you recommend some [varieties] that will grow well [under] these conditions? Can I consider flower carpet roses for this?"** No. I can't make any such recommendations because roses, including the so called "flower carpet ones" are sun plants. They require

six hours or more of sun per day. I suggest you look for shade tolerant plants for this location.

It is now time to consider **rose care for May and the summer in general**. Basically, we are going to be dealing with hot, humid weather conditions. You aren't going to like it and neither are your roses. But, they will suffer through it with minimal care and you will do the same. My approach is to keep rose care in hot weather fairly simple. I want to keep them in good shape for the fall bloom. So, I am going to continue to spray at regular intervals and treat problems as they arise. I am also going to stay out of the heat as much as possible.

During the summer, your biggest animal pests will be spider mites, caterpillars, aphids, and thrips. Caterpillars are easily controlled with Thuricide as indicated in the chart below. Symptoms of caterpillar damage include partially eaten buds and leaves that are just lace. Aphids are typically green insects that produce a shiny, sticky film on your leaves (honeydew). The best control I have found is Bayer Advanced Garden Rose and Flower Insect Killer (or Merit). Spider mites always present a challenge. Signs of an infestation include leaves taking on a mottled appearance and feeling gritty underneath as well as webs among the leaflets. For the small garden the best control is generous use of a water wand to knock them off from the underside of leaves and to interfere with their reproductive activities. You may need to do this daily. When you have the mites under control, weekly use of the water wand should be sufficient. For chemical control, I like Floramite the best but Avid 0.15EC is also a good choice. Floramite can be used with your fungicide but **do not mix Avid with any other pesticide product**. You can mix the Avid with horticultural oil (Target at 1 TBSP per gallon) or Indicate 5, however. Avid and Floramite are very expensive and should be used sparingly as resistance may result. Apply three treatments with Avid at five-day intervals. Floramite should be applied at 21-day intervals until the mites are gone. The thrips are always with us, although their populations may be reduced over the summer. I generally tolerate the damage unless there is an event for which I need roses. If the damage gets too bad, I go back to misting the blooms every few days with Bayer Advanced Garden Rose and Flower Insect Killer or other pesticides listed below to which I have added some brown sugar. I also add Conserve SC to my regular fungicidal spray.

Try to **give your roses about three inches of water a week for peak performance**. Long-term forecasts indicate we will have adequate rain this summer but measure rainfall with a gauge and supplement as necessary. Potted roses will probably need watering every day.

*(Continued on page 10)*

(May in the Garden, Continued from page 9)

**Keep fertilizing your roses at two-week intervals** with a good quality rose fertilizer. I like the Gro-Mor rose fertilizer available at Crossley's because of its' high organic content but other fertilizers designed for roses also work well. I have given up on liquid fertilizer, as I prefer a more even application of nutrients to my roses. Applying fertilizer without proper water could kill your bushes by dehydration. Therefore, be sure to water before fertilizing. Give each mature bush about ½ cup of granular fertilizer at each feeding.

In lieu of the synthetic granular fertilizer or as part of an overall fertilization program with reduced use of synthetic fertilizer, you might want to apply 2-3 cups of Milorganite at six-week intervals. Milorganite is a 100% organic fertilizer that is the sewage sludge from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It doesn't sound so pleasant but roses love the stuff. Water your bushes again after applying any fertilizer. In addition to the regular fertilizer program, I also recommend the monthly use of 2-4 TBSP per bush of sulfate of potash or Sul-Po-Mag. Potassium (potash) leaches quickly from our soils so it is a good idea to supply an extra amount of this important nutrient. If your foliage begins to look pale green, apply chelated iron (Sequestrene 330FE) to your roses at a rate of 1 TBSP per gallon, using about a gallon of this mix per mature bush. Improvement should be seen in about 5 days.

As far as fungal pests are concerned, you will still need to maintain a weekly spray program to prevent blackspot. The best spray combination is still a mixture of **Ortho® RosePride® Rose & Shrub Disease Control** (or Cleary's 3336 or Banner Maxx) and Dithane M-45 (or Dithane T/O or Manzate 200). I alternate Banner Maxx with Cleary's 3336 on a regular basis to reduce the chances of development of resistance to these chemicals. Using a pump up or power sprayer, spray both the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves weekly. Add a little dishwashing detergent to your spray or, better yet, Indicate 5. For powdery mildew, Immunox is a good choice and is widely available. I have not found it effective against blackspot so I cannot recommend it as a general spray. Many rosarians add Rubigan or Systhane to their regular spray as a powdery mildew preventative but both are expensive. You can probably stop worrying about the powdery mildew by mid May and drop these chemicals from your spray mix.

Remove spent blooms and you may be rewarded with another bloom by early June. Make sure your bushes are well staked to prevent them from being uprooted in thunderstorms. Next month I will answer all those new questions you are going to e-mail me (at [jsmalljr@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jsmalljr@cfl.rr.com)) and continue to discuss summer care.

## Jim Small's Recommended Spray Formulations

Problem	Treatment	Dosage per Gallon
Blackspot and other fungi	Funginex ( <b>Ortho® RosePride® Rose &amp; Shrub Disease Control</b> ) or Cleary's 3336 or Banner Maxx <b>Plus</b> Dithane T/O or M-45	1 TBSP 1 TSP ½ TSP 1 TBSP
Powdery Mildew	Immunox or Rubigan or Systhane Eagle 20 EW	2 TBS 1/2 TSP 1/4 TSP 1/3 to 2/3 TSP
Aphids	Malathion (50% EC) or Bayer Advanced Garden Rose and Flower Insect Killer or Water wand	2 TSP 1TBSP As needed
Spider mites	Water wand or Avid (0.15EC) or Floramite	Weekly as preventative 1/2 TSP 1/8 to 1/4 TSP
Caterpillars	Thuricide	4 TSP
Thrips	Orthene (9.4% EC) or Bayer Advanced Garden Rose and Flower Insect Killer  Conserve SC	2 TBSP 1TBSP (Mix either with 4 TSP brown sugar per gallon) 1/2 TSP (may be used with fungicide)

# **SUGGESTED ROSES FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA**

The following list of roses is in alphabetical order -- not preferred selection order.

Color classifications are indicated after the variety name. This is by no means a comprehensive list, but rather a selection of suggested varieties that do well in our area.

## **HYBRID TEAS & GRANDIFLORAS**

Affirm, mp  
Black Magic, dr  
Bride's Dream, lp  
Brigadoon, pb  
Brook's Red, mr  
Cherry Parfait, rb  
Christian Dior, mr  
Chrysler Imperial, dr  
Crystalline, w  
Dainty Bess, lp  
Double Delight, rb  
Elegant Beauty, ly  
Elina, ly  
Elizabeth Taylor, dp  
Gemini, pb  
Gold Medal, dy  
Hot Princess, dp  
Lemon Spice, ly  
Let Freedom Ring, mr  
Louise Estes, pb  
Moonstone, w  
Mr. Lincoln, dr  
Olympiad, mr  
Perfectly Red, dr  
Pristine, w  
Perfume Delight, mp  
Rina Hugo, dp  
Saint Patrick, yb  
Secret, pb  
Sweet Surrender, mp  
Touch of Class, op  
Veteran's Honor, dr

## **FLORIBUNDAS**

Apricot Nectar, ab  
Bridal Pink, mp  
Butterfly Kisses, my  
Charlotte Ann, m  
Europeana, dr  
Hanna Gordon, pb  
Hot Cocoa, or  
Iceberg, w  
Ivory Fashion, w  
Lady of the Dawn, lp  
Miss Ada, lp  
Our Lady of Guadalupe, pb  
Playgirl, mp  
Playboy, rb  
Summer Snow, w  
Sunflare, my

## **CLIMBING ROSES**

Altissimo, mr  
Blossomtime, mp  
Clair Matin, mp  
Don Juan, dr  
Dortmund, mr  
Fourth of July, rb  
Pink Perpetue, mp  
Sea Foam, w

## **OLD GARDEN ROSES**

Archduke Charles, rb  
Blush Noisette, w  
Eugene Marlitt (aka Maggie) mr  
Francis Dubreuil, dr  
Kronprinzessin Viktoria, w  
Leveson Gower, op  
Louis Phillippe, mr  
Marchesa Boccella, lp  
Mrs. B.R. Cant, mp  
Old Blush, mp  
Paul Neyron, mp  
Pink Pet, mp  
Rose de Rescht, dp  
Sombreuil, w  
Souvenir de la Malmaison, lp

## **SHRUB ROSES**

Abraham Darby, op  
Alnwick Castle, lp  
Ambridge Rose, ab  
Belinda's Dream, ab  
Belle Story, lp  
Dortmund, mr  
English Garden, ab  
Heritage, lp  
Knockout, rb  
L.D. Braithwaite, mr  
Molineux, dy  
Outta The Blue, m  
Pretty Jessica, mp  
Prosperity, w  
Teasing Georgia, yb  
The Dark Lady, dr  
The Squire, dr

## **MINIATURE ROSES**

Arcanum, ab  
Bees Knees, yb  
Carolina Lady, mr

Chelsea Belle, mr  
Doris Morgan, dp  
Fairhope, ly  
Fancy Pants, rb  
Figurine, w  
Glowing Amber, rb  
Grace Seward, w  
Green Ice, w  
Hilde, rb  
Incognito, m  
Kristin, rb  
Marie Jeanette, yb  
Merlot, rb  
Miss Flippins, mr  
Montrose, mp  
Odessa, m  
Olympic Gold, ly  
Pierrine, op  
Soroptimist International, pb  
Sweet Chariot, m  
This is the Day, r

## **MINI FLORAS**

Autumn Splendor, yb  
Butter Cream, my  
Cachet, w  
Charismatic, rb  
Conundrum, yb  
Louisville Lady, dp  
Memphis Music, dr  
Peter Cottontail, w  
Solar Flare, yb  
Tiffany Lynn, pb

## **COLOR CLASSIFICATIONS**

ab - apricot & apricot blend  
dp - deep pink  
dr - dark red  
dy - deep yellow  
lp - light pink  
ly - light yellow  
m - mauve and mauve blend  
mp - medium pink  
mr - medium red  
my - medium yellow  
ob - orange & orange blend  
op - orange-pink & orange-pink blend  
or - orange-red & orange-red blend  
pb - pink blend  
rb - red blend  
r - russett  
w - white, near white & white blend

# WATER -- YOUR "KEY" TO SUCCESS

By Marty Pawlikowski, CFRS Consulting Rosarian



It may not be exciting to read about watering your roses ... But at this time of year, it's about the most important thing you can do – Water. Like all living things, your roses cannot survive without adequate water. With summer's high temperatures, water is extremely significant for your rose's survival.

Noted rosarian, Doc Allcott, wrote in the Wind Chimes several years ago that it has been estimated that three gallons of water are lost through a rose bush in a single day through transpiration. Transpiration is the passage of water vapor from the leaves through a membrane or pore. In a rose bush, the pore is the stoma located on the undersides of the leaf. There are hundreds of stomata on the underside of each leaf. When we are outside on a hot summer day we sweat (or should I say perspire) -- And similarly, roses do the same thing through transpiration. Like us, our roses need a continual supply of water to replace the moisture lost through transpiration. High temperatures and full sun accelerate transpiration, depleting moisture rapidly, thus requiring more water.

So how much water does your rose garden need to flourish during the summer? Everyone's growing conditions are different based on variables including soil type and contents, amount of sun received, whether the beds abut paved or turf areas, the quantity, type and depth of mulch, type of irrigation system, etc. These variables result in different watering requirements. Simply put, the amount of water you need to apply to your garden is variable dependent upon your particular microclimate and the amount of rainfall you receive. One way of determining how much water your particular soil needs is to pull back the mulch, dig down in the soil a little, and pick up a handful of soil. Squeeze the soil in your hand. How well has it held the moisture from yesterday's or even this morning's watering? The soil should feel evenly moist, and when squeezed in your hand should form a mass that easily crumbles. Use common sense – if the soil shows no signs of holding together, then water more frequently or increase the quantity of water applied. Remember, deep thorough watering is preferable to light frequent watering as it encourages strong, deep roots. On the other hand, if when squeezed, the soil forms a soggy mass, decrease the quantity and or frequency of watering.

Typically the months of July and August are considered our "rainy season" - But this has not held true during the

past few years. It is important to monitor the amount of water your roses receive. As a general rule our roses need between 2 - 3 inches of water per week. In periods of hot, dry temperatures, even more may be needed depending on the size of the bushes, and the variables in your microclimate. Don't assume that rainfall will furnish all the water your roses need; check the soil to be sure, and set up a rain gauge to monitor rainfall amounts. Typical of Central Florida, it may be raining cats and dogs where you work and be sunny ... without a drop of rain ... in your garden, and visa versa. It is important that we conserve this natural resource and using a rain gauge will help us eliminate unnecessary watering.

Check the depth of your watering to make sure that the moisture is reaching the root system, which, for established Fortuniana grafted roses, is quite large. If water penetration of the soil is no more than 8 inches deep, longer or more frequent watering sessions are needed. Remember Fortuniana roots are generally in the top 14 inches of the soil and very far reaching. Shallow watering will encourage shallow rooted plants. Make sure the water is getting down into the entire root zone. When watering a bed of roses try to water the entire bed – that's where Fortuniana roots are located (throughout the whole bed – not only under the drip line of the bush).

Watering is also important to bring oxygen into the soil. As water moves through the soil oxygen follows behind filling the spaces. Rain reportedly places more oxygen in the soil than any other means. Without oxygen in the soil our roses will decline and eventually die. New rose growers are often concerned with the saying ... "roses do not like wet feet". As a result they underwater, believing that too much water will harm the "feet" (roots) of their roses. It is true that roses do not like to be grown in low lying areas where water tends to "stand". The oxygen needed for healthy growth will not be available in waterlogged areas. If your rose beds have adequate drainage you really do not need to worry about "wet feet". Over watering, or too much rainfall, can, even when adequate drainage is present, temporarily, deplete oxygen in the soil – the soil becomes waterlogged and the oxygen is displaced. Your roses provide the following watering indicators: too little water will cause the leaves to be limp and sagging; too much will starve the rose of oxygen and its leaves will turn yellow and drop off.

*(Continued on page 13)*

(Continued from page 12)

There are many ways to provide water for the roses from hand watering (a water wand is good because it gently deposits a large amount of water in a limited space for easy access to the roots), to various drip systems or even individual bubblers for each plant. The so-called soaker hoses can do a good job inexpensively **but only if allowed to run long enough for the water to reach the root zone**. A rose plant needs water to the full depth of its roots (assume 14 inches), in enough quantity to keep soil constantly moist but not waterlogged.

Overhead sprinkling is a great way to cool off and refresh your bushes on a hot summer afternoon. Wherever there's dust or air pollution, leaves benefit from overhead watering every week or so, both to remove dust and to

wash away some insect pests, especially aphids. After several minutes under overhead sprinklers, you'll be amazed at how refreshed your bushes look! Right about now you are probably thinking ... "I've always heard "Don't get the leaves wet!!" Water on the leaves is not a bad thing – it will not spread black spot if the leaves are only wet for a short time and if you let your bushes breeze dry before nightfall. This mid day overhead watering is only to cool down and wash off the foliage. Most of the water applied overhead is lost to evaporation and will not reach down into the root zone.

Water is life sustaining to both plants and animals - both are dependent upon water, and cannot survive without it. The best way to care for your roses this summer is to give them **adequate** water. Water is the key ingredient to growing healthy roses over the summer months.

## Floribunda Roses (FL)

Crosses between the cluster-flowering polyantha roses and the large-flowered hybrid tea roses resulted in the hardy floriferous floribunda roses. Floribundas are distinguished from hybrid teas because they usually bear their flowers in large, dense clusters or trusses with many blooms opening simultaneously in each truss. The flowers tend to be less formal than those of hybrid teas and may be single, semi-double, or fully double. Many varieties offer flowers every bit as big and beautiful as the hybrid teas. Fewer floribundas are scented. However, they are generally more vigorous and tolerant than hybrid teas.

Floribundas usually form more full, rounded landscape plants than hybrid teas or grandifloras. They usually grow to between 4 and 6 feet tall and in central Florida floribundas bloom continually throughout the year. Their low height makes them ideal for borders or for lining walks and drives. They also mix well in beds with hybrid teas, providing a lower front row of color against the taller plants.

The first floribunda roses were created only 60 years ago. Today, they comprise the largest class of roses next to the hybrid teas and offer nearly as wide a range of colors and forms. The name "floribunda" was coined by Jackson and Perkins's Charlie Perkins for this new kind of landscaping rose which was created in Germany. J&P introduced the floribunda to America gardeners, and began an ambitious hybridizing program that resulted in many of the early floribundas.

Some popular floribundas for central Florida include Europeana, Hanna Gordon, Sunflare, Playgirl, and Lady of the Dawn – to name just a few!! Check out other suggested varieties on Page 11.



The Popular "single" Floribunda *Playgirl* displays her striking golden stamens  
Photo by CFRS member Marty Pawlikowski

# WHERE AND HOW TO PLANT ROSES IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

By Dan Faflak, Consulting Rosarian



When planting roses you should consider sun, wind, soil and tree/shrub competition. Roses need at least six hours of full sun each day. Select an area protected from the wind. Wind exposure can cause damage and moisture evaporation. Good drainage is essential. If drainage is a problem, it is suggested you build raised beds to avoid standing water. I believe it is best to design rose beds about 6 to 7 feet wide, planting two rows wide, to allow for adequate space when pruning, cutting and spraying. Beds may be rectangles, curved or free-form shapes to create interest and allow maintenance from both sides. Good rose bushes grow large here in Central Florida. Space hybrid teas 5 to 6 feet apart, floribundas 4 to 5 feet apart, climbers about 8 feet, miniature roses at 3 feet, and old garden and shrub roses 6 to 12 feet apart. Avoid planting near trees and shrubs as they may compete for water and nutrients. Stay at least 3 to 5 feet away from walls. This will avoid heat reflection and provide good air circulation.

Roses prefer slightly acidic soil. A pH of 5.7 to 6.7 is ideal. Test your soil and adjust the pH during bed preparation. Hereafter check your pH at least once a year and maintain it in the proper range.

What kind of roses should you buy? Is fragrance important? Long stems? Clusters? Small bush size? Are you striving to cover an arbor or terrace? Do you want to landscape with roses, form a hedge or use them as accent plants? Hybrid teas and Grandifloras have long stems and perfect flower forms. Floribundas bloom in clusters and can be used as accent plants or form a hedge. Miniatures are much smaller and will grow in large pots on patios or create low borders. Climbing and ground cover roses will cover arbors and terraces.

Select good quality roses, preferably grafted on Fortuniana rootstock. These will produce larger and longer life plants. Fortuniana grafted plants are always sold as potted plants in Florida and can be planted at any time of the year. Dr. Huey rootstock is the second choice. Select No. 1 grade plants that have at least three large canes. They may be sold as bare root plants grafted on Dr. Huey. Plant bare root roses only from mid December to mid February. Miniature roses, many old garden roses and shrub roses available in Central Florida may not be grafted and can adequately grow on their own roots.

You will need the following for preparing your planting holes: Gardening gloves, a measuring tape, shovel, measuring cup and water. Follow the suggested guidelines given above regarding layout, spacing and placement depending upon the type of roses you are planting.

How to plant: Dig a hole at least 18-24 inches wide by 12-14 inches deep. Premix the following, based on volume. 5 parts topsoil, 2 parts organic sphagnum peat, 2 parts aged manure's or compost, 1 part perlite. You can also add per plant: 1-cup Milorganite, and 1 cup of bone meal or super phosphate. Other amendments such as dehydrated manure and cottonseed meal may be used if raised beds are used. The roses are planted into the amended soil and the hole size is made to accommodate the pot size.

Grasp the plant with one hand covering the pot's top opening. Turn the pot over and gently squeeze the pot with your free hand. Do not pull the plant out of the pot. Do not cut the bottom out of the pot or cut the sides of the pot. If roots appear pot bound, loosen and separate around the edges, but do not break up the root ball. Set grafted roses in the hole at the same level, or a little higher than they were growing in the pot and back fill with your prepared soil. Never bury the graft. Old garden and shrub roses that are growing on their own roots should be set about one inch deeper than in the pot. Water thoroughly to remove air pockets, but do not stomp and compress with your feet. Use excess soil to build a water ring to hold water. After planting, mulch the area with 3-4 inches of pine straw, oak leaves, fine bark or other organic mulches. Deeply water newly planted roses daily for the first two weeks, then at least three times a week until well established.

Editor's note: It is very important that roses grafted onto 'Fortuniana' rootstock be securely staked. Fortuniana is far reaching but shallow rooted. If left un-staked, young bushes can blow over in a storm and possibly break off at the graft. Staking will keep the graft in an upward position allowing new canes to grow uniformly from all areas of the graft. Small, young bushes can be staked with a piece of sturdy bamboo or a standard garden stake. As the bush matures, the best staking method we have found is to use a 6-foot section of rebar. The rebar is driven in with a hammer approximately 18 to 24-inches into the soil, leaving about a minimum of 24-30-inches above ground. The rebar is then covered with a 36-inch sleeve of PVC pipe or a section of garden hose. The sleeve is used to prevent damage to the cane from rubbing against the rebar. The rose is then tied with green or clear "tie-em up" tape (non adhesive stretchy vinyl tape) fastening one of the sturdier canes to the stake with several loops of the tape. A piece of old pantyhose is also good for securing the cane to the stake.

**About the Author:** Dan Faflak is a Master Gardener, Consulting Rosarian and an American Rose Society Horticultural and Arrangement Judge.

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Annual dues in CFRS are \$20.00 per family. Dues are payable to Central Florida Rose Society and should be addressed to:

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**NEED ROSE INFORMATION?**

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**For additional rose information, visit the CFRS web site at**  
**CentralFloridaRoseSociety.org**