

# The Raleigh Rose

Newsletter of the Raleigh Rose Society, founded 1947  
Affiliated with the American Rose Society

2007

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

This time of year we like to focus on the proper techniques of Spring Pruning. Spring Pruning is unique in that it is the most dramatic cuts your plant receives. The goal is to produce an open centered plant allowing air and light to penetrate easily. Reasons why a rose should be pruned are:

- A rose left unpruned can grow into a mass of tangled branches.
- Promotes the development of larger blooms
- Dead or damaged wood is unsightly and can harbor disease.
- Allows you to create an attractive shape, fitting for the landscape.
- Stimulates the plant to produce vigorous new growth.

First, let us focus on the pruning of modern roses or hybrid teas. Hybrid tea roses have the distinction of requiring the most severe pruning for optimum bloom and plant health. Modern roses should be pruned just before the plant breaks dormancy AND after the last frost. In our area, we focus on or around the end of February (although the last recorded frost is April 15<sup>th</sup>). Many rose growers suggest waiting until the forsythias start to bloom.

Tools of the trade: Every rosarian should have a small pair of hand held by pass clippers such as *Felco* brand #2 or #6 a pair of loppers (*Felco* #20) for thick canes and hard to reach areas, and a fine toothed curved saw for cutting woody canes. For miniatures, a pair of hand pruners for thick canes and shears for trimming are required. Make sure your equipment is clean and sharp. Cut at a 45° angle, about ¼ “ above an outward facing bud; slanting away from the bud eye. (A bud eye is a small bulge with a tiny “eye” and a horizontal crease below. At the end of dormancy it is the bud eye that produces the new shoots). Make any cuts to the base of a cane above the bud union. The ¼’ cutting rule is just a guide. If a cut is higher than this, a stub will be left which will die back towards the eye; providing a haven for pests and diseases. (Please come to our pruning

demonstration or ask a consulting rosarian for the proper way to hold the pruning shears during cutting and the differences between Spring and Summer pruning techniques).

It is important to notice the direction a bud is facing. Prune to encourage outward facing buds, so the end result is not a tangle of canes competing for sunlight in the center of the bush.

- Cut away dead or dying wood first. The canes can appear shriveled, dark brown or black in appearance.
- Seal the end of cuts with white glue or Bullseye Orange Shellac to prevent entry of cane borers.
- Remove all thin, weak canes smaller than a pencil in diameter.
- Remove sucker growth (growth that originates **BELOW** the bud union) by digging down and cutting it off at origin.
- For moderate pruning, 5-12 canes are left about 18"-24" in length. This develops a larger bush with smaller but more numerous flowers. If few, but large blooms are desired; trim the bush to about 3-4 canes 6"-10" high. This will also stimulate growth on weaker plants.
- Continue cutting to a lower eye on the cane if the pith (the center of the cane) appears brown or tan. The pith in a healthy cane will appear the same color as the inside of an apple.

Finally, a word on pruning other species of roses.

Climbers: Only prune dead wood from climbers the first 2-3 years. This will establish mature canes. Prune ramblers after they have bloomed.

Tree Roses: Cut out dead or diseased canes. Prune healthy canes to a good bud eye. Remove suckers from the bottom and trunk.

Old Garden Roses: These roses bear flowers on wood produced the previous year; prune only after they have bloomed.

Miniatures: Prune and groom as they grow. Remove flowers after they are past their prime.

To find out more, please plan on attending the next meeting as there will be demonstrations.

# Spring Pruning

THE RALEIGH ROSE

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

APRIL/MAY 2005  
PAGE 3

## Disclaimer

The advice and information in *The Raleigh Rose* are believed to be accurate, neither the authors nor the editors accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may have occurred. The Raleigh Rose Society makes no warranty with respect to material.

**The Raleigh Rose Society was founded in 1947 and serves the NC Triangle Area providing information, education and general appreciation for our nation's flower, the rose.**

**We invite the rose growers of Raleigh and surrounding areas to become members of our society. Any person is eligible for membership who is interested in the growing and the culturing of roses.**

## Consulting Rosarians

Scott Dean	919-462-8853
Richard Donovan	910-575-9868
Dave Illg	919-779-2969
Julie Jones	919-244-3072
Don and Mary Myers	919-549-2529

A consulting rosarian is someone who has been growing roses for at least 5 years and has attended a rosarian education program through the American Rose Society. They are a wealth of knowledge!!

## The Raleigh Rose Society

Direct Membership inquiries to:

Kathy Nicoll, VP, Membership 100 Midden Way Holly Springs, NC 27540

## REMINDER

2007 Membership dues are NOW DUE. If you would like to remain an active member of the Raleigh Rose Society and receive this fabulous newsletter please mail your \$15.00 fee to: Kathy Nicoll Dues will also be collected at any monthly meeting.

February/March

**We're on the Web!**

**[www.raleighrosesociety.org](http://www.raleighrosesociety.org)**

## The Anatomy of Pruning a Bareroot Rose

Pruning bareroot roses is as much an art as it is a science. Here are some guidelines and things to look for as you prepare to prune your roses.

**Cross over Canes:** Canes that cross-over other canes or grow toward the center of the plant should be removed. This will stimulate the existing canes to grow more vigorously.

**Budeye:** A budeye lies near every point where a leaf is attached to a cane. Other than basal breaks emerging directly from the bud union, budeyes are the only points from which a new cane will grow. Pruning canes at a 45° angle just above a budeye will encourage new growth to start more swiftly.

**Shank:** Portion of original the root stock into which the bud was grafted.

**Sucker:** Spontaneous canes emerging from below the bud union are suckers from the roots and should be removed. The soil may need to be dug away.

February/March 2007

PAGE 2

**Anchor Roots:** A heavier root system is generally found on budded plants. The size of the roots depends on the age of the plant and the density of the soil in which it is grown.

**Weak Canes:** Weak canes should be removed cleanly at planting time and yearly thereafter. Be sure to remove canes at its point of origin.

**Redundant Canes:** Canes that grow adjacent or parallel to hefty canes should be removed.

**Bud Union:** The point from which new canes (basal breaks) will emerge. Generally planted at soil level in our climate; the bud union may be vulnerable in winter if it is not protected with mulch.

Information gathered from the *Regan Nursery Website* in conjunction with *Arena Roses*.

February/March 2007

This time of year we like to focus on the proper techniques of Spring Pruning. Spring Pruning is unique in that it is the most dramatic cuts your plant receives. The goal is to produce an open centered plant allowing air and light to penetrate easily. Reasons why a rose should be pruned are:

- A rose left unpruned can grow into a mass of tangled branches.
- Promotes the development of larger blooms
- Dead or damaged wood is unsightly and can harbor disease.
- Allows you to create an attractive shape, fitting for the landscape.
- Stimulates the plant to produce vigorous new growth

First, let us focus on the pruning of modern roses or hybrid teas. Hybrid tea roses have the distinction of requiring the most severe pruning for optimum bloom and plant health. Modern roses should be pruned just before the plant breaks dormancy AND after the last frost. In our area, we focus on or around the end of February (although the last recorded frost is April 15<sup>th</sup>). Many rose growers suggest waiting until the forsythias start to bloom.

Tools of the trade: Every rosarian should have a small pair of hand held by pass clippers such as *Felco*

brand #2 or #6 a pair of loppers (Felco #20) for thick canes and hard to reach areas, and a fine toothed curved saw for cutting woody canes. For miniatures, a pair of hand pruners for thick canes and shears for trimming are required. Make sure your equipment is clean and sharp. Cut at a 45° angle, about ¼ “ above an outward facing bud; slanting away from the bud eye. (A bud eye is a small bulge with a tiny “eye” and a horizontal crease below. At the end of dormancy it is the bud eye that produces the new shoots). Make any cuts to the base of a cane above the bud union. The ¼’ cutting rule is just a guide. If a cut is higher than this, a stub will be left which will die back towards the eye; providing a haven for pests and diseases. (Please come to our pruning demonstration or ask a consulting rosarian for the proper way to hold the pruning shears during cutting and the differences between Spring and Summer pruning techniques).

It is important to notice the direction a bud is facing. Prune to encourage outward facing buds, so the end result is not a tangle of canes competing for sunlight in the center of the bush.

- Cut away dead or dying wood first. The canes can appear shriveled, dark brown or black in appearance.
- Seal the end of cuts with white glue or Bullseye Orange Shellac to prevent entry of cane borers.
- Remove all thin, weak canes smaller than a pencil in diameter.
- Remove sucker growth (growth that originates **BELOW** the bud union) by digging down and cutting it off at origin.
- For moderate pruning, 5-12 canes are left about 18”-24” in length. This develops a larger bush with smaller but more numerous flowers. If few, but large blooms are desired; trim the bush to about 3-4 canes 6”-10” high. This will also stimulate growth on weaker plants.
- Continue cutting to a lower eye on the cane if the pith (the center of the cane) appears brown or tan. The pith in a healthy cane will appear the same color as the inside of an apple.

Finally, a word on pruning other species of roses.

Climbers: Only prune dead wood from climbers the first 2-3 years. This will establish mature canes. Prune ramblers after they have bloomed.

Tree Roses: Cut out dead or diseased canes. Prune healthy canes to a good bud eye. Remove suckers from the bottom and trunk.

Old Garden Roses: These roses bear flowers on wood produced the previous year; prune only after they have bloomed.

Miniatures: Prune and groom as they grow. Remove flowers after they are past their prime.

## Spring Pruning

As many of you know, we have been looking for a new more central meeting place. With the NC Farmers Market being full, we took a look at the local nurseries. Most of the members that show interest and attend our meetings have been from the southern area of Raleigh and Wake County. With this in mind, we have chosen to meet at the *Garden Supply Company*, in Cary and they have gladly accepted. This is a thriving, beautiful nursery who has expanded its indoor greenhouse and can accommodate our meetings. We are very thankful to them for their support. Please check out their website at: [www.gardensupplyco.com](http://www.gardensupplyco.com).

# **New Meeting Place!!**

## **Next Meeting**

Saturday, Feb. 24th

At 10:00 am

Garden Supply Company

1421 Old Apex Road

Cary, NC 27513

Phone: 919.460.7747

### **TOPIC:**

Spring Pruning

## **March Meeting**

Sat., March 24th

10:00 am

Topic: Spray schedule and membership drive

## **Rose Show??**

Our RRS funds are very low. Knowing this, we need to discuss whether or not we can host a rose show this year. Very few of our members actually exhibit and it takes many volunteers and contributions from members and sponsors to make it a success. Rose shows usually are good recruiters of new members and give current members a venue to show off their hard work in the garden.

We would like to encourage and educate our novice growers and home gardeners about exhibiting. It is a possibility that we will have a small "Novice Only" show. This way the more experienced rosarians are on hand to help others. Please tell us what you think. Your feedback is vital!! Please email all feedback to Mavis Davis at: [mavdav@gmail.com](mailto:mavdav@gmail.com).

## **Hours of Operation**

Monday thru Friday 9am - 7pm

Saturday 8am - 6pm

Sunday 11am - 5pm