

Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"A Historic Landmark"

Issue 5

Dec. '08

Free at Last!!

Rose Garden off AARS Probation

On Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at a ceremony in San Francisco given in the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden's honor, the All-America Rose Selections (AARS) announced the garden is off probation and they have officially reinstated full National Accreditation! Bill Mann, AARS Public Garden Chairman, noted the phenomenal response from the community to come together and revive this civic treasure.

Everyone should be very proud of their part in making this happen; from the volunteer who just made it to one event, to the Master Volunteer who has the ability to spend hours at the garden. Special thanks must go to the San Jose Park Department, that have been supportive of our efforts, and have been working with us from day one. This public/private partnership has broken new ground. For any volunteer who has been at the events, you have seen the city workers side by side with us. We continue to enjoy their dedication and full support.

With AARS Accreditation comes responsibility. We must do our part to help keep the garden in good shape by continuing to mobilize our volunteers. We have the pruning day on January 10th, and we will be planting nearly 600 new roses over the coming months, so please come out and join us.

- Terry Reilly



Bill Mann
AARS
Public Garden
Chairman

Beverly
Hopper

Terry
Reilly

Tom Carruth
AARS President



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Bare Root Roses

You have seen some of the beautiful varieties growing in the rose garden this year, and have decided to purchase some bareroot roses for your garden this winter. Maybe it will be one of the new 2009 AARS winners such as Pink Promise, Cinco de Mayo, or Carefree Spirit, all of which were showcased in our last newsletter. Whatever variety you choose, you want to make sure you choose a rose that is healthy and will thrive after it planting in your garden.

Winter is time for bareroot roses. Bareroot roses are dormant plants with, (just as the name implies) bareroots. You will want to plant these quickly once you purchase them. Many nurseries have bareroots “healed in” to soil to keep the roots moist. You pull them up out of the soil and purchase them.

Most modern roses you purchase will be budded onto rootstock, and will have a few canes growing out from the bud union. They will also have a “grade” assigned to it. Grade #1 must have at least three strong canes of 5/16 inch diameter or greater. Grade #1.5 must have at least two strong canes 5/16 inch or greater, and a #2 must have at least one strong cane of 5/16 of an inch or greater and one 1/4 inch or greater. The canes must have been 16 inches before harvest and have a strong root system. It is fair to say that the best roses to buy, are the #1 grade roses. The ones you often see on sale for a few dollars at the local supermarket/drugstores are the #1.5 and #2's.



Grade #1 Rose

It is best to buy bare root that you can inspect the roots. At most large nurseries, such as Regan Nursery in Fremont, you can do this.

You have many choices on where to purchase roses: Big Box Stores, Garden Centers, supermarkets, membership warehouses, mail order, and specialty nurseries. Hardware stores, big box stores and supermarket nurseries typically have them wrapped in plastic sleeves and packaged in sawdust or other material. Thus, you cannot inspect the roots, and they may have been cut smaller to fit the packaging. Boxed roses are a better and have longer shelf than the plastic wrapped, but you still cannot inspect the roots. Though these wrapped and boxed roses can yield good results if properly taken care of by the store, often they are not by the untrained employees and dry out. Inspect them carefully. In some rare occasions, you will find some roses that have canes that have been dipped in wax. This is to help keep the canes from drying out. It is best to buy roses that don't need this wax.

When buying any rose, inspect all canes to make sure they are strong and not dried out. Canes that are dry have a slim chance of making it. They should look nice and green, without any scarring.

You will find some of the largest selection of bare root roses at Regan Nursery (www.regannursery.com) located in Fremont. Here you can inspect the rose plant, roots and all, before you purchase them. They have a knowledgeable staff and are quite supportive of the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden. You can also try Yamagami's in Cupertino and Almaden Valley Nursery in San Jose though their selection isn't as large as Regan's.

We have access to such fine rose suppliers where you can inspect the whole plant, or get them by mail order, you should purchase roses in this manner, and leave the pre-packaged hardware store roses to others. Though they cost just a bit more for #1 grade roses, the payoff will be quicker and worth the few extra dollars.

The advice of “don't put a \$15 rose in a nickel hole” is true. So I would suggest you read Beverly's article on planting bare root roses and coming out to our several rose planting events this year. – Terry Reilly

Interactive Rose Garden Map

It is time to purchase bare root roses and we've added some cool new features to our web site to help you out. We now have a map of the garden, and all you have to do is click the rose bed, and a picture of the rose will come up as well as where you can order it for your own garden.

The links come from our local Regan Nursery, a nationally known rose nursery that does a large mail order business. They are right down the road in Fremont. You can purchase it mail order, or for local pick-up at the nursery. In addition, you will find another satellite map below, where when you click on the bed, a picture of the rose comes up! You can access the site at FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/interactive_map.htm

Garden Gloves

Many of you have seen those "gauntlet gloves" that many of us wear as we tend to the roses, and I must admit to have spent upwards to \$50 for a pair. Gauntlet gloves protect your forearms from what my wife calls "battle scars."

Some gauntlets can be found much cheaper at garden stores, but they usually are made of vinyl and don't provide the protection of leather. I've been a little disappointed with my "Bionic" gloves on the left, which lasted only one season, and will opt for a new pair of West County Gloves (middle). You can West County Gloves at Yamagami's and Almaden Nursery. Another good source for good gloves is actually welding supply stores! The gloves are very similar, and much cheaper. I prefer ones made of elk skin, or pig skin. I've found the best selection at ALLIANCE WELDING SUPPLIES at 501 Auzerias St. over by OSH. It's also near KNIFE STALKERS (349 Lincoln Ave.) where you could get your pruning shears sharpened prior to our event on January 10th. Costs about \$10.- Terry_Reilly



Industry Rose Growers Help Out

We have a very aggressive renovation plan put together with the SJ Parks Department to plant nearly 600 new roses in the rose garden including whole new rose beds, filler and replacement plants. Gardener Lance Loveday and his crew have been working hard preparing the beds with new soil, readying them for planting by volunteers. You can see a slide show on our web site here: FriendsSJRoseGarden.org/renovation_project.html

This project has caught the attention of the member companies of the All America Rose Selections' and during the awards reception Beverly and I attended, they committed to provide a SIGNIFICANT donation of roses for this project. The roses will come from well known suppliers

such as Weeks Roses, Star Roses, Coiner Nursery and Jackson and Perkins. You may recognize these names from the tags on roses you have purchased in the past. Beverly and I had the opportunity to visit with the leaders of these companies and they were all impressed with the enthusiasm displayed by the volunteers. Mike Will, Parks Manager, joined us to represent the Parks Department at the awards reception. We appreciate the support and recognition from these Rose Industry Leaders. As a non-profit that relies on donations, we certainly appreciate their support. – Terry Reilly

Rose Garden Patrons

Once again, Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio has awarded the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden with a \$1,000 HP Grant. In addition, Mark De Mattei has donated another \$1,000 to our efforts and become a Rose Garden Patron. Both were very instrumental in helping start this organization by providing initial funding for newsletters and website hosting. See the other donors on our Donate Page.

Rose Pruning

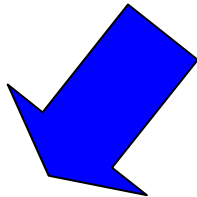
& Demo Day

San Jose Municipal Rose Garden

January 10th, 9am

(Rain date 17th)

Learn from
the Pro's!



A Free Bare Root Rose will be given to
all volunteers that arrive by 9:00am!!!

Donated by Star Roses!



STAR ROSES

Friends of the
San Jose



Rose Garden

See the Pruning training video at
www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org

Bring gloves, pruning shears or loppers!! Some will be provided

Sponsored by the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden and
the City of San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services –
A Public/Private Partnership

Philosophy of Pruning

By Beverly Rose Hopper,
Master Rosarian

Private vs. Public Pruning

When it comes to giving rose advice, there are certain principles that apply but just as important is the consideration of “what you want to achieve.” This is especially evident in pruning public versus private gardens, and most certainly is reflected in the philosophy that Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden demonstrated in “pruning for maximum display.”

Traditional pruning methods include making all cuts ¼ inch above an outward facing bud-eye at a 45 degree angle, removing all crossing canes and prune into vase-like shape to increase air circulation, and remove canes that are dead, dying or spindly. In addition, if the plant is vigorous then older canes should be removed in favor of new canes. Of course all foliage should be removed so the plant has a fresh start free of disease in the spring. Finally, and this is where problems often occur, *remove no more than one-half to one-third of the height of the bush.*

For many years the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden was pruned too hard, the bushes were chopped down to 12 inches regardless of their original height. Such harsh pruning was hard on the plants and they suffered. Some rose varieties including those that have Peace in their parentage respond poorly to severe pruning and never recover. Hard pruning, reducing the plant by more than one-half and leaving only 3 – 5 canes on a Hybrid Tea is a technique that best belongs in the garden of rose exhibitors, who gamble on severe pruning producing less flowers but bigger blooms. In public gardens the goal is a lot of bloom, a mass display of roses filling each bed with color and scent. With this in mind, last year FSJRG convinced the City to rethink the pruning process and adopt pruning high for maximum display. The results were visibly astounding producing plants that were bigger, stronger, healthier with loads of blooms all season long.

How to Prune for Maximum Display

Last year we came up with a simple method of pruning high, which was so easy volunteers of all abilities, were able to participate. Stakes were put in the rose beds and marked at the height at which each bed should be pruned, and volunteers were told not to prune below that level. Everybody prunes a little bit differently, even the experts, so the stakes provided a visual reference

for degree and consistency. It avoided the problem of the overzealous cutting off too much, and provided reassurance to the novice that they weren't going to hurt the roses. It also meant that a group of volunteers could work on a bed and the results would be uniform, something important when dealing with a bed of roses.

Some traditional pruning methods such as making cuts ¼ inch above an outward facing bud-eye at 45 degree angle were still used, but with a relaxed attitude. It's not the end of the world if cuts are made horizontal rather than the fussier 45-degree angle. In fact studies in England where gardens have been pruned with chain saws conclude it doesn't make a whit of difference. Our philosophy was it is more important to have the bushes pruned lightly, to leave a lot on so the plant has plenty of canes with stored sugars to produce new growth and lots of bloom.

Traditionally the general rule when pruning hybrid teas is to remove all canes that are less than the width of a pencil. This is not the rule for pruning floribundas for two reasons. First, many of the canes on floribundas are less than pencil width. Second, more is left on floribundas or less is removed because the goal is to have a mass of blooms. What does this tell us? Leave more on and the rosebush will produce more roses. Therefore when pruning in a public garden remember our focus is maximum display so disregard the pencil rule and please be generous, leave lots of canes so the plants will reward us with lots of roses.

What about basals and suckers? Basals are new canes that emerge from the bud union, and suckers are canes that emerge from below the bud union and are actually rootstalk which left on the bush sucks all the energy out of the rose. Unfortunately often gardeners mistake basals for suckers and chop off the wrong stuff. We avoided this calamity by directing volunteers to prune high then dispatched a specially trained group on sucker patrol.

Pruning high for maximum display was a huge success. The Rose Garden, which contains approximately 3,500 plants, was pruned in only 2 hours, which translated to a rate of 33 rpm or roses per minute. That was quite an achievement, but even better was the abundance of bloom all year.

To watch a pruning tutorial – go to our web site!

Some Plain Talk About Planting Bare-Root Roses

By Beverly Rose Hopper, Master Rosarian

It's simple to plant a bare-root rose. Dig a hole, stick rose in, and cover roots with dirt. *Well maybe not that simple!* When it comes to giving advice on planting like any other aspect of rose advice, rose experts can spout off for hours on what's the right way to do it. After all, it's their passion (and mine!) But truth be told planting is easy, as long as you follow a few simple steps.

1. Buy a good quality grade #1 rose. Don't start off with a cheap lousy rose, it is not worth it.

2. Soak the roots or even better the entire rose in water for a few hours before planting. A large bucket or clean garbage can works good for this, though I will admit I have used the kid's bath-tub. Soaking the rose in water helps to re-hydrate the roots and canes. Some people throw in a bit of bleach or Vitamin B1 but plain water works fine too.

3. After soaking, give the ends of the roots a short trim. Now for anybody who has gone to the beautician or barber and asked for "short trim" and walked out almost bald, you know the difference between short trim and cutting off too much, so don't cut off too much! You can however, cut off any broken ends.

4. Dig a hole big enough to accommodate the roots and more. Many experts prescribe digging a hole 2' x 18". I have my own formula which has served me well over the years planting thousands of roses, and here it is: size of hole = size of roots + my energy.

5. Make sure you've got good drainage. True in life and true for roses. A lot of the soil in Santa Clara County is clay, some clay is good because it holds water but too much and the roots get waterlogged and rot. A good test is to fill a hole with water and if it doesn't drain out after several hours then you've got to dig a bigger hole to break through the hard pan or resort to pots.

6. Amend the soil or dump it on an unsuspecting part of the garden. Organics such as manure, compost, and alfalfa make wonderful soil amendments. Feed the soil, otherwise you've got just plain dirt. But if you don't want to be bothered mucking about then toss aside the native soil and use Supersoil or plain ol' planting mix.

7. Required, put a handful of Superphosphate in the bottom of the hole. It promotes strong root development.

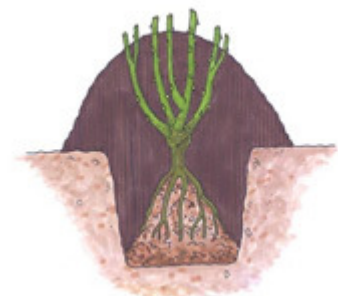
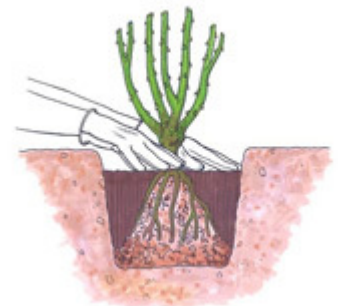
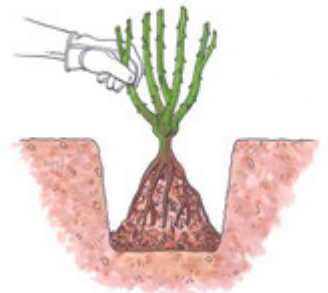
8. Not required but good to mix in is a handful of soil polymers, such as Soil Moist, which help retain/conserves water. Soil polymers when dry look like large sea salt granules but when hydrated expand into jelly like blobs. Some planting mix is sold with polymers already added. Useful in all plantings, but an absolute must if planting in containers, which require more frequent watering. Especially helpful for when you're on vacation and the neighbor's kid forgets to water your roses.

9. Make a soil cone at the bottom of the hole and place roots on cone to help stabilize the plant. This works for most roses purchased in US but if you ever import from another country you will find not all roots flare out to accommodate a cone.

10. Fill the hole with amended soil or mix high enough to cover the roots and part of the rose shank, but not so deep that the bud union is covered. In our climate, **leaving the bud union exposed** makes it a lot easier to tell at a glance whether those new canes are emerging from the bud union (basals) or below (suckers).

11. Water the rose when planted and give it lots of water all season long.

12. Mound the rose. Cover the rose including most of the canes with moist mulch. This prevents premature drying out of the canes from sun and wind while the roots have a chance to establish. Mounding a rose can be the difference between whether a bare root rose grows or dies, so make it a habit. After the rose begins sprouting new growth simply wash away the mulch.



What We Learned

We reviewed the past year to see what worked and where we could make improvements and here's some of the things that we will do differently.

Mid summer volunteer days will begin earlier than 9:00am. It gets pretty warm, and people are usually raring to go much earlier. We will also have a new sign-in procedure on volunteer days. It is important to know who showed up as we must report our hours to the city. I've also have a commitment from our local Rose Garden Central YMCA to donate Ice Cream to our events. They did it once last year, and have committed to doing it as much as we like next year – yum! On Master Volunteer days, we began to mix up the times and days so the people with varied schedules can participate. That seemed to work out well, and we will continue to do so. We may add people who can volunteer on weekdays, but who are not Master Volunteers, but can partner up with one.

From a horticultural standpoint, we've taken many steps but there are more improvements that we'd like to make. Certain practices such as using weed cloth and mulch were tried on a limited basis, and all agreed that it was very successful and needs to be expanded to most if not all of the beds. Weed cloth was installed using hooks imbedded in the soil to help hold it in place; a suggestion was made to try stapling the weed cloth to the edge of the bender boards and that is something the city staff will try next year. Besides expanding the weed cloth and mulch program, the fertilizer program will be enhanced. This year the roses were fertilized just once, with Osmocote, a slow-release fertilizer. Roses are heavy feeders, so next year they will also receive supplemental fertilizer about 5 times during the season, timed at the end of each blooming cycle to boost a new flush of roses.

Roses need a lot of water; in fact the key to growing good roses is plenty of water. The Rose Garden is on automatic system of course, but no irrigation program is problem-free. Sprinkler heads get plugged up, buried or broken, and pipes need to be replaced on

occasion. Volunteers have been very helpful in alerting staff to issues, and hopefully will continue to do so. Ironically, one of the visual clues that a bed may be lacking irrigation is not only droopy rosebushes, but also brown weeds!

Did you notice how little fungal disease has been present in the Rose Garden lately? Happy, healthier bushes are better able to ward off disease. Gardener Lance reports that he also sprayed the garden with environmentally friendly Neem Oil several times this fall with excellent results.

We began this group in uncharted territories. If you have any suggestions on ways it can improve, drop us an e-mail!

AARS WEB SITE RE-DESIGN

The All-American Rose Selections is a non-profit association of rose growers and introducers dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. They also judge and accredit public rose gardens and recently reinstated the Municipal Garden's National Accreditation.

They have recently revamped their web site to include lot more information for consumers. You should really check it out at www.rose.org Of particular interest, check out the link on Growing Roses. It contains in depth sections on the types of roses, planting roses, and the care of roses.

Since 1938, the AARS has been dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses, and the beauty of roses for American home gardens. Their new web site includes a wealth of information and I would encourage you to take a look.



Lance and his crew prepares beds for new roses

New Breast Cancer Rose Gives the Promise of Hope

All-America Rose Selections 2009 Winning Rose, *Pink Promise*, Raises Awareness and Funds for National Breast Cancer Foundation

2009 is a history making year for All-America Rose Selections (www.Rose.org). For the first time in the 70 year history of the AARS a winning rose has been chosen to represent a cause. The 2009 hybrid tea winner *Pink Promise* is privileged to become a sponsor of the National Breast Cancer Foundation which helps to extend women's lives through early detection and education.

Pink Promise is a hybrid tea rose whose beauty is enhanced by the contrast of its large, brilliantly formed pink blossoms set against lush dark green foliage. Along with its stunning appearance, *Pink Promise* has excellent disease resistance, flourishing in many climates. *Pink Promise* is a highly fragrant rose which fills any room with a deliciously fruity scent. *Pink Promise* will officially represent a continual blooming promise of compassion and awareness.

"I have always been a lover of roses and *Pink Promise* symbolizes the beauty and hope that we at the National Breast Cancer Foundation wish for all women," said

Janelle Hail, Founder and CEO of the National Breast Cancer Foundation. "Nothing expresses that hope and beauty more than a rose and I am very touched that the National Breast Cancer Foundation has been chosen for such an honor."

"The National Breast Cancer Foundation's mantra is 'Help for Today...Hope for Tomorrow' and *Pink Promise* intends to spread that message with each bloom for years to come," said Jim Coiner of Coiner Nursery who hybridized *Pink Promise*. "I am so proud we created a rose that is not just easy to maintain and beautiful in the garden but also represents an important cause. I want this rose to be a symbol of hope in gardens across America."

To be chosen as an "AARS Winner," the new 2009 roses thrived during two years of comprehensive testing in 23 gardens nationwide. In fact, these roses flourished in 15 categories including the ability to resist disease, overall beauty and general ease of maintenance. Each winning rose bears the AARS red-rose seal of approval that ensures gardeners the plants will grow beyond expectations with little maintenance. *Pink Promise* was hybridized by Jim Coiner and introduced by Coiner Nursery of LaVerne, Calif.



AARS WINNERS

When purchasing a rose, you may see this symbol, which means it is an AARS winning rose, one that has won an extensive two year trial program in test gardens located throughout the U.S. and representing all climate



zones. New rose varieties in the AARS trials receive only as much care as would be given in the average home garden. This sophisticated evaluation process results in a new crop of AARS winning roses each year, guaranteeing that only the best make it into your garden. They are evaluated on everything from disease resistance to flower production, color and fragrance. The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is filled with AARS winning roses, as shown by the AARS symbol. So when purchasing your roses this year, look for the symbol of a winner.

Look for these Suppliers when Purchasing Roses



Jackson & Perkins

