



Digging It!

June, 2013

Coming up Roses!

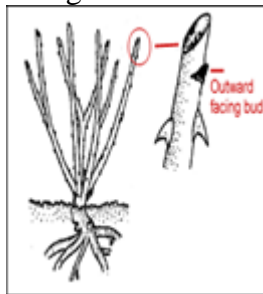
Many people believe that roses are too much work, however with a few simple tips you can enjoy the benefit of these exquisite beauties all season long. Many disease-resistant cultivars will help you avoid black-spot and powdery mildew problems.



Choose hardy Canadian-grown roses from the Explorer, Parkland and Artist series that are winter hardy down to -35C with only snow as winter protection, are disease resistant and flower repeatedly throughout the summer. They require minimal pruning and come in a variety of colours and sizes. Some examples are: Explorer Roses, Alexander MacKenzie, JP Connell, John Davis, Lambert Closse, William Baffin. Parkland Series, Morden Sunrise, Winnipeg Parks, Adelaide Hoodless, Hope for Humanity. Artist Series, Emily Carr, Felix LeClerc, Bill Reid, Campfire. Palatine Roses have come out with Fairy Tale and Vigorosa roses that are prolific, disease resistant re-bloomers.

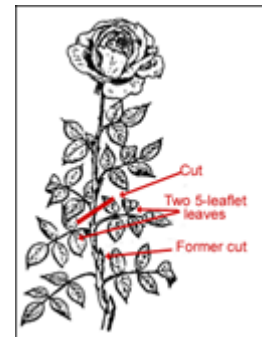
Clean up old debris from the ground around each plant or you will be encouraging pests. Planting "Sweet Alyssum" around edge of garden attracts many nectar-loving insect pollinators such as Braconid wasps that eats Saw Fly larva, green lacewing and hoverflies that devour aphids. Garlic is also known to deter aphids from your roses. Dormant oil spray should be applied to the plant and the ground around it on a dry day when it will not be below 10°C for 24 hours. (This spray should be applied when buds are still pink with no green showing.)

Roses need lots of moisture to perform well especially until they are well established. Water each plant with 1" of water each week applied at ground level. Early morning watering is best as having foliage wet going into the night encourages diseases. A handful of Epsom salts sprinkled around the plant spring and summer will promote strong foliage.



Pruning your rose bush will not only encourage healthy growth spurts but keep your plant looking aesthetically pleasing. Established roses should be pruned when the canes show

signs of growth, usually early April. Cuts should be made with sharp, clean shears to live wood at a 45 degree angle above an outward facing bud, this will determine the direction of the new growth. Prune dead, diseased, or damaged canes first cutting them clean to the crown, then remove any interfering canes that are pressing over others.



There are further considerations for pruning depending on which variety of roses you might have. Hybrid teas to 3-5 canes with 3-5 buds each. Grandifloras and Floribundas to 5-7 canes with 5-7 buds. If you do not know what kind of rose that you have, this is a good place to start. For climbers remove dead, diseased, damaged, or interfering canes and take out older wood using new ties for supports. Newly planted roses need to be pruned back quite severely, leaving only 3 strong canes, 4-6 inches long.

Attend the Huronia Rose Society's annual show at the South Shore Centre, 7pm, June 25, 2013 for inspiration and lots of free advice.

Linda Peacock,
Master Gardener

June TO DO List

- Stake plans before they fill in (Peonies, Hydrangea).
- Apply mulch to shrub plants before they fill in
- Pinch back Artemesia, Bee Balm, Black-eyed Susans, Catmint, Purple Coneflower and Shasta Daisies to encourage busier growth
- Prune early flowering shrubs that have finished blooming (e.g. Lilacs) to encourage new growth for next year.
- Water transplants regularly until they become established
- Weed as they appear to avoid spending more time later
- Fertilize roses and other flowering plants
- Have a gardening question or need to identify a plant or pest, ask a Master Gardener (contact information to the right).

Tip of the Month:

Apply nematodes to your lawn. These awesome little microscopic critters will help prevent lawn pests. They come in pucks at greenhouses. You just add water to loosen them up. Late May and early June is a good time now that the temperature is consistently above 60 degrees.

Digging it!

Newsletter of the Simcoe County Ask a Master Gardener books containing answers to your most common gardening questions are available at any of these speaking engagements for only \$10 or Gardening Guides for only \$1. Valuable references for you or as gifts for a gardening friend!

Master Gardeners

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Editor Cherin Harris-Tuck



Master Gardeners of Simcoe County

Where to find us for free gardening advice!

Simcoe County Master Gardener Meeting,

White Pine Board Room, Midhurst, 7:00 pm, June 18, 2013

All in June

*A week ago I had a fire
To warm my feet, my hands and face;
Cold winds, that never make a friend,
Crept in and out of every place.*

*Today the fields are rich in grass,
And buttercups in thousands grow;
I'll show the world where I have been--
With gold-dust seen on either shoe.*

*Till to my garden back I come,
Where bumble-bees for hours and hours
Sit on their soft, fat, velvet bums,
To wriggle out of hollow flowers.*

William Henry Davies

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For information on arranging a lecture for your group please contact Tracy Bosley at 705-435-2608 or email her at tvbosley@rogers.com. For more information on Master Gardeners.