



Miss-Lou



Quarterly Bulletin for the Gulf District of the
American Rose Society

Winter Issue February - 2022

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Photo BJ Abshire



'Souvenir de la Malmaison'

1st Annual Spring Rose Festival and Garden Marketplace

America's Rose Garden - Shreveport, LA
March 25th - 10am - 6pm
March 26th - 8am - 5pm

Something New. Something Different. Something Social.
A Great Time to Celebrate Being in the Garden.

Admission \$10 - Enter through Visitor Center

- Tour the newly renovated rose gardens
- Browse garden vendor booths
- Purchase rose bushes and rose supplies
- Purchase garden crafts and garden supplies
- Learn about modern & old garden rose varieties
- Attend rose care programs such as rose propagation, basic rose care, and arrangements for the home and more



Gulf District Early-Spring Workshop

Saturday March 26, 2022 9:30-2:00

American's Rose Garden - Shreveport, LA

Held in conjunction with Spring Rose Festival and Garden Marketplace March 25th and 26th

Something new. Something different. Something educational for all rose growers. An opportunity to tour the newly renovated rose gardens at the American Rose Center, purchase roses, purchase rose supplies, browse garden vendor booths and attend rose care programs. The idea is to make this a rose lovers yearly destination similar to the past rose and garden festivals held at Antique Rose Emporium in Texas and Crystal Springs in Mississippi.

The usual Mid-Winter workshops for CR credits will be replaced by the online February Consulting Rosarian School with CRs earning one credit for each class. The new Early-Spring Workshop will feature 20 minute rose garden sessions in Klima Hall while demonstration will simultaneously be offered outside on the Wellan Terrace. Members will choose which sessions or demonstration they wish to attend. Rose society members will have lunch together in Klima Hall with time to visit the vendors and gardens before the sessions or after lunch.

Klima Hall - 20 minute workshop sessions

10 - 10:15: Greetings from District Director Peggy Martin

10:15 - 10:35: *Basic Rose Care* - Connie Reeves

10:45 - 11:05: *Recommended OGRs* - Peggy Martin

11:15 - 11:35: *Recommended Modern Roses* - Carol Shockley

11:45 - 12:05: *Garden Structures* - Pam Smith

12:15 - 12:35: *LA Super Plants as Companions* - Allen Owings

12:45: Lunch, Gulf District Awards, Recognitions, Announcements.

Catered Lunch donated by Flora and Frank Hover.

Fried catfish, hush puppies, coleslaw, pecan pie.

Wellan Terrace - 10:15 - 11 Simultaneous Demonstrations

~Propagation Techniques
by hybridizer Steve Roussell
Rooting cuttings and grafting

~Arrangement Techniques
Secrets behind stable arrangements

~Tools & Gadgets
by B. J. Abshire
Making Gardening Easier

A few hotels located on Financial Plaza, all in close proximity to one another and approximately 6 miles from American Rose Center

Courtyard by Marriott - 6001 Financial Plaza

La Quinta - 6700 Financial Plaza

Comfort Suites - 6715 Financial Plaza

Hilton Garden Inn - 5971 Financial Plaza

Ramada - 5555 Financial Plaza

March 26, 2022 Gulf District Early-Spring Workshop Registration Form

Name _____ Local Rose Soc _____

Each person complete a separate registration form. Fees may be paid jointly.

Email address _____ Phone _____

\$_____ Registration Fee \$10 per person. Deadline for registration is March 16, 2022.

Mail check payable to **Gulf District Rose Society.**

Send to Gulf District Treasurer: Kelly Texada, 5205 Saint Germain Blvd., Alexandria, LA 71303

You're Invited...

CenLa Rose Society March Meeting

At Poole Bros. Nursery in Forest Hill, LA.
Saturday, March 5, 2022, 10:00 am

A staff member will be on hand for information and to answer your questions.

More info next month on rose varieties and cost.

They also carry lots of annuals, perennials and other plants.

I-49 North...Forest Hill exit and go west for 1 1/4 miles...Poole Bros is on the right

Clyde Holloway's Rose Nursery,
11528 US-165, Forest Hill, LA 71430
Office 318.748.6803
Selling HT, Flor, climbers, Tree roses,
Drifts, KO,

Check us out
after visiting
Poole Bros.
Nursery

SWLA Spring Garden Expo & Conference

Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles, LA
SWLA Spring Garden Expo and Conference March 24-26 at Burton Coliseum Gulf Hwy, Lake Charles
Annual Spring Garden event \$4 entry fee Saturday and Sunday. Vendors, Speakers, and Master Gardener table with growing information from the experts at LSU Open House and Gumbo \$10 Thurs. March 24 at 6PM
Conference Speakers Sat and Sun March 25 -26
Doors open at 9AM close at 5PM.
Shop, Learn, Enjoy.
For more info Contact Robert Turley at LSU AgCenter Lake Charles LA rturley@agcenter.lsu.edu

Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show

March 12 - 13, 9:00am - 4pm
John M. Parker Coliseum

Spring Plant Sale

Independence Park Garden-Baton Rouge
The BREC Independence Park Spring Plant Sale will be on Saturday, April 9th, 2022 from 8am to 12 noon. Set up is prior to sale on Saturday morning. Let me know how many tables you will need. Hope you can join us.
Claire Fontenot 225 315-7814

Pruning Party at rose center. **February 18-19, 2022**

Bring pruners and gloves.
Please pre-register if you are staying for lunch so they will know how many.



What's Goin' On ?

Northeast Mississippi Rose Society Rose Show

Thursday, May 12, 9 - 3:30, Renasant Bank -Tupelo, MS
Exhibitors must provide their own show vases. There are 16 classes. Judging starts at 10:30 and is done by 12:30. There is no entry fee.

Out of towners should give advance notice if they will be staying for lunch...a complimentary lunch will be allocated for them.

For a show schedule contact ...

Show chairman Nancy Anderson nanderson5038@att.net

President Merrell Rogers merrellrd@aol.com

Tracy Kramer ocelot2255@bellsouth.net 662 419-9737

CenLa RS Rose Show

Tuesday, April 19,
7am -3pm

St. Rita's Catholic
Church

4401 Bayou Rapides Rd.
Alexandria, LA

The Baton Rouge Rose Society

will hold its spring pruning event on Saturday, February 12, 2022 from 9 -11 am in the rose garden at Independence Park. For info Contact Dawn Plaisance at plaisancedwn@aol.com

Attention Photographers !!!

From Beth Smiley, ARS Publications Dir.

We are now accepting photos for the 2023 Roses Wall Calendar - open to all ARS members. Here are a few guidelines: Photos must be 13" x 11" AND at least 300 dpi.

Please, no more than 5 submissions, Digital photos only. The roses must be commercially available. Please identify all roses in photos.

Please contact Beth Smiley (beth@rose.org) for more details

Email submissions to beth@rose.org or mail a CD to American Rose Soc., ATTN: Editorial, P.O. Box 30000, Shreveport, LA

Deadline: June 1, 2022



*Money can't buy happiness.
But it can buy roses,
and that's the same
thing.*



IN MEMORIAM...

Bob Martin, Immediate Past President of the American Rose Society, passed away suddenly Friday, November 26, 2021 at his home in Escondido, California. Bob served as President of the American Rose Society from 2018 to 2021. He was a Master Rosarian, an Accredited Horticultural Judge, and an Accredited Arrangements Judge. Bob was an active rose exhibitor and educator and was the 2006 recipient of the ARS Guy Blake Hedrick, Jr. Award for lifetime achievement in rose exhibiting. In 2009 he was the recipient of the ARS Klima Medal for his lifetime contribution to rose education. Bob was well known as a humorous and effective speaker and rose evangelist, having spoken at 24 American Rose Society national conventions, at district conventions and more than 250 times at rose societies and garden clubs throughout the United States. He was also a prolific writer, having authored more than 700 published articles on roses. Bob will be greatly missed, and fondly remembered. He generously shared his knowledge of rose gardening, his enthusiasm and his humor with us all. Our deep condolences go to his wife, Dona, his family, and many friends. Cards may be sent to Dona Martin, 3291 Old Oak Tree Lane, Escondido, CA 92026-8416

Bob Martin, rose lover extraordinaire

by Carolyn Elgar, editor *Rose Gazette*, Orange County Rose Society, California

The Southern California rose community and members of the *American Rose Society* received some shocking and sad news last month when Bob Martin died suddenly at home. Bob had just completed his tenure as President of the *American Rose Society* and was looking forward to lots of time in his extensive rose garden.

Bob Martin was a terrific writer, rose presentation creator, exhibitor, and rose expert. He was a strong supporter of rose shows; one of the many tasks he took on was compiling the results of local, regional, and national rose shows annually so that he could help experienced and new rosarians decide what varieties would do well for them. He had a dry and appealing wit and a love of the English language. He was quiet, but when he spoke, everyone listened.

I worked with Bob on the 2020 Rose Annual; I was honored to be the editor that year. I spent time with him at rose shows and public events. He was a funny, knowledgeable, wonderful man, and his loss is one that will be hard for all the rose societies he belonged to and all the rosarians who knew him.

This abrupt and sorrowful news should remind all of us to enjoy the people we love and treasure the time we have. As the saying goes: take time to smell the roses.

~Bob's beautiful gardens (pictured below) were featured in many different garden tours, and he graciously spent time with anyone who had questions or wanted rose advice. The variety of number of roses he cared for was astounding. He will be sorely missed.

~Also pictured below is our own Billie Flynn, president of CenLa Rose Society and Gulf District secretary, socializing with Bob Martin in Houston at the South Central District Rose Show in 2017.



How to Deal with Scale Insects

By Dan Gill - LSU AgCenter Horticulturist

Scale insects are one of the more common groups of insects that attack plants. You may find them feeding on trees, shrubs and even on indoor plants. When they first hatch out of their eggs, scale insects are mobile. At this stage they are called crawlers, and they are very tiny. Most gardeners never notice these crawlers.

Once they settle down to feed and pierce the plant tissue with their needle-like mouthparts, they never move again and become firmly attached to a leaf or stem. Scales also cover themselves with waxy material that protects and hides them. Many gardeners don't recognize there is a problem until the plant is heavily infested and damage has occurred.

Scale insects come in many types, but here are a few of the most common. Tea scale insects are about the size of a hyphen, appear slightly fuzzy and are white or brown. They are a major pest of camellias and some hollies. Florida wax scales look like waxy, white domes about the size of a nail head and occur on a wide variety of plants. Euonymus scale, on the other hand, attacks euonymus and resembles tea scale. On magnolia trees, false oleander scale looks like small white bumps on the leaves, and magnolia scale appears as yellow waxy blobs about one-quarter to one-half inch across on the branches. Soft brown scale occurs on ficus, scheffleras and other indoor plants. Fern scale appears as white dashes on the fronds. There are many others.

As scale insects feed on the sugary sap of a plant, they excrete some of the sugar as a liquid called honeydew. The honeydew accumulates on the foliage and can cause it to look shiny and feel sticky. This rich food source does not go unnoticed. Ants, wasps and other insects may be attracted to the sweet honeydew. Even more common is the growth of fungal organisms that produce an unattractive black coating on the leaf called sooty mold. These fungi feed on the honeydew and do not attack or directly damage the plant, but the appearance of sooty mold is often the gardener's first noticeable sign of trouble. Be aware that other sucking insects, such as whitefly and aphids, also produce honeydew that can lead to sooty mold. And sooty mold does not occur with some scales, such as tea scale.

Scales spread from plant to plant as tiny crawlers that have legs and can move around. Crawlers can be controlled with contact insecticides such as insecticidal soap or malathion, but most gardeners never notice them and miss the opportunity. Many scales produce crawlers in the spring. Once the crawlers have settled down to feed, they create their protective covering and contact insecticides are largely ineffective.

The safest effective way to control scale is with a horticultural oil spray. These insecticides contain oil in a form that will mix with water. When mixed and sprayed onto an infested plant, the oil coats the scale insects and clogs their breathing pores. The insects are suffocated rather than being killed by a toxic material. Brand names of spray oils include Volck (use only during cool weather), All Seasons and Year-Round.

For proper control, it is critical to apply the oil spray over every surface of the plant. If the insects are on the underside of the leaves and oil is only applied to the upper surface, it will have no effect on them. Because scale insects are difficult to kill, one or two follow-up applications should be made after the first one. Follow label directions carefully.

Oils are also effective against aphids, whiteflies, spider mites and the crawler stage of scales, and yet they are less harmful than other insecticides to beneficial predatory insects. Oil sprays are best used when the temperature is between 45 and 85 degrees, and they should only be applied to plants that are not in stress. That's one reason that the mild weather of spring is an excellent time to use them. Light, paraffinic oil, such as Year-Round spray oil and All Seasons spray oil, however can be used during the summer.

An added benefit of oil sprays is that they also help clean the unsightly sooty mold from the plant. The sooty mold will not quickly disappear when the scale has been controlled, but as the food supply is exhausted the sooty mold will eventually weather off. Oil sprays help speed the process.

Systemic insecticides are another option for controlling scale. These insecticides are sprayed onto the plant or applied to its roots. The plant absorbs the insecticide into its tissue, and it gets into plant's circulatory system and into the sap. When the scale feed on the sap, they ingest the toxin insecticide and are killed. Acephate, imidacloprid and dinotefuran are three commonly used systemic insecticides that are effective against scale. Treatment involves purging the mixed insecticide at the base of the plant. Systemic insecticides provide an option for control when temperatures limit the use of an oil spray or when drenching around the base of the plant is more practical.

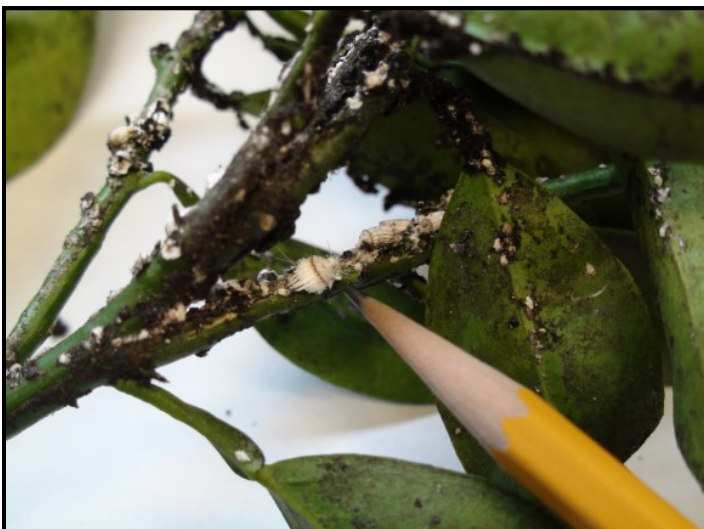
Always read and follow label directions carefully when using any pesticide.



Cottony Cushion Scale (photos Dan Gill)



Scale on rose canes
photos BJ Abshire



Tea scale



ARS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Have you let your membership lapse or are wondering if your ARS membership is worth the dues? Check out these benefits of being an ARS member.

Five issues of *American Rose* magazine, a \$50 value. The only magazine devoted exclusively to roses and rose culture, these bi-monthly, 84-page issues feature informative articles and beautiful photography for beginners and experienced rose growers alike. View a free issue online at www.rose.org. One issue of *American Rose Annual*, a \$20 value. The November/December issue of *American Rose* features 128 pages of the latest in rose research, growing techniques, tips and more, from writers across the country and abroad.

The Handbook for Selecting Roses, a \$10 value. Every year, Rosarians from across the country participate in rating the newest roses. From many reports, we tabulate the ratings and publish the results in this guide.

Monthly online newsletter *Roses & You*, edited by Rita Perwich and full of helpful tips and tools of the rose growing trade.

Free online access to the Modern Roses database.

Free Advice from Consulting Rosarians (CR). The CR program connects members with expert Rosarians who provide free assistance with your rose questions.

Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners. The ARS Membership Benefit Partner program offers discounts at a number of merchants with new partners being added continuously.

Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just three uses. With the Reciprocal Garden Admission program, members enjoy free or reduced admission to and discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide.

A subscription to *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine, a member benefit from the American Public Gardens Association Gardens & Institutions members. Available to new and renewing members with ARS.

A \$130+ value for only \$49!

Go to: www.rose.org and sign up today!

ARS membership dues are:

1 year membership

Individual - \$49
Senior - 65 plus - \$46
Joint - \$62
Senior Joint - \$59

2 year membership

Individual - \$95
Senior - 65 plus - \$89
Joint - \$117
Senior Joint - \$111

3 year membership

Individual - \$140
Senior - 65 plus - \$132
Joint - \$170
Senior Joint - \$162

ARS Consulting Rosarian School

The American Rose Society is once again hosting an online Consulting Rosarian School! Our Consulting Rosarian Program is one of the premier outreach resources for helping people grow roses. It is a volunteer program that fosters rose education for members and gardeners in our community...the cost of this program is free and anyone can watch and learn.

Online CR school:

February 5, 2022 1 PM CDT CR Mission & Ethics, plus Soil & Water, by Diane Sommers & Bill Kozemchak

February 12, 2022 1 PM CDT Fertilizer, presented by Brenna Bosch

February 19, 2022 1 PM CDT Insects and Diseases, presented by Baldo Villegas

February 26, 2022 1 PM CDT Chemical Safety, presented by Don Swanson

March 2-3, 2022 (Opens 3/2/2022 at 8 AM CST: Closes 3/3/2022 midnight CST) Online Exam

Scientific Research on Some Favorite Amendments

By Carolyn Elgar, OCRS Master Rosarian

After hard pruning roses in the late winter/early spring, the rosarian's thoughts turn to ideas about organic additions to the garden that will enrich the soil and promote more growth and flowers. Surveying the literature and the internet about rose culture results in a number of suggestions about how to give your roses an extra boost or special treat. But how does the gardener decide what to add and when? Plenty of rosarians will give you advice, and the companies that make these products will publish lots of positive information on their websites to encourage you to buy them. Probably the best indicator is also the most factual one: research conducted by scientists.

But research is so boring and hard to read, you say. Well, I will try to make this as painless as possible. Here's a review of some popular organic amendments and fertilizers, along with what the research supports.

Alfalfa Meal/Tea

Alfalfa as a fertilizer provides a number of nutrients to your plants; it is a good source of slow release organic nitrogen. However, the ingredient that makes alfalfa unique is its growth stimulant, triacontanol, a compound that has been proven to increase cell division and produce large root and shoot mass. Research on this originated in 1977 when a professor at Michigan State University, Stanley Ries, published an article claiming that alfalfa meal and chloroform extracts of the meal increased the growth and yield of several plant species. Since that time a number of studies have confirmed that triacontanol in alfalfa and alfalfa water extracts stimulate plant growth, even in the dark, independent of photosynthesis.

There are a few caveats to consider here. First, the studies concentrated mostly on the compound itself, rather than the alfalfa that contains it. Triacontanol itself is available as a liquid additive that can be sprayed on plants or used as a drench; apparently the compound is difficult to extract or combine with other additives. But Ries's initial experiments relied on alfalfa plants as a source of triacontanol, and we know alfalfa contains this chemical substance. Alfalfa meal is ground and, perhaps when well watered in, the triacontanol may become available. Another concern of some scientists is that alfalfa meal may make alkaline soils more alkaline. However, the studies do not show this as a permanent effect and the pH levels did not increase to damaging levels. Using alfalfa meal as a tea may reduce this effect, and it gives the meal time to ferment and perhaps more effectively release its triacontanol.

Earthworm castings

Worm castings are what earthworms leave after digesting food and soil. Worms feed on many forms of organic matter in the soil including plant parts, animal and insect remains, bacteria, and fungi. When these materials pass through the worm's gut, their nutrients are changed into a form that is more available for plant uptake, such as the nitrate form of nitrogen, soluble potassium, and exchangeable phosphorus and calcium. The castings hold two or three times their weight in water, making its retention in the soil another benefit. The surface area of the castings is larger than that of soil particles and supports beneficial microbial activity.

Research at *Ohio State University* that compared the effects of the fertilizer components that were the same as those contained in worm castings found that these components did not produce the same growth responses as the castings, leading to the assumption that the castings produced some kind of hormone-induced activity or that some kind of growth regulators were involved. *The growth responses of plants from vermicompost appears more like 'hormone-induced activity' associated with the high levels of humic acids and humates in vermicompost rather than boosted by high levels of plant-available nutrients.*

(Soil Ecology Laboratory, Ohio State University)

University plant growth research at *Ohio State, Cornell University, U.C. Davis*, and at other agriculture organizations have shown that plants treated with worm castings had increased plant size and bloom quantity and quality. The optimum application rate is a ratio of 10 to 20 percent castings to soil. A larger application did not improve results.

Finally, additional testing has shown using worm castings decreases the number of aphids, mealy bugs, and other arthropod pests. Earthworms produce a high level of chitinase enzymes in their castings. Chitinase dissolves the chitin in insect skeletons. Insects can detect the presence of chitinase in the soil and avoid it. Thus, worm castings can work as an effective pest repellent.

Humic acid

Humic acid is the carbon-rich material that remains after years of decomposition of living organisms such as plants, insects, and animals. It is produced in peat and coal. It occurs naturally as a liquid, but when the liquid is dehydrated, it leaves humates that contain the same compounds and have the same benefits as the liquid. Humic acid and humates improve the cation exchange capacity of the soil; this interaction of positive and negative ions allows it to hold onto nutrients. The crumb structure of the soil improves which enhances water retention and oxygen distribution. Humic acid can buffer high or low pH in the soil, making nutrients and trace elements that might be bound in the soil more available to the plant. As a result, photosynthesis is improved, increasing the sugars in the plant and promoting growth.

Numerous research studies conducted in the last 25 years have found that applying humic acid to the soil helps break up compacted soils, enhances water retention, improves root development, stimulates the development of beneficial microflora populations, and chelates nutrients, such as iron, so that the plant can absorb them. *Various micronutrients are further complexed with humic acid to form chelates - zinc, calcium, iron, and others... humic acid had beneficial effects on nutrient uptake by plants and was particularly important for the transport and availability of micronutrients. (Journal of Plant Nutrition, 2008)*

Mycorrhizae

Mycorrhizal fungi create a symbiotic relationship with a plant's roots. Because the filaments that this fungi produces as it grows from the roots are finer than root hairs and grow further into the soil, a plant's access to water and nutrients is increased. In exchange, the fungi feed on sugars from the plant. Around 15 to 20 years ago mycorrhizal fungi was considered the best new thing for roses; nurseries offered expensive inoculants to apply to the soil. Since that time information has become available to the home gardener about the fungi's fragility. Disturbing the soil and using chemical fertilizers will kill this beneficial web. Soils high in phosphorus, the nutrient that many rosarians use for increased bloom, will significantly reduce the amounts of this fungi.

The fungi are plant specific and are most beneficial in poor or unfertilized soils. General opinion now is that our garden soils already contain many of the nutrients that added mycorrhizae would capture; in addition, the fungi native to your soil may already exist as well as it can in your pampered garden. Many balanced organic fertilizers now contain a combination of different mycorrhizal fungi; buying a special inoculant is not necessary.

Seaweed/Kelp

Seaweed amendments can be liquid or solid, in emulsions or meals. The major nutrient that seaweed has the most of is potassium. But the special thing about seaweed is the growth stimulant it contains; in addition, seaweed has many trace minerals (over 60), amino acids, and vitamins that promote plant and soil health. The carbohydrates in seaweed provide food for beneficial microorganisms. Liquid seaweed can act as a soil conditioner, improving its texture and water retention.

Research supports the biostimulant effects of seaweed, and it has been used in crop production. Several university studies have demonstrated the impressive results of using seaweed. *The wide range of growth responses induced by seaweed extracts implies the presence of more than one group of plant growth promoting substance/hormones. (Journal of Plant Growth Regulation, 2009)*

The same studies determined that drought stressed plants treated with seaweed extract and humic acid increased their root mass by 21-68%. Researchers found that seaweed products create abiotic stress tolerance in plants. Although the action of the compounds that do this and increase plant growth are not clearly known, there is no doubt about seaweed's benefits.

Another interesting aspect to the research on seaweed is the discovery of the inhibiting impact of seaweed on root-knot nematodes. Nematodes are one of the rose lovers' major frustration; because the damage occurs under the ground, it is hard to diagnose, other than observing the weakening of the plant. *Seaweeds... showed more or less similar suppressive effect on root rotting fungi and root knot nematode to chemical fungicides (Topsin-M) and nematicide (carbofuran). (Journal of Applied Botany and Food Quality, 2011)* Application of seaweed can result in decreased levels of female nematodes and their eggs.

Fish Emulsion

Fish emulsion is made by processing the remains of fish products, grinding them into a slurry, and then straining the liquid. Its NPK is around 5-2-2, making it a good source of organic nitrogen. This is multiplied by the fact that the nitrogen in fish emulsion is quickly converted, for an organic fertilizer, into a form (mineralization) that the plant's roots can absorb, around two weeks after application. Fish emulsion may also contain micronutrients and whatever trace elements the manufacturer adds.

The research on fish emulsion is ambivalent. Most of the studies are done for the purpose of comparing it to chemical sources of nitrogen, in hopes of using it as a substitute that is organic and works well in poor soil. Many of the more recent studies have been based in third world countries where soil is not fertile and chemical fertilizer is expensive. For example, a paper published in Ethiopia in 2013 concluded the yield harvested from tomato and onion treated with fish offal's fertilizer is as comparable as that of chemical fertilizer. (*African Journal of Agricultural Research*) Other studies determined that fish emulsion provided benefits in some ways but not in others. One could conclude that fish emulsion is no better than any other organic source of nitrogen. But the relatively quick mineralization rate of the nitrogen in it makes fish emulsion a good choice when you want to give your plants a quick shot of organic nitrogen that won't burn roots.

Gypsum

Gypsum is calcium sulfate, a naturally occurring mineral. The benefits of gypsum are highly dependent on the type of soil in your garden. Although gypsum has been considered a soil amendment, its real impact lies in the fact that it is high in calcium and sulfur. Both of these elements can upset the balance of nutrients in the soil if it has too much of them. Soils that are heavy in clay, weathered, or high in sodium benefit from gypsum application. High sodium levels will reduce the soil's ability to absorb water and make the soil more compact. By absorbing sodium gypsum makes the soil more water absorbent and permeable. But most home gardens do not have these levels of sodium in their soil.

Although it is high in sulfur, this sulfur is not the elemental sulfur that acidifies soil. Thus gypsum has very little impact on the pH of the soil. Gypsum is more useful in agricultural applications in large growing fields than in the home garden. Although it may not impact pH, it will add calcium to the soil that will have negative effects if the soil already has adequate quantities of this element. Soils in low-precipitation regions tend to be neutral or basic in pH with considerably high concentrations of Ca... Typically, gypsum is not necessary in such regions due to the high native Ca content. (*Advances in Agronomy, 2017*) If soil compacting is a problem, the home gardener can remedy this by adding compost, a substance that will not affect the balance of nutrients in the garden.

Epsom Salts

What better way to end this review than to look at the controversial topic of Epsom salts and its affect on plants. Exhibitors and organic gardeners habitually put down Epsom salts to give their roses a little more color with its magnesium content or encourage basal breaks. Its use is advised by many gardening magazines and websites. It has been recommended by gardeners and professionals for years. These word of mouth endorsements from experts may be enough to convince a rose lover to use it on their roses.

Once again, overabundance of this nutrient will affect the uptake of others. Chances are your garden soil has enough magnesium; it may not be available to the plant because of high levels of another nutrient, such as potassium. Adding more will not get more magnesium to the plant. Although sandy and acidic soils may be magnesium deficient, a garden lover's fertilized soil probably isn't, and if it is, again compost will help level things out without affecting nutrient balance. And if that is not enough to convince you, read the following.

A soil test is absolutely required before using this chemical. (*Washington State University*)

Epsom salt has not been demonstrated through research to help roses grow or bloom better. (*Kelloggs Garden*)

The Bottom Line

The above reference to the necessity of a soil test is very relevant when using amendments that contain plant nutrients. Soil pH has the most direct effect on plants' nutrient absorption, and high levels of nutrients or micronutrients, with the possible exception of nitrogen, will inhibit the effectiveness of others.

There's a balanced, chemical, ionic dance going on in your soil. Other factors, such as beneficial microbes and bacteria contribute to soil health as well. When it comes to nutrient interaction, chemistry is a major factor contributing to success or failure. It's a complex, natural harmony.



Although we want to pamper our roses and produce the largest blooms, we could inadvertently become our garden's biggest enemy if we try to change things without the proper information. Before you add potential unneeded nutrients to your soil, check out what is already there with a soil test. But you can still add good things to the garden that will enhance your roses' growth and development. Worm castings, humic acid, kelp, and fish emulsion won't change your soil pH and have been researched and consistently found to have positive, nondestructive benefits for the garden. You can't go wrong with them. Make sure to read the directions on the product you choose for the proper application. There's no point in using more than your need and it won't benefit your plants. *References available upon request.*

<u>Product</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Research Results</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
Worm Castings	mineralizes nutrients; improves soil texture and water retention; increases microbial activity; contains growth hormones	very positive	use it
Humic Acid	improves nutrient retention in soil; improves soil texture and water retention; chelates minerals for improved uptake	very positive	use it
Seaweed/Kelp	60 trace elements; growth stimulant; nematode suppression	very positive	use it
Fish Emulsion	mineralizes nutrients quickly; 5% nitrogen	ambivalent	use it for nitrogen
Alfalfa	contains triacontanol, a growth stimulant	positive for triacontanol	other things are better
Mycorrhizae	increases roots' nutrients and water intake	good for poor soils	get it in organic fertilizer
Gypsum	contains calcium and sulfur; decreases soil sodium	use for calcium	get a soil test first
Epsom salts	contains Magnesium Sulfate	has no effect on plant	get a soil test first

Carolyn Elgar is a Master Rosarian with the Orange County Rose Society. The article was previously published in the March, 2020 of the Rose Gazette, the newsletter of the Orange County Rose Society and is a 2020 Award of Merit winner.



Pink Sport of 'Gypsy Soul'



'Garden and Home'



'Good As Gold'

Progress! We Have Resistance to Rose Rosette Disease!

Mark Windham, Professor and Distinguished Chair, University of Tennessee

Just a short while ago, the standard line for resistance to rose rosette was that resistance to rose rosette disease was unknown. We can now put that statement to bed! Through efforts by Dave Byrne, Oscar Riera-Lizarazu, and Brent Pemberton (Texas A&M University), Mark Windham, Frank Hale, and Alan Windham (University of Tennessee) and Tom Evans (University of Delaware) and the support of organizations such as the American Rose Garden Selections (ARGS), the Heritage Rose Foundation, and the Research Trust of the American Rose Society and private donors like you, resistance has been identified in ten *Rosa* species, five *Rugosa* hybrids, six rose cultivars and five rose breeding lines. These results took many years of exhaustive research involving thousands of hours of data collection, plant maintenance, virus screenings and data analyses.

However, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. ***Instead, it is urgent that we refocus our work toward getting rose rosette resistance genes into roses needed by the rose industry and for rosarians' gardens.*** Imagine a rose garden where rosarians can once again work toward reaching the maximum potential of hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras, climbers, miniatures, etc. without having to scout for rose rosette disease and destroying valued roses that are symptomatic for the disease. No longer would private and public gardens fear the destruction of their roses! This future is now possible, but to accomplish this goal, we must have your support.

Currently, Texas A&M (Fig. 1) is producing thousands of cuttings of seedlings for testing by the University of Tennessee for resistance to rose rosette disease. These seedlings are crosses between susceptible roses with the superior rose characteristics that rosarians crave and plants with rose rosette resistance. Seedlings will be tested for field resistance to rose rosette virus in research plots at the UT Plateau and Research Center near Crossville TN (Fig. 2) and duplicate seedlings will be evaluated in Texas for resistance to foliar diseases such as black spot and cercospora leaf spot and other desirable horticultural traits. This project will be headed by Drs. Dave Byrne and Mark Windham (Fig. 3) and will be also supported by the work of other scientists such as Dr. Oscar Riera-Lizarazu who will be responsible for genetic analysis of field data.

We need your help if we are to achieve our goal of reducing the impact of rose rosette disease on roses you want for your garden. A donation for supporting our research will be directed at producing disease resistant roses. We are committing our time and resources toward this goal, but we cannot be successful without your support. We hope that you will partner with us in this project where the goal is the production of rose rosette resistant roses that you will enjoy growing in your garden for many years to come.

Imagine a world without Roses! Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) poses an existential threat to the Rose, the Rose Industry and the Rose Hobby organizations, such as the American Rose Society, Heritage Rose Foundation, World Federation of Rose Societies. It is a virus that attacks the rose and currently there is no treatment or cure.

This research has been mainly funded through a federal program called Specialty Crops Research Initiative (SCRI). The bad news is that the recent SCRI grant proposal wasn't funded and unless we can raise enough money to continue the research through September 2022, when hopefully it will be funded, much of the progress made toward a cure (resistant rose cultivars) will be lost.

Paul Zimmerman has made a video on RRD with Dr. David Byrne and Dr. Kevin Ong from Texas A&M University and Dr. Mark Windham from the University of Tennessee. He has donated that video to be used in conjunction with this GoFundMe page. This is a joint effort between Paul Zimmerman Roses LLC, the University of Tennessee and Texas A&M University. The video is in conversational format and was done via Zoom with many wonderful and informative visuals. They cover its history, how it spreads, how to recognize it, possible ways to prevent it and what to do about it. Then they answer questions submitted by folks on Paul's Facebook Group Page. This video was done independently under Paul Zimmerman Roses. There are no sponsors. The video can be found on Paul's YouTube channel.

gofundme.com/f/raising-funds-for-rose-rosette-disease-research

An Appeal to Support Dr. Mark Windham's Research on RRD

Here is a short 5-minute video explaining the progress made in finding resistance to RRD
<https://youtu.be/Oz3v6SUt32A>

Our goal is \$50,000 to help keep the two research gardens going – one at Texas A&M and one at University of Tennessee. The loss of these gardens would set the research back 5-10 years and place the future of Rose in jeopardy. Please donate whatever you can today!

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Students at Texas A&M making cuttings of seedlings to be screened for resistance to rose rosette disease by the University of Tennessee.



Roses (September 2021) being screened for resistance to rose rosette disease at the University of Tennessee Plateau Research and Education Center.



Drs. Mark Windham and Dave Byrne evaluating roses for rose rosette virus in Tennessee in September 2021.

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A Quarterly Publication
for the Gulf District of MS & LA
Affiliated with the
American Rose Society



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