



THE ROSE SOCIETY OF TUCSON'S

# Thrip Hater

An Affiliate Of The American Rose Society



September 2025

Editor: Donna Kamper

Vol. 65, N° 07

## September RST Meeting

Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Social Time: 6:30

Meeting start: 7:00

## Fall Rose Pruning

Featured Presenter: Terry Swartz

Terry Swartz is scheduled as our featured speaker at the next Rose Society of Tucson meeting on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

With over 50 years of rose growing experience, Swartz will give a complete demonstration on how to lightly prune your roses plus give tips and tricks for bringing roses back to life from the brutal summer we have endured so that you experience a terrific bloom cycle in November.

Terry is current Vice President of the Rose Society of Tucson, along with being an American Rose Society Accredited Judge and Consulting Rosarian. He will explain when to cut back your roses as well as when to

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## President's Message

### Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a pleasant summer and wasn't scorched too badly by the heat. With any luck, we'll have cooler temperatures soon.

**For your calendar** Arizona Rose Society's Annual Luncheon, Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. All four Arizona Rose Societies come together for a Small Rose Show, lunch and a program. This year it's held here in Tucson!

Tickets will be \$30. More details and ticket sales will be available soon. Please contact a Board member if you're interested in helping to set up, clean up or otherwise help out with putting this event on.

A big congratulations to RST member Pat Colburn! She is also a member of and newsletter editor for the Denver Rose Society. She won the Silver Certificate in the American Rose Society's 2024 Newsletter Competition! This is an amazing accomplishment. We are all proud of her and her work.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meetings again. As always, happy gardening!

 Krystal Schmich, RST President

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start an aggressive fertilization program which will result in large, colorful blooms as your garden bursts forth with color in November.

Swartz will also explain why certain roses should not be pruned. Those include plants that lack the proper amount of foliage due to leaf drop caused by the blistering summer we have just endured.

The last thing you want to do is prune roses in early October if they have little foliage. This could result in canes turning black from the bud union going upward and could result in the plant's death.

It is a wiser course of action NOT to prune a rose with little or no foliage. Simply wait until January to perform a deep pruning, which is safe at that time, without fear of killing your plant.

Keep in mind that once you lightly prune your roses in early October, the daily high temperatures will still be near 100° for another month if we experience normal temperatures.

## **Another Quality Speaker**

### **Les Hayt**

Also on tap for our September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be an important presentation by veteran Tucson rose grower Les Hayt who has over 50 years of experience. He will explain what you should be doing in your rose garden during the month of September.

There are several important chores to consider in September as we finish up another long, hot summer. At the top of the list is proper watering and switching to a fall fertilizer program that will result in spectacular blooms next November.

Spraying off the leaves of your rose foliage is also vital with a blast of water every morning to keep spider mites from defoliating your roses and raise the humidity for better growth. Les will be happy to answer all questions from the audience.

**Attendance is free.** Location and time on page 1. Bring a friend to enjoy an evening with people who have a passion for growing great roses.

 Terry Swartz, RST Vice-President

## **How To Grow Killer Roses This Fall**

It has been another brutal summer in Tucson as the mercury has eclipsed 95° virtually every day. We have had 70 days over 100° and a handful over 110° as of August 24<sup>th</sup>. As we close out another summer, our attention in the rose garden shifts to preparing our plants for a spectacular bloom cycle in November.

If you have been taking care of your roses this summer with our *Monthly Care Guide* on our website ([www.tucsonrosesociety.com](http://www.tucsonrosesociety.com)), your roses should have lots of foliage going into September. This was our No. 1 goal as we entered the summer.

As a reminder, it was highly recommended that you utilize 63% shade cloth over your roses once temperatures hit 90°. We also recommended you spray off the foliage of your roses with water every morning with a Fogg-it Nozzle (heavy volume, 4 gallons per minute) screwed on your hose to prevent spider mite infestations. They suck the life out of foliage and cause leaf drop. With infestations of spider mites, they can defoliate entire bushes in only a few weeks.



It was also recommended to fertilize your roses properly the first of the month in May, June, July and September (see "Rose Care Guide" on the Tucson Rose Society website). And obviously, you needed to water your roses regularly so no wilting took place.

Neglect in one or all of these actions probably resulted in unhealthy looking roses going into September with dead branches and a severe lack of foliage and new growth.

## **Battle Plan For Great Fall Rose**

After a summer of watering almost every day, your potted roses undoubtedly need more potting soil. If so, the ideal potting soil is 4 parts Kellogg's Patio Plus potting soil (can be purchased from Home Depot or Lowe's), 1 part peat moss and 1 part perlite mixed well in a wheelbarrow.

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How To Grow Killer Roses This Fall, continued from page 2



Sparse foliage after  
summer pruning

The top of the soil should be approximately 2" from the top of the container. Once that is done, fertilize your plants with one handful of Milorganite gray granules (can purchase at Ace Hardware) on the soil of each plant. Then it comes down to watering your roses thoroughly as much as they need it.

For established rose bushes in pots, this means watering every day. For roses in the ground, you may be able to get away with watering once every other day. It

all depends on the temperature, soil

structure and how quickly water percolates through the soil and dries up. While you can water any time of day, it is recommended that you water late in the afternoon.

Every morning, spray off your roses with a jet of water supplied by that Fogg-It nozzle (heavy volume, 4 gallons per minute) screwed on your water hose. You can purchase this great brass nozzle on the Internet for about \$14 from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Make sure you spray underneath the leaves of plants. By doing this daily, it will prevent spider mites from getting started. The added benefit is adding humidity to your garden which is vital in Tucson's arid summer conditions. The last day to spray off your roses with water is the day before you prune your roses.

### Examine Every Plant Carefully

Prior to lightly pruning your roses in early October, it is important to take a note pad out to the garden and find out which roses you can actually cut back. If a plant only has foliage on the top 1/3 of the plant, and cutting back the rose will result in no foliage left, **DO NOT PRUNE THIS BUSH!**

I can't emphasize that enough. You will in all probability kill any bush that you do this to at this time of year. Trying to push roses at this time of year by pruning back roses with little or no foliage is recipe for death.

The typical scenario that happens when roses are cut back with no leaves is canes will start turning black from the bud union going up one by one until the plant is dead. It is a horrible death march to see.

Over a 10-year period many years ago, I killed over 40 roses by pulling this stunt. I finally wised up and stopped pruning roses which had little foliage in the fall. With plants such as this, the smart course of action is to wait and prune them the following January. In the last 35 years, we have not had one rose die by not pruning bushes with little or no foliage left on plants in early October.

Many years ago, I inadvertently discovered a technique that stops canes from turning black from the bud union going up after pruning roses like this with no foliage one fall. One of our 5-gallon potted roses with very little foliage was pruned in early October. I watched it like a hawk to see if any cane would begin turning black at the bud union. Sure enough, one cane started.

Out of frustration, I picked it up and just tossed the 5-gallon container on the porch knowing it would die a slow, agonizing death. But something fascinating happened. With full shade all day and obviously at night, the cane sopped turning black. No other canes turned black either. The plant didn't die.

In January, I heavily pruned it after planting it in a much larger container. That plant of *Zach Nobles* eventually grew into a monster over 8' tall.

### Lightly Trim Your Roses

After a summer of intense heat, all rose plants with adequate foliage need a light trimming in early October to set the stage for spectacular November blooms. This IS NOT the deeper pruning of plants that you perform in January.

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### *How To Grow Killer Roses This Fall, continued from page 3*

For the early October light trimming, cut out all dead canes from the summer. Next, you want to cut a maximum of 1/3 off the top of each plant, hopefully with many canes being at least pencil thick. Sometimes you can't do that, but it is the goal.

After pruning your roses the first week of October, you will enjoy a bounty of roses within 55 days that allows you to enjoy a great bloom cycle in November when the weather is cooling off. That means roses for Thanksgiving and possibly for Christmas if freezing weather holds off.

Keep in mind that the daily high temperatures in early October are still near 100°, and will be close to 100° through October. That is another great reason to have shade cloth over your roses. Once you lightly prune your roses at this time, the tender, new growth will be protected from burn damage.

When the weather cools off in November, you can take the shade cloth down. The reverse weather pattern takes place after the deeper pruning each January as roses are cut back in perfect weather near 70° and allows roses to bloom within 90 days each April, almost double the time it takes each Fall.

The difference is that when roses bloom each April, the weather changes rapidly from perfect 70° weather in March and early April to near 100° when the Tucson Rose Show takes place the third Saturday in April.

By contrast, in the fall, plants begin blooming in mid-November when we enjoy high temperatures in the 70's. I have been keeping data on our roses for the past 41 years, allowing me to track when roses are pruned and bloom each fall and every January.

I encourage everyone to keep a rose calendar to track anything you want. I have found it useful for keeping records on how long roses take to bloom each Spring and Fall, as well as track how long the bloom cycles take place when you get unseasonably hot or cold weather. I always track what fertilizer I put on my roses each year and what spray

chemicals. In addition, I write down what bugs are attacking the plants throughout the year.

### **Fertilizers To Purchase For Fall**

There are three important fertilizers to purchase for Fall applications. They include **Magnum Rose Food (8-10-8)**, **Alaska Fish Fertilizer** and **alfalfa meal**. The most economical place in Tucson to purchase Magnum Rose Food is Triple A Fertilizer at about \$30 per 25 pound bag. Call Kevin Callaghan at (520) 861-4732 to arrange a pickup at his facility.

This fertilizer is without question the best to use for rose growing. It was designed by chemist and internationally acclaimed rose grower Dr. Tommy Cairns from Studio City CA, and has all the elements needed to grow big roses with rich color.

Another product you want to add at this time is **alfalfa meal**. This product stimulates new growth with a chemical called triacontanol. You can purchase alfalfa meal at OK Feed & Supply (Ft. Lowell and Dodge) for about \$20 per 50-pound bag.

The final product to consider using is Alaska Fish Fertilizer. It can be purchased at Home Depot, Lowe's and Walmart.

### **Fertilization Schedules**

There are two types of rose growers in Tucson. One is the casual gardener who is happy with average roses. Then you have the hard core grower who is after the biggest and best roses possible. Here is what you do for both.

**Casual Gardener:** On September 8 apply alfalfa meal to the soil of your roses (about 1 cup per large, established rose plant and ½ cup for large, established mini roses).

From September 6 to the middle of November, fertilize every two weeks with Magnum Rose Food (1 TBSP to 1 gallon of water) on the



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*How To Grow Killer Roses This Fall, continued from page 4*

soil of each plant. All roses should be well watered after 4PM the day prior to fertilizing.

**Hard Core Grower:** On September 6 apply alfalfa meal to the soil of your roses (about 1 cup per large, established rose plant and 1/2 cup for large, established mini roses).

From September 15 to mid-November, fertilize every week.

On week one, fertilize with Magnum Rose Food (1 TBSP to 1 gallon of water) on the soil of each plant.

On week two, fertilize with Alaska Fish Fertilizer (1 TBSP to 1 gallon of water) on the soil of each plant.

Then alternate every week up to the middle of November. All roses should be well watered after 4PM the day prior to fertilizing.

## Spraying Chemicals

There are two camps in rose growing – those who absolutely refuse to spray chemicals (for many reasons) and others who utilize chemical sprays to prevent damage to their plants from fungus diseases and insects.

If you are in the first camp, don't read any further.

Those who want perfect roses, read on.

Prior to spraying any chemicals on your garden you first should purchase several products to protect your body. A respirator that allows two organic vapor cartridges to be screwed on and goes over your nose and mouth is important.

Rucson Medical and Supply has a full line of respirators for sale along with cartridges rated for organic vapors. You also can purchase both products on the internet.

Eye protection is important as well as skin protection (protective clothing and chemical resistant gloves). The four



chemicals recommended to spray can be purchased on the internet at [www.domyownpestcontrol.com](http://www.domyownpestcontrol.com)

**Brandt Indicate 5** (*at right*) (about \$30 a quart): This adjuvant allows you to condition the water prior to putting in other chemicals. It changes the water to a pH of 5.0 which is ideal for the products you will use. It also has a wetting agent that will allow all chemicals in the solution to spread over surfaces smoothly without it congregating in areas which could burn foliage and blooms.



**Honor Guard PPZ** (*at left*) (about \$30 a pint): This fungicide keeps problems from developing such as mildew. Rarely does Tucson have any other fungus issue other than mildew.



**Merit 75 WP** (*at right*) (about \$36 for 2-ounce jar): This fine powder goes a long way with minimal amounts being utilized. It is great for aphids and thrips, the two biggest problems for roses.



**Acephate 97 Up** (*at left*) (about \$25 for 1 pound bag): This powder will stop aphids and thrips in their tracks. Chemically spray roses weekly after your roses are lightly pruned back in early October and continue once a week through the middle of November.



It is important to spray your roses early in the morning, for several reasons. First, there is usually little wind which means spray drift doesn't come back at you. Second, there are few birds or bees that are active at the crack of dawn. And third, the neighbors and their pets are usually not out at this time. Plus, there is no chance your plants will be burned by spray chemicals. If you opt to spray in the afternoon, serious burn damage on plants could take place if it is 100° or higher. Prior to spraying, make sure you bring inside any pets, pet food, water containers and hummingbird

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*How To Grow Killer Roses This Fall, continued from page 5*

feeders — anything that animals or birds may drink or eat that spray drift may fall on.

Be smart about spraying. Pour fresh water in a 1- or 2-gallon bucket. Mix in the following chemicals per label directions.

**Week 1:** Indicate 5, Honor Guard PPZ, Acephate 97 Up.

**Week 2:** Indicate 5, Merit 75 WP.

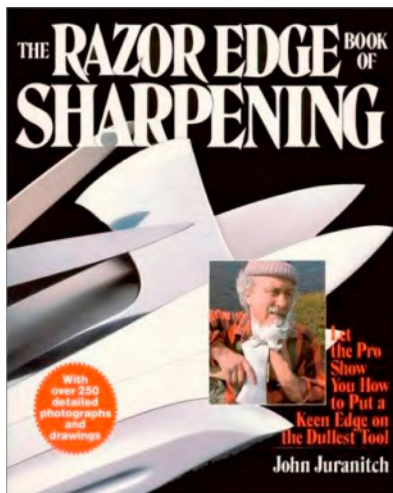
Alternate week 1 and week 2 every seven days up to mid-November.

### Sharpen Shears & Disinfect Them

Before you go out to lightly prune your roses in early October, I highly encourage you to sharpen your pruning shears first. I learned 40 years ago how to sharpen the blades of my Felco shears from the ultimate authority on the subject, John Juranitch.

This gentleman appears in the *Guinness Book Of World Records* by sharpening a dull ax and shaving his face with the razor sharp ax edge in a world record time of 14 minutes.

He came out with a book in 1985 which delved into his double edge sharpening system called *The Razor Edge Book Of Sharpening*. After



reading his book, I purchased the Deluxe Professional Kit from his company at [www.razoredgesystems.com](http://www.razoredgesystems.com).

It contains a 6" coarse and super ultra-fine hone (6"x2"x1/2"), the Razor Edge Guide for blades longer than 3 1/2", the Cub Guide for blades 3 1/2" and shorter, the pocket size Raz-R-Steel for maintaining your edges and Edge Tester to instantly determine edge perfection. These components are all contained in a hard-sided carrying case.

Then I took apart my Felco shears and sharpened the blade. It was so sharp that the blade edge cut hair off my arm! I kid you not. I cleaned all components of my Felco shears, put grease in the pivot areas and put it back together with perfect tension. Next, I used a cotton ball soaked in 90% Isopropyl Alcohol to disinfect the blades of my shears.

I learned many years ago as a boy what a great cleaning solution Isopropyl Alcohol is. My mom, an accountant, used an IBM Executive typewriter in those days which was cleaned periodically by an IBM technician.

He always soaked a rag with Isopropyl Alcohol and rubbed down all the keys of the typewriter and cleaned other areas in the machine. Isopropyl Alcohol doesn't corrode the blades of shears as some products do. It has been my go-to cleaner for blades on my Felco shears for over four decades.

With razor-sharp shears in hand, pruning rose branches is like a hot knife going through butter. In nearly 40 years of using razor sharp shears, I have never had one cane die back from a cut. Think of it this way. Would you rather have a surgeon operate on you with a razor sharp scalpel or a dull knife that leaves a big scar?

### Pruning Arm and Hand Protection

Prior to cutting back your roses, make sure you have a pair of 18" long split-leather welding sleeves, cost: under \$10. They will protect your arms from nasty thorn punctures while pruning your roses.



I picked mine up at [Harbor Freight](http://Harbor Freight) in Tucson. After you slip on the welding sleeves, put a good pair of garden gloves over your hands, to protect them as well against thorns.

 Lou Pavlovich, Rose Society of Tucson



## South Central Convention and Rose Show October 24th and 25th 2025

The SCD convention and show has been something we looked forward to every year. We have too few in-person rose events these days and I have many fond memories of this event.


Nowadays every type of rose is exhibited at our shows, but in years gone by the hybrid Tea was king. I remember one of these conventions that was held in San Antonio around 20 years ago.

The HT folks were shocked to see that large rose sweepstakes had been won by an exhibitor who grew only old garden roses. He had brought so many of them that his number of blue ribbons bested everyone else!

This year's convention features two guest speakers who will give us insights into roses that will be coming our way soon.

One is hybridizer Steven Roussell (Friday evening), and the other is Michael Johnson of David Austin Roses (Saturday afternoon).

Besides that, there will be so much opportunity for enjoying socializing with others who love roses as we all do. More information on the schedule of events is available on the San Antonio Rose Society's [website](#). I genuinely hope to see many of you there.

 *Mary Fulgham, reprinted from the Rosette, Houston RS., Master CR & Co-Editor*

## 2025 SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT ROSE SHOW & CONVENTION



**OCTOBER 24-25, 2025**  
**SAN ANTONIO GARDEN CENTER**  
**3310 N. New Braunfels Ave.**  
**San Antonio, TX 78209**

What can compare with the multicolored palette and the rapturous scent of the rose? San Antonio is eager to showcase this Queen of Flowers at this year's South Central District Convention. Come join us as we celebrate the romance of the rose, the symbol of love.

Events will all be held at the Garden Center at the Botanical Gardens and feature vendors and hybridizers of the new roses coming in our future. A full schedule of events and the show will be available soon. Please check our website for updates.

For an abbreviated show schedule, please contact:  
Meg Ware ([happycookie.mw@gmail.com](mailto:happycookie.mw@gmail.com))  
Holly Hodgins ([holahod@yahoo.com](mailto:holahod@yahoo.com))  
Dave Koch ([dktxrosa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dktxrosa@sbcglobal.net))

*We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.*

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## New Horizon Roses 2025

*New Horizon Roses 2025* has just been completed by Suzanne Horn. This superb publication is a look at the top new roses as evaluated by 111 top exhibitors across the USA.

A year-long project, the softcover 8" x10" book will be available for \$9.99 at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). The PDF version will also be available shortly after publication. Contact Suzanne Horn for more information at: [ladyredlhwa@aol.com](mailto:ladyredlhwa@aol.com).

The cover photo is a new miniflora that will be introduced by hybridizer David Clemons. It is called *Haley Victoria*, named after his daughter. It can be purchased through Wisconsin Roses ([www.wiroses.com](http://www.wiroses.com)) this fall.

"For the 23<sup>rd</sup> year, this tremendous resource for rose growers will feature candid comments about new roses from top exhibitors across the nation," said Lou Pavlovich of the Tucson Rose Society, an evaluator in the book.

"At the beginning of the book is a list of reporters and where they live. Reading comments about how these new roses perform in climates similar to ours in Tucson is extremely helpful.

"The reporters pull no punches and hammer poor roses, but gush about the greatness of superb new varieties. I have made sure this publication is part of my library every year because of these valuable comments which have saved me loads of money on roses that don't perform well in our challenging climate.

"I encourage all rose growers to purchase this great book. It features reports on new hybrid teas, minis, minifloras, floribundas, polyanthas and shrubs. A bonus section features a report from Ms Horn on roses of the future from commercial rose growing companies that have great potential."

Cover Photo: 'Haley Victoria' photo by David Clemons  
Suzanne Horn, National Editor



Lou Pavlovich, Rose Society of Tucson

## ARS 2025 Events

September 13, 2025

Saturday, 9:00AM to NOON

Tucson Iris Society is hosting a Rhizome Sale  
Harlow Gardens, 5620 East Pima Street

October 18, 2025

Saturday 8:00am — 11:00am

Pima County Master Gardeners Fall Plant Sale  
UofA Extension Service, near Campbell and Roger Road

December 6, 2025

Arizona Rose Societies' Luncheon Rose Show in Tucson at  
Sunrise Ridge Club House (6940 East Loma del Bribon).

Cost per person: \$30.

**Featured Speaker:** Ruth Tiffany, Pacific Southwest District Director who will give a presentation on Mentoring: *Growing the Art of A Rosarian*.

**Tickets:** They will be on sale at the November Rose Society of Tucson meeting at the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

## ARS 2025 Upcoming Webinars

If you are an ARS member, you should be getting emails that tell you about upcoming Webinars that are free to ARS members. If you are forgetful like me, you will need to set a reminder on your phone.

October 25, 2025

*What's New with Jackson & Perkins*

Speaker: Wes Harvell, Rose Category Manager & Rosarian for Jackson Perkins Park Acquisitions Inc.

November 22, 2025

Topic TBD

Speaker: Thomas Proll, Chief Hybridizer, Kordes Roses





## Postcard from N Alvernon

### Good Things Growing Here!

There is a myth at Tucson Botanical Gardens (TBG) that the summers are quiet. While it's true that the number of visitors decreases as the mercury rises, particularly after 10AM in the morning, the gardeners, facilities team, and program and events staff are a hive of activity from dawn to dusk.



That may have been even more true than ever this year as we prepare for the Gardens' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season. Here's what's been going on and what you can expect this fall.

### Visitor Center Remodel Project

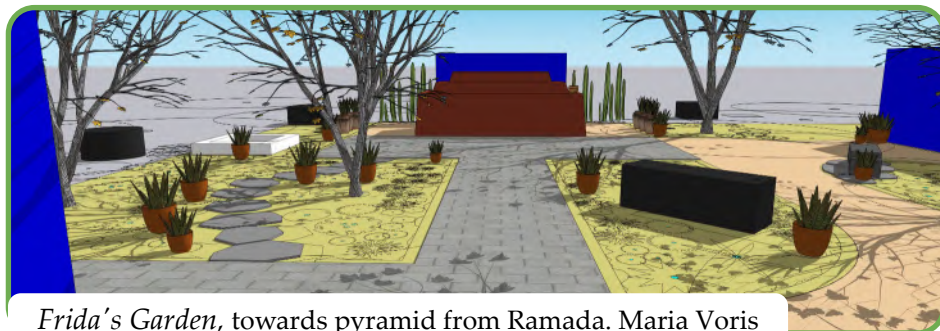
Over the summer, the entrance into the Gardens has been improved and refreshed. In the fall you will once again enter the Gardens through the mesquite doors on the west side of the Visitor Center, with a welcoming front porch and new plantings to guide the way.

### Zen Gallery and Meditation Room

The storage shed to the west of the Zen Garden has been completely transformed over the summer. The *Peggy M. Hitchcock Zen Gallery and Meditation Room* will open to the public on September 18 with an exhibit from the Gardens' collection of works by Manabu Saito. (See Exhibit Openings, below.)

### Frida's Garden

This newly designed garden space encapsulates the spirit of artist Frida Kahlo's garden in Mexico City. The famous "Frida-Blue" walls and a



Frida's Garden, towards pyramid from Ramada. Maria Voris

scaled-down version of the Aztec-inspired pyramid saturate the space with vivid color. Plantings in the new garden will honor the original, but with a Southwestern twist.



Frida's Garden Pyramid, David Conklin

*Frida's Garden* will open to the public on Saturday, October 11.

### Modernist Garden

The *Modernist Garden* inspired by Brazilian landscape architect, Roberto Burle Marx, has been relocated. The fountain and hardscaping, along with the plantings, are in a new space, (or on their way) just to the north of the *Sensory Ramadas*.

### Children's Discovery Garden

The *Children's Discovery Garden* has a brand-new entrance in the northeast corner near the Pavilion under an archway commissioned by local artist, Joe Benedict. The garden's hands-on activities have been freshened up and include the Little Hummers Puppet Theater stage, a Fossil Dig Sandbox, and a new kinetic sculpture, again by Joe, called *Harmony Stone*. Coming next month, *Frida's Kitchen* for culinary play.

### Yume Japanese Gardens

In case you missed this important news, TBG acquired *Yume Japanese Gardens* at the end of May.

Except for two signature cultural festivals in November ([info here](#)), Yume is closed to the public for the rest of the year. TBG is taking this time to make improvements to the soil, plant health, irrigation and infrastructure.

*Yume Japanese Gardens* will reopen in early 2026.

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Postcard from N Alvernon, continued from page 9

## Exhibit Openings

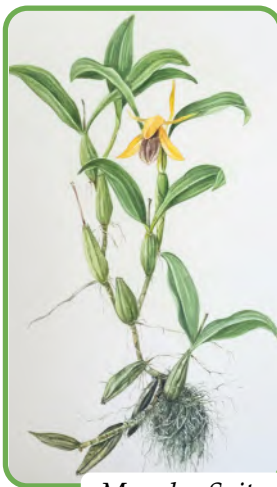
### *Tropical Flora of Costa Rica: Watercolors* by

Manabu Saito

Zen Gallery

September 18, 2025 – Ongoing

Renowned botanical artist, Manabu Saito created these lush, meticulously rendered watercolor paintings at the Wilson Botanical Garden in Costa Rica. The exhibit also features a filmed interview with Saito, as well as artifacts from his studio and home.



Manabu Saito

### *Garden Chronicle: 50 Years at TBG*

Friends House

September 19, 2025 –

February 28, 2026

This exhibit features news articles and artifacts from the founding, development, and exhibitions and events that have become traditions in the TBG community over the past half century.

### *Portraits of Frida & Nature* by

David Conklin

Porter Hall Sunporch

September 26, 2025 – January 4, 2026

David Conklin's portraits of painter Frida Kahlo will grace the walls of the Porter Hall Sunporch to celebrate the opening of *Frida's Garden*. His oil paintings inspired by subjects in nature will also be featured.



Frida Kahlo portrait

### *The Chemistry of Flowers: Artworks* by Kate Breakey

Porter Hall Gallery

September 26, 2025 – January 4, 2026

This exhibition showcases some of Breakey's favorite flower images created over a span of 40 years of image-making, along with some new work that she has made especially for this TBG anniversary show.



Kate Breakey

## Mark your calendars!

### *Butterfly Magic*

The butterflies return to the Cox Butterfly & Orchid Pavilion on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The curator of the tropical greenhouse promises a display fit for the Gardens' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season celebrations.

### *Frida & Fifty Gala, Auction and Luxury Raffle*

*Frida & Fifty*, a festive evening gala on October 10, will likely sell out. A handful of seats may still be available (check [here](#)).



Even if you can't join us for *Frida & Fifty*, there's still time to bid on a very special auction item and purchase tickets for the luxury raffle. For more information and to participate, scan the QR code to the left.

See you in the Gardens!

 Laura Leach

Director of Development & Marketing  
Tucson Botanical Gardens







## Rose Arrangement News

### National Arrangement School

Happy Summer 2025! Boy, it has been a year so far!

For me, recovering from a broken femur and seven months of physical therapy (so far) has caused me to cut way back on activities in and outside the garden. Thankfully, I was able to judge at three rose shows and see some outstanding arrangements.

The first blush of the garden did not disappoint, but once the deadheading was done, the heat wave started in earnest causing buds to open fully in just days. I'm glad practicing new arrangement techniques for home and friends has kept my creative juices flowing.

You could also take this opportunity to practice some new designs and techniques. If you haven't won a ribbon in a certain class, try it now. Not sure how to use certain containers or leaf manipulation?

Now is the time. Rose shows in the Northwest are slowing down. The Portland Rose Society recently held its **All-Miniature Show** August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Pittock Mansion in Portland. Their Fall Show is September 13-14 at Washington Square Mall in Poland. Check the website closer to the dates to download the schedule.

Both are beautiful locations. Rehearse the new techniques then bring them to these shows! Remember you don't need to have your roses "arranger grown" to enter, but the roses do need to be garden grown. It is nice if you know the names of the roses you use.

What if you don't know the names? Ask a gardener or a judge at the show. If it is unnamed, it is only a few points deduction and never a disqualification.

That brings up a point. What would be cause for a disqualification in an ARS rose show? Ideas? Well, it is pretty simple. There are only three: 1) Using a national flag in the design. 2) Using live animals in the design. (I have seen gold fish used in underwater designs!) 3) Abstracting the rose bloom in the design.

If you have complied with the show schedule (all of the rules and regulations) and have used fresh, beautiful roses as the dominant flower, you are almost guaranteed a ribbon!

Want to learn more? There is a great opportunity for us all.

### National Arrangement School

**Save the Date:** October 17 - 18, 2025

The Gulf District of the American Rose Society will be hosting an Arrangement School at the American Rose Center Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup>.


Plans are being made for this event to be both an in-person and virtual opportunity for those interested in learning more about arranging, those who wish to become an arrangement judge, as well as ARS Arrangement Judges who need to meet their requirement for continuing accreditation.

Watch for more announcements in your newsletters and American Rose in the months to come regarding additional details and registration.

### Mark your calendar! Save the date!

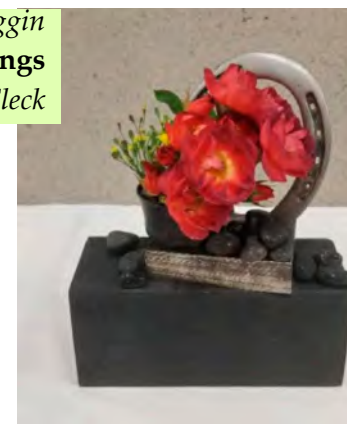
For more information or questions contact: [billieflynn5@gmail.com](mailto:billieflynn5@gmail.com).

Let's show off some of the wonderful designs from 2025!

 *Judy Fleck, reprinted from Summer 2025 Northwest Rosarian.*



**Designer:** Julie Goggin  
**Roses:** Smoke Rings  
**Photo:** Judy Fleck



**Designer:** Kimberly Bown  
**Roses:** Burst of Joy  
**Photo:** Judy Fleck



## The Princess vs. the Rose

"How difficult it must be for a defense attorney, before a court, to find arguments in favor of a case which is inferior!" So wrote De Gondlau in 1887 in *Journal des Roses* when introducing the new tea rose *Princesse de Sagan*.

Or was he subtly insinuating the inferiority of the various yet similar litigations that the actual woman *Princesse de Sagan* had brought before the French courts? The rose decidedly was not inferior, as his own case and description accurately show.

De Gondlau described it as a Tea, "solitary, on long stems . . . very numerous petals . . . velvety crimson red colouring, shaded with crimson black with dark amaranth highlights."



This painting appeared in the *Journal des Roses*, Dec. 1887.

In other words, rather akin in color and shape to *Francis Dubreuil*, a Tea introduced a few years later, both bred by Dubreuil. It is, however, not easy to find much in the literature on *Princesse de Sagan*. The L'Hay catalogue of 1902 and the *Simon and Cochet Nomenclature* of 1906 list it under Tea, each with only a two-word description. Dean Hole, Samuel Parsons, and other rose authors overlook it.

Not until 1922 in T. Geoffrey Henslow's *Rose Encyclopedia* do we find the rose addressed more fully: "velvety crimson shaded with blackish purple, reflexed with amaranth; medium size; full." Alister Clark in 1938 considered it "almost a Bengal," that is, a China rose.

In 1999 *Botanica's Roses* classified it as a China, "deep cherry-red maroon, double flowers . . . hard to come by now."

By 2006 there seemed to be two different roses or variations of this rose, one from the now closed **Vintage Gardens**, a quite tall, stout, and robust plant producing "dusky rose-pink flowers shaded darker," and the other from **Antique Rose Emporium** a more "light-caned and twiggy" bush but upright, of the 'Safrano' ilk, growing "flowers of strawberry-rose with amaranth purple shades" and somewhat 'blowzy.'

The latter seems to fit the older descriptions more than the former. But according to the photos of the rose from the seven or eight nurseries both here and abroad that supposedly still sell it—as a China—none appear to match the description. The roses in those photos are pink with some gold or carmine red or deep rose-pink with some amaranth shading—none of velvety crimson shaded with black, none dark red-black, none purplish crimson.

Though I recall a deep blood-red *Princesse de Sagan* for sale at Garden Valley Ranch in 2006 or 2007, but that rose is no longer offered. Indeed this crimson-black or dark crimson-purple rose seems on the U.S. market only at **Rose Petals Nursery** in Florida. However, it still flourishes in a number of public gardens and collections, such as in the Rosarium of Sangerhausen, Germany, the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden and the Vintage Rose Collection both in California.

The story behind this lovely rose is not so pretty. It is a narrative in which some individuals overestimate the value that material appearance, property, and social status can bring to satisfy their lives.



*Princesse de Sagan*, Photo by Bill Grant

*Continued on page 13*





*The Princess vs. the Rose, continued from page 12*

Princess de Sagan herself was Jeanne Alexandrine de Seilliere, a pampered and spoiled only daughter with three brothers. Born in 1839 she married into aristocracy to Prince de Sagan in 1858 and had two sons.

Supposedly to forget the pain and losses of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 (which drove Napoleon III and his family into exile), she and several other wealthy, nominally emancipated women of Paris formed a coterie known as the “cocodettes,” claiming to be “the great field marshals of the army of pleasure.”

Frivolity, jests, and “exceptional elegance” became their order of the day after day after day. According to the Marquis de Castellane, who wrote a history of this belle epoch, their way of life was one of “roses, roses all the way,” given to “mundane intoxication swayed by no other idea than pleasure.”

That statement should not be read as a judgment, since he participated in it as ardently as the cocodettes, eventually marrying Anna Gould, a railroad heiress, and spending ten million of her thirty million dollars in a few short years.

He was also a nephew of Prince de Sagan. (A very fragrant, rose-pink Hybrid Perpetual was named for him; it yet exists, presumably still sold by the **Loubert** nursery in France.) Cocodette cannot help but suggest cocotte, French for a loose woman. That suggestion seems to attach a rather ambiguous connotation to the Tea (or China) rose.

About this time, the public was scandalized to learn the father of the princess, who had given her the palatial home in which the Sagens resided, had made his most recent fortune by dishonest profiteering from Franco-Prussian War contracts, selling shoddy soldier goods and forging government signatures and seals.

Accordingly, Prince de Sagan, though a social dandy and “king of fashion” himself, insisted they remove themselves from the mansion and that his wife return all monies to her father. She refused.

Unable to endure her lack of scruples, he walked out of the marriage. On the day the father’s trial was to begin, he—the father—committed suicide.

Around 1873 the princess began hosting gala events, mostly annual grand balls. From this time forward, her social standing contrasted with, if not ricocheted against, her familial standing.



*Princesse de Sagan, Photo by Bill Grant*

For instance, in 1875 she had her equally wealthy oldest brother—who was a deaf-mute—committed to what was then called a lunatic asylum. With great difficulty other family members and friends eventually gained his release.

The grand ball she threw in 1878 received as special guests the Prince and Princess of Wales, who had agreed to accept the invitation only if her husband, Prince de Sagan, were also present. The princess promised he would be. He was not. He simply refused to have anything to do with her.

So she substituted her brother Raymond. Not surprisingly, the Prince of Wales was offended at this subterfuge, not to mention a few other awkward incidents that occurred at the ball, and the gala event fizzled to an early close.

Nonetheless, according to one English historian, the Princess did have an “intimate friendship” with the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII, probably during his several solo visits to Paris.

*Continued on page 14*



*The Princess vs. the Rose, continued from page 13*

In 1881, the same year she hosted her “Versailles Ball,” Princesse de Sagan had Hélié, her oldest son, committed to the asylum. The young man stood to inherit all from his father. He too was released with difficulty by the efforts of other relatives and friends.

Her grand event in 1884 was the *bal des paysans*, the “peasants ball,” attended by 1500 guests dressed as their supposed inferiors in lavish costumes, many designed by the famous couture House of Worth. A number of aristocrats, however, declined the invitation, apparently finding such an attitude toward the poor as jaded, if not reprehensible. One newspaper called the event “a sartorial scandal.”

The following year in June of 1885, she gave her *bal des betes*, her “animal ball” at which she was dressed in a stunning Worth gown representing a peacock. The skirt of her gown was of pale green satin, covered with Venetian lace, sprinkled with diamonds, emeralds, and pearls; its floor-length train was bordered in several rows of real peacock feathers. Her headpiece was that of a peacock’s head and neck.

A watercolor painting of the gown from Jean-Philippe Worth’s book *A Century of Fashion* gives the date in the caption as 1864; this is doubtlessly a typographical error. J.P. Worth, son of the famous Charles Frederick who founded the fashion house which dressed women of the aristocracy, wrote the book a year before he died, some forty and fifty years after the events and people he describes.



He also reversed the dates of the Peasants Ball and the Animal Ball. Numerous other documents, however, including newspapers of the time reporting these events, attest to the error of his dates.

The *New York Times* claimed the princess had “made Worth the king of women’s fashion,” that “Worth made the dresses, the Princesse de Sagan made the fashion, condescending to appear in a Worth creation.” That statement is without doubt a gross exaggeration. One wonders if the princess herself promoted it.

In *A Century of Fashion* J.P. Worth devotes pages to various women of the aristocracy and to celebrities who were clients but only a few lines to the Princesse de Sagan, mostly in connection with the peacock gown. In fact, he clearly singles out several other then-famous women who proudly and devotedly wore Worth’s creations, fashionable women who were eagerly imitated.

Francis Dubreuil, who introduced the rose *Princesse de Sagan*, dedicated most of his roses to the celebrities of the time. That same year, 1887, the princess with the help of a lawyer cousin, both of whom bribed officials to testify on their own behalf, signed a document that committed her millionaire brother Raymond to a “madhouse.”

Other family members and friends, including a U.S. attorney, worked to free Baron Raymond Seilliere, who after 62 days was released. Obviously, her case against the brother had been found inferior—to say the least. Raymond immediately left for the United States where he became a citizen.

Other balls followed. Then in 1890 the princess took her brother Franck to court. In his will, the father had left his chateau and other property to his sons Raymond and Franck with the proviso that the princess could use a part of the chateau as residence. When Franck decided to sell some of the paintings, she sued. But because she had only habitation—not property—rights, she lost.

In 1892 her deaf-mute bother Roger died mysteriously in a New York hotel. His fortune was placed under judicial

*Continued on page 15*






*The Princess vs. the Rose, continued from page 14*

control. That same year an anarchist attempted to dynamite Princesse de Sagan's grand mansion. Caught and tried, the man said to the judge, "If you judge me, judge all the unfortunates whom destitution, allied with natural pride, has made criminals."

About five years later, Prince de Sagan, who had not spoken to her in nearly 25 years, was suddenly struck quite ill and confined to a wheelchair. Shortly thereafter, the princess had him abducted and confined in her palatial home.

It seems that the courts, after their abrupt separation, had awarded Prince de Sagan an alimony. With the prince once more in her home, she would no longer have to pay it. Avarice and mendacity were not traits the princess recognized—except as useful tools.

Princesse de Sagan died in 1905 at age 66. Prince de Sagan, *non compos mentis* by then, lived another five years. An American divorcee, Anna Gould, married their son and became the next Princesse de Sagan.

 Darrell g.h. Schramm. Reprinted from 06/2025  
Pacific Rose\_Pacific RS, Suzanne Horn, Editor,

## FROM ARS

**THE SENIOR DISCOUNT ON ARS MEMBERSHIP IS BACK!**  
**Scan the QR code to sign up now and get \$10 off.**



The banner features the American Rose Society logo on the left, which includes a red rose and the text "AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY" and "OUR NATIONAL FLORAL EMBLEM". In the center, the text "Welcome Back" is written in a large, elegant script, followed by "SENIOR DISCOUNT" in bold, all-caps letters, and "Grow Roses, Grow Friends" in a smaller font. On the right, a box lists "MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS" with a "Discount of \$10" and prices for "Print membership - \$64" and "Digital membership - \$54". Below this, it says "For Members 65+". At the bottom left, a hand holds a white rose-shaped card with the American Rose Society logo. At the bottom right, there is a large QR code. The background of the banner shows a group of four smiling senior citizens sitting outdoors. At the very bottom, the text "SCAN NOW & SIGN UP" is displayed.

## Make Your Own Rose Petal Tea

by Bonnie Landau Weed, VCRS Secretary

### Simple Homemade Rose Tea Recipe

Rosetea is a soothing and aromatic herbal drink that can be enjoyed year-round. Whether you're looking to relax, hydrate, or explore herbal infusions, this beginner-friendly rose tea recipe is a great place to start.

### What You'll Need:

- 1 fresh rose (organic and pesticide-free)
- 1 teaspoon raw honey (optional)
- ½ cup of water

### How to Make It:

1. Gently pluck the petals from a fresh rose and rinse them thoroughly to remove any dirt or residue.
2. Place the petals and water in a small pot.
3. Bring the water to a gentle boil, then reduce the heat and let it simmer for about 5 minutes—until the petals have lost their color and the water takes on a rosy hue.
4. Strain the liquid into a cup to remove the petals.
5. Sweeten with honey to taste. For a citrusy twist, you can also add a few drops of lemon juice.



photo by freepik

### Tips & Variations:

- Any variety of rose can be used, though fragrant ones tend to yield better flavor.
- If you prefer a sweeter drink, feel free to use sugar or a sugar syrup instead of honey.
- Dried rose petals can be used in place of fresh ones. They're just as nutritious and convenient to store.

### Why Drink Rose Tea?

Rosetea isn't just beautiful—it offers a range of wellness benefits. Its subtle floral flavor makes it enjoyable hot or iced, while its natural properties may help with relaxation, digestion, and skin health. No wonder it's a favorite among herbal tea lovers!



photo by freepik

## Videos Demonstrating Rose Petal Tea

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ytl6TOs6oM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ytl6TOs6oM)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhQi5H9piiE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhQi5H9piiE)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqMxNCQBZLA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqMxNCQBZLA)

MAY 2025 | Ventura Rose from Ventura County Rose Society



## **Understanding Light Levels in Your Garden**

Full sun, part sun, part shade, full shade ... what exactly does it all mean? And how do you know what you have in your own garden? Let's take a closer look at light levels so you can be sure to select the right plants for your containers and landscape.

Sunlight is the most essential element all plants need to live, so it's important to understand it. So, let's talk about sunlight-what do the terms full sun, part sun, part shade and full shade really mean? And how to you know what kind of sun you have in your garden? Whether you're shopping for annuals, perennials or shrubs, light levels are defined the same way for all kinds of plants.

However, if you live in a climate like the West, Southwest or Southeast, you'll need to factor in the sun's intensity, too. Since those areas are closer to the equator, the sun's rays are more intense and hotter than in northern climates. As a result, some sun loving plants will need protection from the midday sun to prevent scorching and may need to be watered more often, too .. Plus, we need to take into account our low humidity.

### **How Do You Know How Much Sun You Have?**

#### **What is Full Sun?**

It's more than six hours of direct sun per day. If you live in a newly constructed development or out in the country with few trees, your garden may not see any shade at all during the day. When full sun is the only light level listed for a plant that means it is going to need more than six hours of direct sunlight to grow and bloom.

If you plant it in a lesser amount of light, it likely will not bloom and in some cases the plant may not survive. Oftentimes, full sun loving plants also are heat tolerant and some can handle drier soils. Choose full sun plants for your sunniest garden spaces.

#### **What is Part Sun?**

Defined as four to six hours of direct sun per day. Not all those hours need to be accrued consecutively-it could mean a few hours of morning

sun plus a few more in the afternoon. When a plant prefers part sun, although it does not need to be in direct sun all day, it will grow and bloom best with at least some of those hours being in the afternoon. These plants need some heat and intense sun exposure in order to produce flowers and new growth.

When part sun to sun is listed for a plant that means it will grow and bloom in both part sun and full sun conditions, meaning a minimum of four hours of direct sunlight.

Since part sun means the plant needs some heat and intense sun to produce flowers, you would choose a spot where at least a few of those hours were in intense midday sun. Expect most part sun to sun plants to bloom most prolifically in full sun and produce fewer flowers in part sun.

#### **What is Part Shade?**

Also defined as four to six hours of direct sun per day, but most of that should come in the morning hours when the sun's rays are less intense. We say that plants which prefer part shade enjoy "cool sun", meaning direct sun in the morning or evening and protection from the hot midday sun.

When part shade to shade is listed for a plant that means it prefers to grow in less than six hours of direct sunlight per day with most of that being the less intense morning sun. These plants often thrive in cooler climates where moisture is plentiful, and they can easily scorch in the hot afternoon sun. Some part shade to shade plants produce flowers, but many are grown more for their decorative foliage.

#### **What is Full Shade?**

Full shade is defined as less than four hours of direct sun per day. Notice we didn't say zero hours of direct sun-that would be dense shade which is the darkest of all light levels where few plants can survive. Full shade loving plants enjoy a few hours of sun each day, preferably in the morning.

*Continued on page 17*





## The Strangest Roses

We grow many roses in our garden, from shrubs to floribundas to more finicky hybrid teas. They all bring us joy in different ways (ease of growth, stunning color or strong fragrance).

Personally, I love golden and yellow roses that just seem to glow in evening light. My wife cares most about a rose's fragrance and has been known to pass up buying glorious-looking roses because they lack fragrance.

What we do agree on is that some roses fall outside the norm for what we expect a rose to look or behave like. Recently we were discussing unusual roses with some fellow Rose Club members and I decided we should open the conversation up a bit more.

Shown below are three unusual roses Twin Cities Rose Club members are currently growing. Do you have an interesting, unusual, or even strange rose growing in your garden? If so, send us a picture and tell us all about it! [Seconded! Donna Kamper, Editor, the Thrip Hater.]

### The Winged Rose



The Winged Rose

*Rosa sericea ssp. omeiensis f. pteracantha*, Wingthorn Rose  
Known for its large nearly-translucent bright red thorns, this rose is often grown not for its 2" white single blooms but for its magnificent thorns.

### The Green Rose

*Rosa Chinensis viridiflora*  
This rose was discovered and originally cultivated in the 1820's. It does have petals in its "blooms" but only green sepals.



Green Rose

Understanding Light Levels in Your Garden, continued from page 16

### Roses and Shade

It takes energy (sunshine) to produce blooms; the more petals the more sunshine needed. Roses can have a petal count stretching from the simplicity of five petals all the way to 50 petals or more.

The American Rose Society defines the fullness of the bloom based upon petal count: a rose with four to eight petals is a "single," nine to 16 petals is called a "semi-double," a "double" has 17 to 25 petals, a "full" bloom has 26 to 40 petals, and a "very full" bloom has 41 to more than 100 petals. Go ahead and experiment.

I have *Lyda Rose*, *Sally Holmes*, *Dublin Bay*, the *Fairy* and *Green Rose* in areas that get some shade during the day, and they continue to bloom for me.

 Charlotte Owendyk, MR, Reprinted from 08/2025 Rose-Ette, Houston RS.


The Strangest Roses continued from left column...

### The Burnet Rose

*Rosa pimpinellifolia*,  
Burnet or Scotch briar  
Species Rose. The flowers of this rose are perfectly lovely (single white with a fragrance) but we grow this rose for its show-stopping nearly black hips.



The Burnet Rose

 Alex Meyer. Reprinted from 05/2024  
Twin Cities Rosarian, Twin Cities RS,  
Alex Meyer, Editor.



## What is Rose Phyllody?

Recently, a fellow Master Gardener showed me a picture of a rose bloom her neighbor sent her. This rose showed leaves in the center of the rose blossom instead of flower parts.

This condition is called *Phyllody*, pronounced "phil'-a-dee." It means leaf-like. I have only seen this in a rose bloom once, in the Formal Rose Garden in Kennewick WA.

Maxwell T. Masters was the first to call this disorder Phyllody, in his book *Vegetable Teratology* (1869) on plant abnormalities.. In rose phyllody, reproductive organs of the rose bloom, such as the pistils and stamens, are replaced by vegetative structures rendering the bloom sterile. This rose plant phenomenon is rarely seen.



Leaves in the center of a rose bloom can appear on a rose plant that appears very healthy and has previously produced normal blooms. The University of California, Davis, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources has studied its causes. Their main objective was to identify whether the source of this condition is *abiotic* (physical, i.e., environmental factors) or *biotic* (viral, bacterial, etc.).

Their experiments show that the explanation for rose phyllody is not straightforward. Their observations have concluded that abiotic



conditions, such as extreme weather, are more common for rose phyllody. Although it is possible that biotic causes, such as viruses and bacteria, can also induce rose phyllody, it has been rarely seen in roses. Either way, the balance of plant hormones has been thrown off.

In the case of abiotic conditions, hot weather or drought in roses during their

bloom formation can result in plant hormone imbalance. This imbalance of hormones disrupts the rose bloom's expected growth, resulting in green leaves in the center. Interestingly, floribundas appear more susceptible to phyllody than other rose varieties. When abiotic conditions change, the plant resumes normal bloom development.




Biotic causes of this abnormality are more common in other plant species than in roses, such as strawberries, where leaves replace seeds on the berry's surface (see photos at left). It is believed biotic causes of phyllody in any plant involve insects such as leafhoppers spreading the microbes, then the condition spreads to other plants.



Roses with phyllody but otherwise good overall growth are not likely to have biotic causes. This abiotic abnormality in roses is surprising but does not hurt the entire plant and is not contagious. The only treatment is to cut out the stem with the leafy blossom, which will likely resume normal development.

The following quote is from the article "Phyllody in Roses" by the Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis:

"Gardeners who see a few leaf-like petals in a blossom should not panic. It is most likely to be an individual flower responding to specific environmental conditions, not a serious disease."

 Bonnie Raymond, MG, reprinted from 05/2025 *Rose Herald*, Tri-Cities RS, Norma Boswell and Jo Angelos, Co-Editors.





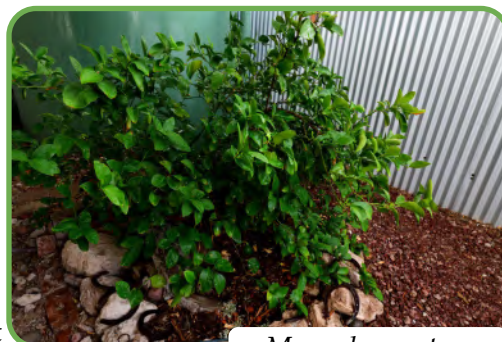
## Thunder Rumbles, We Grumble

What's the source of this unhappiness? It's when thunder's rumbling, but nary a drop of rain is falling here.

That's just how things are during Tucson's summer monsoon season. While the east side is getting drenched, we Midtowners are high and dry.

Then there are times when the rain deejay smiles upon us. The result: Summer monsoon scenes like this:

The Meyer lemon's primary water source is greywater from the washing machine. But it will never refuse a drink from the Great Watering Can in the Sky.



*Meyer lemon tree.*

And pardon me for bragging, but the Meyer lemon is having an excellent year. Here's one of its many ripening fruits:



*Ripening Meyer lemon.*

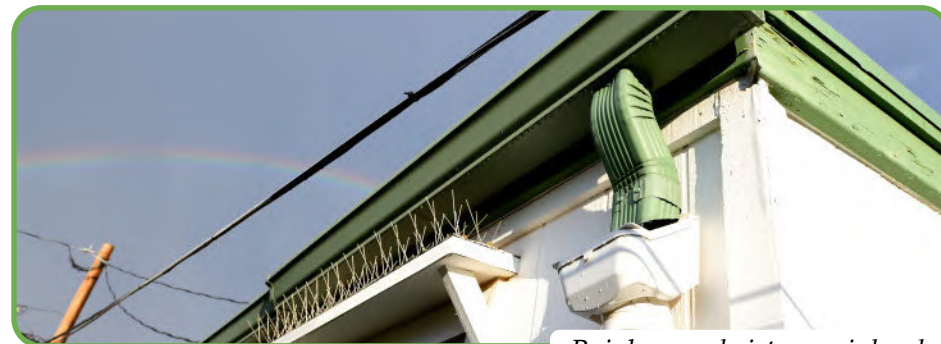
I'll keep the Meyer lemons on the tree until winter. But, if we get an early frost, it's harvest time. They can finish ripening in the house.

Now, let's get back to that summer monsoon season.

At top right is one of my favorite photos of the summer, not just for the rainbow, but for the raindrops dripping out of the downspout and into my cistern's rainhead.

### Cistern Logistics

Through above- and below-ground plumbing lines, rainwater ends up in my 1,500-gallon cistern. Right now, the cistern's holding around 1,100 gallons.



*Rainbow and cistern rainhead.*

The cistern water is for my garden, and here's why: Our municipal water supply has a higher sodium salt content than rainwater. As mentioned above, sodium can be toxic to plants.

That's why I had a cistern installed – as much as possible, I want to keep my garden off city water so I can help it thrive. Now, you may be asking: How does the cistern water go from the tank to the plants?

Well, it exits via this hose bibb...

Note the ball valve handle is in the **Off** position. Before I rotate that handle 90° toward the front of the photo, I attach a 4' hose to the bibb.


The cistern water flows into the rusty watering can I show on the covers of my books *Water Harvesting 101* and *Getting Started with Water Harvesting*.

When the watering can is full, I close the cistern valve and carry the can to garden plants that need a drink.

And that's how it's done!



*My cistern's hose bibb.*

 Reprinted from Martha Retallick's Monthly Newsletter 08/19/2025

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<https://western-sky-communications.kit.com/aafelb4c46>



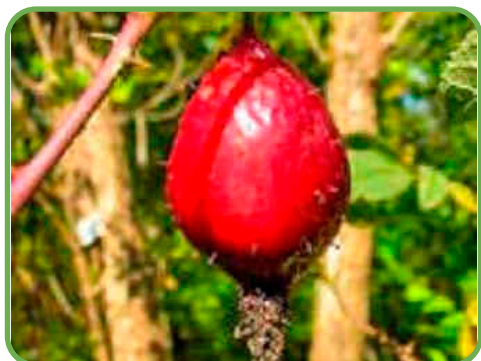
## Fruit of the Rose

### Rose Hips

Roses provide color and fragrance in the garden and the vase. But flowers are not the only treat this plant provides. Some rose bushes develop rose hips, brightly colored pods that grow from depleted blossoms.

Rose hips contain the seeds that result from successful rose pollination. This makes them the fruit of the plant because fruits are the organs that contain seeds, such as tomatoes and oranges. Roses produce them in different sizes and colors of red, orange, yellow, and purple. These colors attract birds that eat the hips and then spread the seeds in their travels, after digesting them.

Not all roses have hips. Some roses are sterile, especially if they have been hybridized. Their genetics prevents pollen from fertilizing the female parts of the plant. As a result, they are self-cleaning; the flowers fall off when they are spent, and no hips are formed due to lack of seeds. Hybridized miniature roses often lack hips.



Master Hugh produces a large rose hip: up to 1.5-inch long and wide.



*Rose hips contain rose seeds.*

Bees may not be able to pollinate modern roses with lots of petals; lack of pollination keeps seeds and hips from forming. Flowers with fewer petals such as rugosas, ramblers and species roses as well as single petaled roses, are easier to pollinate.

Rugosas in particular are noted for their colorful clusters of hips. And, of course, flowers that are

deadheaded once spent do not have the opportunity to develop hips.

Rose hips can be very attractive and look good in arrangements. Their bright colors and firm pods offer a nice contrast with flowers and foliage in a vase. A few species roses are grown for their ornamental hips. *Rosa movesii*, a red species rose, is noted for its large, bottle shaped hips in colors of red, orange or yellow, depending on the variety.



*Rosa macrophylla* rose hips are oblong shaped and differ in color, depending on the variety.

Hugh, is considered to have the largest hips of roses in commerce; they range in length and width at ½" to over one inch. The modern roses, *Playboy* and *Altissimo*, both with limited petals, have large, attractive orange hips. Some miniatures have small hips.



*It's hard to beat the drama of the deep purple rose hips of Rosa pimpinellifolia.*

Rose hips contain vitamins and antioxidants and may have anti-inflammatory properties. They have been used in medicines for thousands of years. The ancient civilizations of China, Greece, Italy, and Persia all used hips for medical potions. Roman naturalist, Pliny the Elder, documented 32 remedies made from rose hips.

Today, rose hips are more likely to be used in teas, syrups, jams, sauces and even cakes. The Internet is a good source for recipes for hips.

*Continued on page 21*





*Fruit of the Rose, continued from page 20*

Hips should be firm and have good color when harvested; dried or shriveled hips will not have enough flesh. The seeds inside the hips have a hairy covering, so removing them is the best option.

Cut the hips in half and scoop out the seeds. Make sure to wash the remaining flesh well, and avoid hips that may have been sprayed with pesticides. Fresh hips can be refrigerated, but should be used within a week.

One of the most important roles for rose hips is in hybridizing. Rose breeders cut the male reproductive stamens off the plants, remove their pollen, and store it, well labeled, in the refrigerator.

After determining what variety they will use for the female mother, they remove its petals and stamens and use a small paintbrush to cover the pistil, the female reproductive organ, with the father's pollen. Once a hip has formed, it is harvested for its seed.



*Bejazzo is a modern rose with clumps of rose hips that hang like grapes.*

The seeds must be stratified, a process that duplicates the natural conditions that encourage the seeds to germinate. To do this, breeders wrap seeds from each pairing, known as a cross, individually in damp paper towels.




*Rose hips of a rugosa contrast nicely with the quilted leaves.*

They are labeled and then refrigerated for around two months. They then plant the seeds, identified with their crosses, for evaluation after the seedlings appear.

Sometimes a rose hip falls on the ground and eventually disintegrates, leaving the seeds. The result may be a new little rose plant the following season. However, it is impossible to determine what variety the rose will be because it has been naturally pollinated with some other unknown variety's pollen.

The drabness of winter's garden receives a boost from the colorful hips rose bushes can produce. Rose hips scattered throughout the foliage and remaining blooms should bring joy to any rose lover's heart. Take time to enjoy viewing, arranging, and perhaps ingesting this fruit of the rose.

 Carolyn Elgar, MR., reprinted from 01/2025  
Ventura Rose, Ventura County RS, Bonnie Landau Weed,  
Editor. All photos in this article are from wikicommons.

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