

Queensland Rose Bulletin

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Does The Label Truly Indicate Size?

Ariel Swartley, Los Angeles Magazine, April 2001

As a home gardener whose passion is roses, I sometimes strike my friends as a little strange. I wander through life like a medieval penitent, arms perpetually scabbed from pruning forays. I consider myself a populist yet am often dropping high-toned names like "Queen Elizabeth" and "Lady Hillingdon"; I can get really, really excited about a new source of horse manure. Actually, it may not be possible to fall in love with roses without going slightly mad about them. So reader be warned. There are well over 30 classes of this ancient flower, ranging from mild-mannered shrublets to 30-foot climbers, including recently reintroduced French romantics and gallicas dating from the 16th century. These classes, whose members share similarities of growth and lineage, encompass thousands of named varieties, of which hundreds are currently available.

Consider this a petal-strewn and possibly slippery path and venture cautiously. Otherwise you may find yourself drawn into acts of wholly intemperate horticulture.

Following the generally advised practice for this area, I'd purchased my rose bare-root in Winter, the dormant period for most varieties. Planting during this period is supposed to get the bush off to a strong start, giving it a chance to put down roots before it is called on to make

leaves and flowers. The problem for the buyer is that what you get from the nursery is three lifeless-looking sticks attached to a tangle of roots, along with a label containing a few terse words about colour and height and a badly printed photo of a single bloom. Even descriptions by eminent rosarians can be misleading: One man's flamingo verges on tender pink, another's leans toward tangerine.

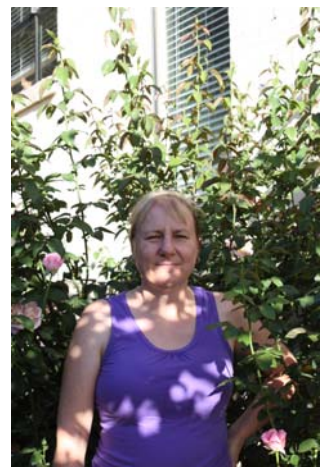
Then there's the pitfall of size. Just as long, blond manes and personal eccentricities have flourished in the city's heat and light, so too have rose specimens. Victoria Padilla, whose 1961 horticultural history, *Southern California Gardens*, remains the area's definitive who-grew-what-when, describes a "Beauty of Glazenwood" that transformed an 80-foot eucalyptus "into a colossal pillar" of rose pink and pale yellow. Such rampant extravagance may come as a shock to a gardener who's consuler Peter Beale's compendium, *Classic Roses*. There the same variety, also known as "Fortune's Double Yellow," is described as reaching a manageable eight by four feet.

Thanks to the many sellers who get their information on older roses from English books like Beale's, savvy Angelenos (Los Angeles Residents) have learned to take the words "three feet, per-

fect for the small garden" with a grain of salt. Clair Martin, curator of roses at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, offers a handy key to adjusting for the climate differences between Sussex and Southern California in his guide, *English Roses in Southern California*. If the variety, Martin writes, "is listed as growing between two and two and half feet, it will probably stay under four or five feet; if listed as growing three feet or more, stand back!"

QRB Editor's Note:

We have also found this to be the case in Queensland. The first roses we planted were Delbards that said 80-90cm. Go to a rose society meeting and ask for advice on size when choosing plants.



This is Toni with Aotearoa which said 150cm and was good indicator of the 250cm that it has grown to.



Reader Questions: Caterpillars



Question:

I have got about 35 plants in our home. However, most of my plants are suffering from a caterpillar attack (first detected a couple of months ago). They curl the leaves or paste two or more leaves together and live inside. I have been using Confidor but to no avail. Recently I got advice to use Rogor. I bought a pack yesterday but before using it thought of seeking your advise. The colour of the small caterpillar (5-8 mm largest I have seen) is by and large greenish but have seen few brownish ones as well. They tend to prefer young leaves but have seen them on big green leaves as well. They leave a sort of a white web like sticky paste on the leaves and bores into to buds.

Hope you could advice me on the treatment?

Cheers

Jinaraj

Rosarian Answer:

Everyone I know is fed up with those caterpillars. Carbaryl is specifically made for caterpillars or otherwise there are products called Success or Mavrik. I have had good results on caterpillars with all of these products although I don't use any of these anymore as they come in small quantities.

I use a pyrethrum spray called Dictate Duo or Malathon that both seem to work. I uses these because I buy them in bulk quantities due to cost (we have about 400 roses at the moment - including lots in pots). Rogor is a good all round insecticide although very strong so be careful how much you use it. The lifecycle of the eggs is 3 days so to eliminate you have to spray the buds every three days (sorry). I have just been putting up with the buggers at the moment and spraying once a week. At least you only have to spray the buds. Any of

these insecticides will do the job. Just remember to alternate to a different one on each use so the insects don't build up a tolerance to them.

I buy my bulk chemicals from Rural Buying Service at Arundel at the top of the Gold Coast. Their phone number is 07 5571 6111.

Greenie Answer:

The problem is the grey helio-coperpa moth you will see flying around at dusk laying their eggs on rose buds. Toni has caught me jumping through rose bushes in the afternoon catching them in my suit pants and business shirt (not recommended).

You can simply rub the tiny white eggs off with your finger or a small paint brush if you prefer not to nuke your garden with chemicals. This is only really an easy proposition when you have small quantities of roses or huge amounts of time.

Bruce Chapman's Rose Wins Championship

Doug Hayne, Secretary NSW Rose Society, Australia

"the general public are becoming aware of Australian roses and this can only be a good thing"

For the second year in a row an Australian bred rose became the Grand Champion of Day 2 of the RAS Rose Show being held as part of the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The rose, Joyce Abounding is a bi-colour miniature rose bred by Dr Bruce Chapman of Beaumaris, Victoria is named after his wife Joyce and exhibited by Mark McGuire.

When told of his win Chapman said, "I am elated with win particularly in that the rose is named after my wife Joyce."

In recent times the general public are becoming aware of Australian roses and this can only be a good thing as the development of an Australian bred rose industry is important as it provides jobs for Australians, which in turn helps the economy. This is not to mention the fact Australian bred roses that get onto the market generally perform better in the harsh Australian climate.

For those interested in purchasing the rose it maybe obtained from Ross Roses of South Australia (08) 8556 2555.



Own Roots or Understock?

Ron Bell, Reprinted from The Rose Breeder. Newsletter of the ARBA, 1995.

It is quite noticeable that certain rose seedlings behave differently on their own roots compared with their performance when budded on understock. My late friend George Dawson had a garden full of roses growing on their own roots because in his last years he had problems in bending down to bud them. They looked fine but I often wondered how much better they would have looked if they had been budded.

It appears to be in the breeding, some varieties producing very good root systems and when propagated on understock, do not exhibit much change in their performance. In fact there are some that are distinctly the worse because, for an example they have far too many petals and will not open properly. What looked good in the seedling box was a dead duck on stock.

Generally speaking however, the superior roots systems of the local understock will improve their performance and if they are to be propagated in quantity they have to be propagated on the most suitable stock. Perhaps this does not apply to some of the miniatures or patio roses but it is the case with the large flow-

ered varieties and seems to be the accepted method.

Sam McGredy once stated that he grew a lot of his seedlings on their own roots while assessing them and this happens in some of the large rose breeding nurseries during the assessment period which may extend over two or three years. As far as I am concerned I like to bud as early as possible and sometimes take budwood from 6 inch (15cm) seedlings if the buds are big enough to handle. These buds "take" very well and it may save a season by early budding, always retaining the original plant in case the buds do not take.

There is no doubt that certain varieties grow well when propagated from cuttings and many firms do this with miniatures and smaller varieties quite successfully. Many miniatures produce very good root systems when grown from cuttings. Again it appears to be in the breeding.

Last season I had a couple of doubtful starters but decided to bud them anyway and I am certainly glad that I did because I have three different varieties which have considerable potential. In each case the

growth is excellent and the quality of the flowers is much better than on the original seedlings. The interesting thing is that the parentage is similar in each case. The most noticeable difference is in the foliage which looks vigorous and healthy, producing abundant growth. Probably the soil condition has some bearing on the growth differential between the seedlings and the budded plants, the seedlings requiring the best possible soil to perform well whereas I believe, with better root systems of understock you can get away with less quality mix. There is no doubt however, the plants should be given every chance by giving them the best growing conditions and that means attention to feeding and watering, the latter being most important in the young stages when lack of water could result in their demise. Young-plants have very small and sometimes inadequate root systems to meet dry conditions and will quickly give away if under stress.

It was a sad loss for the rose world when Ron Bell passed away in November 2008. He leaves us with many outstanding articles so we can still learn from him.

"There is no doubt however, the plants should be given every chance by giving them the best growing conditions and that means attention to feeding and watering, the latter being most important in the young stages"



My Hybridising Progress

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

“According to Ron Bell the roses can give different form and even different petal counts once budded on”

The hot pink rose in the photo on the rose show poster (next page) was taken this week from one of my roses while it was still on the bush. I am hoping this flower maintains this kind of form as the bush grows. I have four of these budded onto rootstock at this stage. Two of those were only done this week.. Nothing new to report really. I am spending my time budding up potential roses onto understock. According to Ron Bell the roses can give different form and even different petal counts once budded on. The reason for budding is that the understock such as multiflora here in Queensland provides a consistent and strong plant with good root structure on which the budded plant can grow. Almost every rose you buy commercially is budded.

My final count on seeds for this year's crop is 5,673 seeds. For those of you interested in what I spent my time crossing,

these are the quantities of seeds per seed parent:

2,440 Moonstone
1,195 Melinda Gainsford (Anne Morrow Lindbergh)
454 Elle
389 Honeybee (unregistered)
300 Kardinal
300 Paradise
194 Gemini
156 Tineke
71 Signature
62 Peter Frankenfeld
48 Nocturne
41 New Era
15 Brisbane Blush
8 Madame Taft

Some of these are a reflection of the plant's ability to set seed and are also a reflection on the number of seeds in each hip. Melinda Gainsford sets hips (fruit with seeds in it) very well but we only have one bush. It also averages 34 seeds per hip. My Moonstones aver-

age 22 seeds per hip, but I have 8 bushes so can make more crosses. The propensity to set hips is largely determined by the pollen on Moonstone. Some pollen parents are just incompatible and might give one hip out of ten if I am lucky, whereas others will set every hip I put the pollen on. This is just trial and error.

A two year time lag kicks in now as I am just starting to see how different crosses behave as larger plants, but I have already made this year's crosses. I know I will have some nasty thorny plants from the seeds I will plant this year that I could have avoided had I known 6 months ago how About Face influenced the growth and thorniness of seedlings. It does produce strong plants and colourful flowers though. The knowledge gained from my 2009 seedlings will have to be used for my 2011 crop.

Rose of the Month: Brisbane Blush



Name: Brisbane Blush (PALok)

Introduced: 1993 Australia

Hybridiser: Peter Long

Type: Hybrid Tea (erroneously in Modern Roses as a Floribunda)

Parentage: (Golden Slippers x Lavendula) x Prima Ballerina

ARS Colour: Red Blend

Blooms: 26-40 Petals

Fragrance: Strong

This rose is a true Australian Gem. It is a magnificent smelling flower, a lovely hot pink with a silver underside to the petals.

This rose is a long term winner of the Australian bred classes in Queensland Rose Shows. It was kindly donated to the Queensland Rose Society by the breeder, Peter Long, a

member of the society.

We have 5 of these in a row and their perfume wafts through that whole half of the garden. Put a cut of these in the house and you will really experience their perfume. It has multi-head blooms and flushes constantly throughout the year in our sub tropical climate. Our bushes are around 1.2m high and have dark green foliage, purple stems and are almost completely disease free, even in the constant heat and rain over Summer. The flowers open fairly quickly once cut. If you want something as a real talking point, put the flowers in the fridge for a couple of days and they go purple.

You can buy Brisbane Blush from Thomas for Roses in South Australia. Their phone number is (08) 8389 7795. We bought ours a couple of years ago from Goldenvale Nursery in Victoria. Their number is (03) 5762 1520.



autumn rose show

May 15-16

Auditorium
Brisbane Botanic Gardens
Mt Coot-tha

Beautiful Rose Display

Competition Roses

Garden Roses

Hundreds of varieties
of all rose types

Potted Roses for Sale

Crafts for Sale

Rose Society Members
on hand to answer all
your questions

Please Note:
**Not on Mother's Day
this year**



Saturday May 15 11.30am-4.00pm
Sunday May 16 9.00am-3.00pm

www.qld.rose.org.au