



# Old Texas Rose

Vol 19, Summer 2013

## Greetings Fellow Rose Rustlers ---

*Message from the Chair — Kathy Hyatt*

**IT'S HOT!!!!!!** Well, of course it is you're probably thinking to yourself...what is wrong with her? After all, it's August and it's Texas. This is typical weather for this time of year. This is also the time of year many gardeners take a hiatus from their gardening chores to spend more time enjoying the benefits of air-conditioning.

While it may be good for the gardener to head indoors, it isn't necessarily good for their garden. When temperatures soar, even our tough antique roses need some special attention. Water is the **MOST**



essential requirement, however, with our drought conditions, it is the one most lacking. Roses need at least one inch of water a week. If it's super-hot and/or windy, two inches is better. Deep root watering a couple times a week is preferable to shallow, light watering daily. Check to be sure you are really watering the soil and not just wetting the mulch. Speaking of mulch, be sure you still have an adequate layer around each bush (about 3 inches) to hold in moisture, cut down on weeds and moderate soil temperatures. This is also a good time to give your roses a "pick-me-up" by applying an organic foliar fertilizer. Taken in directly through the leaves, you can almost hear the roses sigh with delight! Just be sure to do your spraying early, early in the morning or after the sun starts to go down to avoid leaf burn. While you're out watering/feeding your roses, check for the presence

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of spider mites. They LOVE this weather...hot and dry. A strong spray of water from the hose on the undersides of the leaves every other day for about 10 days should discourage these pests!

As you'll read further in the newsletter, the July TRR meeting at Mercer Arboretum was well attended. We had interesting, informative speakers, welcomed some new members, embraced our "old" friends, had lots of great food AND had the thrill of going home with an armful of new lotto plants!!! A big thank you to Jane for her efforts in organizing this event. She is also responsible for our Fall trip to Tyler and Nacogdoches which looks to be amazing! I know I am personally excited to be a part of it. If you've never been on one of our trips, please consider this one...I know you won't be disappointed! Until then, find some shade, garden when you can and daydream in the AC of cooler days ahead!

— Kathy



## Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members: *Farrah Kheradmand*, Houston; *Vanessa Bayluja-Ahearn*, Lewisville; *Janice Clarke*, Crowley; *Dewayne Cushman*, Houston; and *Elizabeth Cashe*, Cypress. We look forward to getting to know you and your gardening ways!

If you have any questions about the organization and/or the meetings, feel free to email Flora at [trrmembership@texasroserustlers.com](mailto:trrmembership@texasroserustlers.com).



## 2013-14 Membership

The new membership year begins August 1st. If you have not renewed your membership, please send the completed form and check to Flora. The membership form is on our website.



# Fall into Fun during the TRR East Texas Ramblin' Trip

October 4 - 6, 2013, East Texas

Jane Gray, Program Chair



## Dear Friends,

It was so great to see you in June at Mercer Arboretum. It is not too early to plan for our fall trip!

**Friday, October 4, 1:00 PM** We will begin at Chamblee's Nursery in Tyler. Mark Chamblee will provide a program and introduce new rose selections, including "Delightful Phyllis".

**Friday, October 4, Late Afternoon** If time permits, we will visit the Tyler Rose Gardens and then motor on to Nacogdoches. Please make reservations ASAP. We are staying at the Comfort Suites, 3429 South Street, Nacogdoches, Texas 75964, (936) 560-9900. If you are a Choice Member and pay in advance, you can get the best rates. I have NOT booked a block of rooms, so please handle your own reservations. Of course, you are free to stay at a different hotel if you prefer.

**Saturday, October 5, 9:00 AM** We'll be beating a path to SFA's Fabulous Fall Festival, in addition to a wonderful lunch, and other activities that are to be announced. Please consider staying a second night – we plan to enjoy dinner at one of our Mexican Restaurants.

**Sunday, October 6** A wonderful visit with Greg Grant at his home in Arcadia on Sunday Morning will wrap up our weekend – the time is to be announced.

After that, Sunday is a travel day towards home. Pick out a few nurseries on your route home in case your car/trunk isn't full!

More details will be posted on the website as they become available. And as always, a **PLANT LOTTO** will be squeezed in somewhere along the way! Reserve your spot! Email Jane ([janeloopergrey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janeloopergrey@sbcglobal.net)) if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing all of you!!!



# Nacogdoches Named the Garden Capital of Texas

Greg Grant, SFA Gardens-Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Stephen F. Austin State University  
Blog: [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com)

It's official. The oldest town in Texas, is now the garden capital of Texas.

A bill authored by District 11 State Representative Travis Clardy was signed by Texas Governor Rick Perry on May 2, 2013 designating Nacogdoches as the *Garden Capital of Texas*.

At a ribbon cutting and dedication held at the Stephen F. Austin State University Pineywoods Native Plant Center, author, historian, and father of the LaNana Creek trail, Professor Ab Abernathy made the following speech.

*Nacogdoches is a garden city. It was named after its first gardeners, the Nacogdoches tribe of the Caddo Indians. Thirteen hundred years ago the Nacogdoches Indians lived on the high ground between the two full-flowing, spring-fed creeks. Their name, Nacogdoches, meant "from the place of the high ground" (some sources say "persimmon eaters"). The Spanish came to the place on the high ground between the two creeks in 1716. They named the creek on the east La Nana, meaning "the Nurse," and the one on the west La Banita, "The Little Bath." The first gardeners--the first agrarian culture in Texas--were these Caddos, who brought gardening with them from their eastern homes. They raised corn, squash, and pumpkins. They cultivated a variety of beans, sunflowers, and tobacco; and they created the strongest and most advanced Indian culture in Texas.*



*The Nacogdoches Caddos gardened on the high ground between the two creeks for well over a thousand years. The Spanish learned the Caddo's gardening ways, and added a dimension of herbs and spices to the garden plots.*

*Anglo settlers began coming to and through the Gateway to Texas in the early 1800s. In 1832 at the Battle of Nacogdoches they ended Spanish military control in all of East Texas. In 1836, after the Battle of San Jacinto, Nacogdoches became a settlement in the Republic of Texas, and after 1846 Nacogdoches became a city in the Lone Star State in the United States.*

*In the 1830s, during the troublesome, birthing times of Texas, Nacogdoches gardened. C.A. Sterne describes Adolphus Sterne's home:*



*"My father took great pride and interest in his gardens and orchard. There were three gardens on the place. The one on the north was devoted to flowers, with a great variety of roses and rare shrubs and plants, which he had brought from Louisiana, and which had been imported from France."*

*"In the center of the garden was a summer house, which was covered with morning glories and multiflora roses. The fence was covered with woodbine and yellow jasmine. The south garden had vegetables of every variety. The west garden was the orchard with a variety of fruit trees and a butter bean arbor running the entire width of the garden. My father often resorted to the butter bean arbor to read and study."*

When Frederick Law Olmsted (designer of Central Park, the Biltmore estate landscape, etc.) came to Nacogdoches in 1853, he said of the town: "The houses along the road...stand in gardens, and are neatly painted--the first exterior sign of cultivation of mind since the Red River."

Nacogdoches became a modern town in the 20th century with parks and landscaping. It became a city of prosperous houses and ornamental gardens along the Camino Real. Its grandest show of flowers and foliage, however, developed around the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University (founded in 1923 as Stephen F. Austin State Teacher's College). The SFA campus was from its beginning a flourishing garden of blooming plants and flowering trees and shrubs. SFA now is the center of the most prosperous and prominent set of flowering gardens in the State of Texas. SFA hosts the largest azalea garden in the state and Nacogdoches was named the first Azalea City in America.



The university is home to the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, the Mast Arboretum, the Gayla Mize Garden, the Kingham Children's Garden, and the SFA Recreational Trails and Gardens. Collectively these gardens contain the state's largest botanical collections of azaleas, baldcypress, boxwood, camellias, gardenias, hollies, hydrangeas, magnolias, and maples. For more information on these gardens visit [sfagardens.sfasu.edu](http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu).

In addition to a number of public parks and walking trails, Nacogdoches is also home to the Durst-Taylor Historic House and Gardens, the Adolphus Sterne Museum and Gardens, and the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden.

In concluding his speech Dr. Abernathy went on to say:

*The development of the beauty of gardens, parks, and trails is not for the purpose of luring tourists or improving business, although both areas will profit from such ventures. Natural beauty is encouraged for its own sake and for the fact that life among gardens, trees, flowers, and flowing water is richer and kinder than life among strip malls and parking lots. The Garden Capital of our beautiful and beloved Nacogdoches deserves no less than to be a setting for such a life.*

## Visiting TRR Members' Homes —

*Faith Bickley, Secretary*

This should really be titled "The Joy of Visiting TRR Member's Homes. Over the years Mom and I and then with the addition of Becky Smith making us a traveling trio have had the pleasure of visiting our TRR friends' homes and yards. I, for one, love these experiences as then I can picture these friends in their own environ every time I think of them.

Lately Becky and I have fulfilled long-overdue promises with these visits. In the last few months we have visited Ray, Robert, Nella Montgomery, Molly and John, and Wally and Wanda. Every yard is so different and reflects so much of the person's gardening philosophy. It reinforces my deep feeling that there is no right or wrong way to garden. When we let ourselves go and do what we want, so many interesting things happen.

We have been to Ray and Robert's places several times and always see something new. Of course we all know how great they both have been in hybridizing roses resulting in some of our favorites. Ray has so much land while Robert has so many roses and companion plants in a town yard.

Nella's family place outside Hallettsville is so peaceful. She is a big animal lover and almost right away we were treated to a "show" as one of her dogs played tag with one of her cats. Her husband "called" their large herd of beautiful Longhorns plus their two donkeys for us to see. Lots of her daylilies were in bloom too.

Molly and John have a large and lovely partially shaded yard in a subdivision in northwest Houston. We were treated to a tour all around their yard. Molly has done wonders with her plants, many of which she has rooted from cuttings given by friends, and John has quite a few of his "finds" as garden "art". They have a problem in the unfenced areas with deer. That is another interesting thing as all of us fight something or other. That day we drove over to nearby Arbor Gate where we saw Kathy at her new job there. That led to a tour of Kathy's new home which both Becky and I loved.

We still have lots of other members and friends that we hope to visit so one of these days you may get a call or email from one of us asking if there is a good time for us to come see you and your yard.



*Faith and Becky visiting with Wally Brown*



*Star Attraction at Nella Montgomery's Home*



## The Lazy Gardener —

Brenda Beust Smith, Author of the Lazy Gardener; and John Ferguson and Mark Bowen of Nature's Way Resources have joined forces to distribute a "Lazy Gardener & Friends" Newsletter. All you have to do is sign-up! It will include a column by Brenda, what-do-do-each-month in Houston area gardens, articles by guest writers, and a calendar of upcoming Greater Houston area horticulture events. If you'd like to receive this free, emailed newsletter, send your full name and email address to [lazygardnerandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardnerandfriends@gmail.com). Be assured that this email list will never be shared or sold.



## Collections from Mercer —

*Jane Gray, Program Chair*

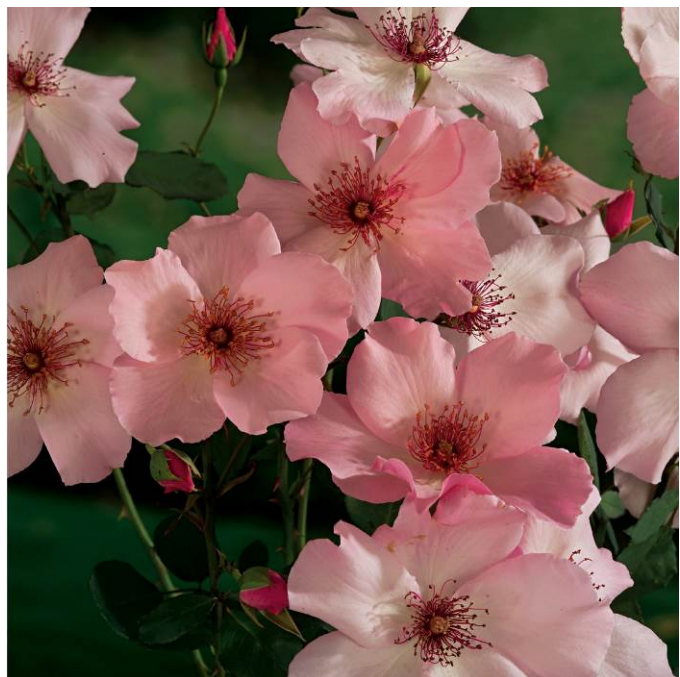
I hope everyone was able to attend our June meeting – it was a great turn-out and our lotto was second to none. By the third round – everyone was just helping themselves. Hopefully your new plants are braving the summer heat! Conrad Tips brought an especially nice collection of cuttings for the lotto. These cuttings (identified only by numbers at the lotto) included:

1. Pretty Pink Polyantha – pink blend, presents in sprays, vigorous shrub
2. Nicholson St. White – presents in large trusses, vigorous shrub
3. Proctor Plaza Blush – medium double blooms, vigorous shrub
4. Houston Hts. White – Cl. Hybrid tea
5. Not Really Mutabilis – like but red
6. Redan St. Yellow Tea – vigorous climber
7. Cvene Teal – ivory/blush/apricot blooms, moderate climber
8. Woodland Park Climber – vigorous, haven't seen it in bloom
9. Pretty Pinker Polyantha – presents in sprays, vigorous shrub
10. Big Red – upright shrub, blooms large, double, very red
11. Michaux St. Noisette – typical early noisette, blush
12. Pretty Red Polyantha – small but vigorous shrub, intense color
13. First Church Tea – large, quartered, double blooms, deep pink to rich red, vigorous shrub
14. Brad's Peach Sorbet – large, HP-style blooms, full and flush, vigorous HT shrub



And if you are interested in the results of our survey of Favorite Roses (by those in attendance) – well, here they are. It is quite an interesting selection...

- Belinda's Dream-5 votes
- Cameron Bohls
- Carefree Beauty
- Chuckles
- Cinco de Mayo
- Crepuscule
- Dainty Bess
- Deanna Krause
- Fame
- Gemini
- Graham Thomas
- Harry G. Hastings
- Madame Isaac Pereire
- Maggie-2 votes
- Maman Cochet
- Natchitoches Noisette
- Old Blush
- Peggy Martin
- Sharifa Asma
- Souvenir de la Malmaison
- Traviata



*Two Beauties — Chuckles and Dainty Bess*



In addition, Steve shared a Craigslist ad for a great rose trellis or such:

<http://houston.craigslist.org/grd/3918842891.html>

And last but not least, we had two excellent flyers that were provided by [Antique Rose Emporium](#). I have reproduced them on the next page. Thank you!





## Deer Resistant Plants

### TREES

- Oaks
- Cedar
- Pink
- Mexican Plum
- Ash
- Elms
- Yaupon
- Palms
- Vitex
- Crepe Myrtle
- Pecans
- Redbuds
- Mountain Laurel
- Cypress

### SHRUBS

- Agarita
- Cactus
- Kidneywood
- Viburnum
- Nandina
- Beauty Berry
- Hollies (Yaupon)
- Rosemary
- Wax Myrtle
- Eleagnus
- Butterfly Bush
- Junipers
- Texas Sage
- Yuccas
- Spirea

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Asiatic Jasmine
- Vinca
- Cross Vine
- Coral
- Honeysuckle
- Fig Ivy Clematis

### ANNUAL & PERENNIAL FLOWERING PLANTS

- Bluebonnet
- Marigold
- Dusty Miller
- Columbine
- Foxglove
- Lantana
- Mist Flower
- Salvia
- Indian Paintbrush
- Zinnias
- Lamb's Ear
- Cone Flower
- Gay Feather
- Agapanthus
- Shasta Daisy
- Verbena
- Poppies
- Artemisia
- Blackfoot Daisy
- Coreopsis
- Iris
- Ruella
- Penstemon
- Yarrow

### GRASSES

- Big Muhly
- Liriope
- Gulf Coash Muhly
- Monkey Grass
- Purple Fountain Grass
- HERBS
- Lavender
- Cilantro
- Oregano
- Salvia
- Rosemary
- Thymes

## Top 50 Best Selling Roses

### PIONEER ROSES

- Englemann's Quest
- F.J. Lindheimer
- Jane Bullock
- Mier y Teran
- Pioneer Spirit
- Republic of Texas
- Stephen F. Austin
- Star of the Republic
- Sweet Pea
- Thomas Affleck

### EARTHKIND ROSES

- Belinda's Dream
- Caldwell Pink
- Carefree Beauty
- Duchesse de Brabant
- KnockOut
- Madame Antoine
- Mari
- Mutabilis
- New Dawn
- Perle d'Or
- Pinkie, Cl.
- The Fairy

### ANTIQUÉ ROSES

- Archduke Charles
- Buff Beauty
- Cadenza
- Cecile Brunner
- Cl. Cecile Brunner
- Chrysler Imperial
- Colonial White
- Cramoisi Superieur
- Crepuscule
- Dame de Couer
- Dortmund
- Graham Thomas
- Heritage
- Highway 290 Pink Buttons
- Lafter
- Le Vesuve
- Maggie
- Marie Pavie
- Martha Gonzales
- Mermaid
- Mrs. B.R. Cant
- Mrs. Dudley Cross
- Nacogdoches
- Nearly Wild
- Old Blush
- Old Blush, Cl.
- Peggy Martin
- Penelope
- Red Cascade
- Reve d'Or
- Rise-n-Shine
- Souvenir de la Malmaison
- Souvenir de St. Anne
- Valentine
- Zephirine Drouhin

## 2013 & 2014 TRR Meetings — Save These Dates!!!

Jane Gray, Program Chair

**October 4 -6**

**East Texas Ramblin' (Tentative Plans)**

See Detailed Events on Page 3

**November 2**

**Fall Cutting Exchange in Glen Flora and Hungerford (Tentative Plans)**

Details to be Announced



### SPRING, 2014 (Tentative Plans)

- **Spring Meeting:** At a member's home – place and date to be announced
- **Spring Road Trip:** We plan to use the Best Western Hotel in Blanco as our home base. The trip will be during the week in order to get the best rates and availability. Mr. Patel is excited that we are going to be there! – Date to be announced, but it will be after Easter and tax season!

### Additional "Cooler" Weather Events to Look Forward To:

- **August 15, 2013: Heat & Drought Tough Roses for Texas Gardens."** Gaye Hammond, Master Rosarian will share the preliminary results and identify the roses that gave superior landscape performance during recent periods of drought. Free program hosted by the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Road in Rosenberg. For more visit [Fort Bend Master Gardeners](#) FBCMG is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- **September 26: Bountiful Butterflies.** Held at the [Antique Rose Emporium](#) in Brenham. Includes a Box Lunch. \$25.00 per guest and advance registration is required.
- **October 19: Farmers Branch Celebration of Roses.** The day starts at 10:30 AM with free registration and includes a complimentary lunch, live music, a rose show, and three speakers, including Pat Shanley, Tom Carruth, and Stephen Scanniello.
- **November 1-3: Fall Festival of Roses.** Held at the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham. Schedule is to be announced.





## Old News Is New Again!

Here is another great reprint. This article is a selection by Becky Smith, TRR Historian. Enjoy!!!

## Starting Roses from Cuttings —

*By Pamela A. Puryear & Margaret P. Sharpe; Edited by John A. Sharpe*

### WHEN TO TAKE CUTTINGS

Roses are considered woody shrubs and may be rooted like any woody shrub, from a small length of a stem or cane from a desirable parent rose. The cuttings should be made when 1) the weather is warm, between 60 and 80 degrees F, or 2) taken in the cold weather following the last frost of Spring when the cutting has been "hardened off by the cold, or 3) taken and wrapped in plastic (such as a zip-lock bag) and stored in the refrigerator below 28 degrees F but warmer than 23 degrees F. They may be held several months before putting in to make roots.

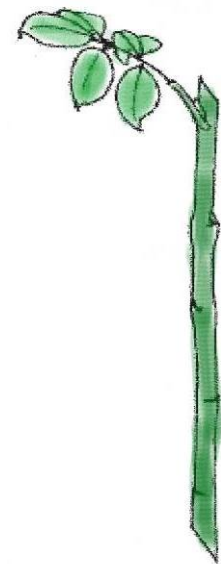
### WHEN TO PLANT CUTTINGS

In the late summer in cold climates roses go into a resting period, so it is not a good time to set out what we call "hardwood cuttings." If the weather is as warm as 40 F they may be put outside to grow roots in a location protected from the sun and wind.

Since roses begin growing roots when soil temperatures have pretty well stabilized to between 40 and 60 degrees F, we usually expect cuttings to make roots in the spring when soil and outside temperatures are in that range. However, sometimes we put softwood cuttings out-of-doors in the fall before the first frost to make some roots ahead of the spring season. We know, for example, that in areas where first frost is expected in November that the best practice is to not put cuttings in until after November 15th, but later is better. When we do this we cover the cuttings well with mulch materials to protect the cuttings.

### HOW TO SELECT CUTTINGS

Cuttings should have at least three leaf joints and not be over five inches long. Hardwood cuttings taken in the late fall should be no larger than a pencil; be about 5 nodes (leaf joints) long; and from a cane grown during the past season. If possible include the heel, the hump on the main cane from which the stem emerges. Like other cuttings, be sure the stem has had a true bloom on it the season before. There is no percentage in propagating what we call "blind wood." Also, be sure the leaves on the cuttings all have 5 or more leaves per leaf stem (petiole) to show it is a normal rose cane. Remember that the first two leaves below the

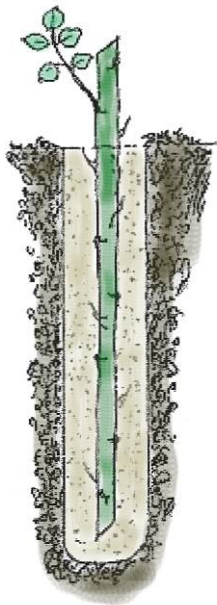


bloom are not true leaves (they are bracts) and will not produce good bloom growth even though they look like leaves. All buds for blooms or roots come from the bud that forms at the intersection of the stem and leaf. Often roots grow from the cut at the bottom of the stem from the cambium ring under the bark. Many rosarians cut a notch where the leaf scar is on the last 3 scars at the bottom of the cutting, because it is so active with meristem tissue that energizes grow cells.

## PREPARING THE CUTTING

Ideally, cuttings should be taken about the size and length of a pencil with a minimum of 5 leaf joints. Strip off all but the top leaves. These should be left intact as they have a direct relationship to the formation of roots. Only leave one set of leaves. They serve to let you know that all is growing well underground.

The Texas Rose Rustlers learned and use a tea solution of willow. Any species of the genus *Salix* is fine. Willow, common name for *Salix*, is a softwood tree or shrub related to poplars. Those growing along the coast are *Salix interior*, those on inland rivers are *Salix niger*, black willow. One rosarian used the weeping willow in his backyard! It is made by boiling about a quart of water on the stove for about 15 minutes, then adding at least one heaping measuring cup of soft willow branches. The branches are prepared by stripping the leaves and cutting them into about one-inch lengths. The point is to get the branches from the current years' growth that has a thin bark. Also, recommended is to cut the stems lengthwise or smash them with a hammer. The willow branch clippings are dumped into the boiling water; the heat turned off; stirring occasionally; and left covered to cool



overnight. DO NOT BOIL THE WILLOW ITSELF. This steeps out the chemicals that are beneath the bark. When cool (overnight or longer), the woody clippings may be strained off. The solution put into a clean quart jar and capped. It is best if it is used up within three days. This solution is then used for soaking the cuttings in overnight.

Re-cut the stem ends on the bottom by holding them under the willow water and dropping them in. DO NOT LIFT TO EXPOSE TO THE AIR as the air will "plug up" the sieve cells that take water up into the plant. Then, put the cuttings into a clean rooting medium to establish roots.

Sometimes the top leaf of the cutting drops off. You may suspect soil fungus, if the cutting stem at ground level becomes black. It is probably from fungus disease called "canker", and the cutting is not good. Willow helps to prevent this because it is a disinfectant. The

American Indians put it in wounds to disinfect and drank willow for pain. Alternately, you could dip the cuttings in a solution of "Rootone", a brand of rooting hormone (disinfectant). Let the cuttings stand in this for about 15 minutes, no longer. Use fresh Rootone that has not been contaminated with non-sterile fingers or tools; even air exposure contaminates all the Rootone in a new container if left open too long.



To avoid bacteria contamination, it is recommended to dip clippers in a solution of one Tablespoon of bleach in a quart of water. The biggest secret to rooting cuttings is to keep everything clean! The other is to refrain from digging around the cutting to see if it has roots. New roots from cuttings are fine as hair, and few at first. Not only does your dirty old finger contaminate the soil, but it also breaks the hair-like roots of the cutting. Trust a clean stem area at ground level and the leaves you left on the cutting being still mostly intact to tell you what you want to know.

## HOW TO GROW CUTTINGS

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

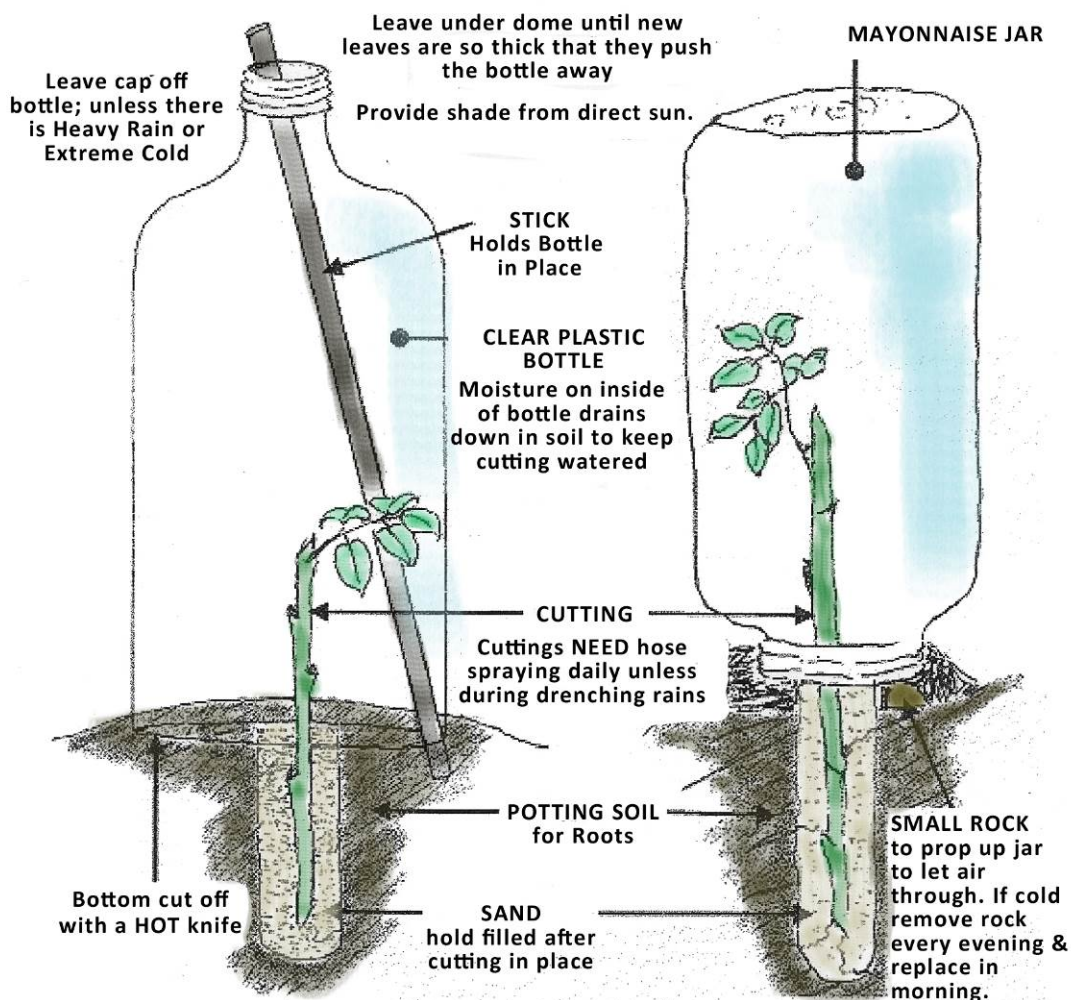
**SOIL** – A good potting soil; such as Peters - a brand containing compost, perlite, and sand; and a weak dab of fertilizer. This is sterile. The reason I recommend purchasing a reputable commercial potting soil is:

1. Most of us want to grow our roses outside in open ground. We need to grow cuttings in clean and healthful soil particles. Read the ingredients. I caution about being sold some kind of a growing medium called a "Pro-Mix", which is mostly an organic mulch-type material for use in a professional situation where it is used regularly. These mixes nearly always have a weak amount of fertilizer that new roots cannot use until after the first or second week of growth. At the proper moisture, the "baby roots" may handle this "formula" or they may be burned up as fast as they appear, and cuttings will promptly die. If the cutting had strength to make new roots it can manage for about 10 days until the natural foods in the soil "kick in." Also, be cautious of mixes that rely too much on perlite. Read the ingredients and/or call an ARS Consulting Rosarian for advice.
2. Many soil mixes are for growing cuttings under a forcing program and the ingredients are designed to react accordingly.

Alternately, you may mix your own using your well-rotted compost and other ingredients you prefer, along with about a Tablespoon of Osmocote per 1 gallon of soil. This should be enough for about the first season. . Many successful rose growers use some kind of growing mulch very successfully and have learned to watch for any irregularities. Some of their mixes rely on vermiculite to supply moisture and this material holds water for an unbelievably long time. It is a great soil additive once one learns how to use it, but it cannot be removed from the soil and takes a few years to stabilize. The same can be said for perlite, white particles, which allows air to enter the soil. This is fine except the first big rainfall you see it floating on top of the cutting bed and flowing into the gutters. If you want to mix your own rose starter soil you should mix it with about 1/2 part clean garden loam, through which you have poured about the equal volume of boiling water and allowed it to cool over-night. Add 1/4 part well decomposed compost (in which the ingredients are no longer identifiable), and 1/4th part fresh water river sand, sold as "mortar sand". The sand should be rather coarse but not gravel size, or very fine. Clay is fine-fine-fine sand and many people defeat themselves by creating a cement-like mess by using too much fine sand in a soil already full of sand.

Sand-Mortar sand, washed river sand, builders sand or "playbox sand" (as much as 1 lb. of sugar). Roses seem to root better in this clean washed sand than any other medium, and a little goes a long way! The diagram will illustrate how it is used.

**BOTTLES OR JARS** – Collect 1 & 2 liter clear plastic soft drink bottles, or gather up quart or larger glass jars to place over your cuttings. Cut the bottoms off the plastic bottles with a hot knife and save the caps. The cap of the dome may be removed during hot weather and replaced in severe cold or wet weather. The use of plastic soft drink bottles or quart glass jars over cuttings have the great advantage of holding mulch in place as well as protecting the cuttings so that mulches may be piled high over the cutting to keep it warm and to still allow light to reach the cutting. You may notice that moisture form inside these "domes". The moisture forms droplets that flow down the sides and help to keep the cutting moist. If too much heat builds it is easy enough to remove the cap from the plastic bottle to let the heat out, or prop one side of the glass jar up to allow air circulation during the day. Sometimes wind will try to blow away either glass or plastic domes. This can be handled by putting a long stick angled down through the neck of the bottle and into the ground, or by





placing a weight, like a rock or brick, on top of the bottle, or put sticks all around them to prevent movement.

**"FLOWER POTS"** – For containerized growing is an option I like to use. A good container is the black plastic pots used by nurseries that we often discard. Plastic containers are best for cuttings as they hold moisture best for roses, drain well, do not overheat, and can be moved into other locations.

**BROOM HANDLE** – You will need the rounded end of a broom handle for making the hole to plant the cutting in.

## PLANTING

- Prepare the soil as described previously or use Peters in a well-drained area.
- Make a hole with a piece of broom handle a little deeper than you are going to set the cutting.
- Place the prepared cutting in the hole with the top set of leaves above ground.
- Pour the sand around the cutting. Sand is the best media to root rose cuttings in. When roots form they grow through the sand and into the soil.
- Moisten the sand and soil.
- Place the bottle over the cutting and anchor if required.
- Mulch around the dome and protect from direct sunlight.
- Watch it grow



The first leaves that grow are from strength in the stem or cane, not from any roots. The appearance of the second set of leaves is from new roots. It is very important that the cutting not be jostled or moved as these roots will very easily break and kill the cutting. It may take roots two weeks or as long as two months to form and the second leaves to appear, but as long as the cutting does not darken or blacken at or above the soil line the cutting has not died from soil fungus. As the weather permits, after the leaves are growing well, the glass or plastic dome over the cutting may be tilted to one side during good weather and a small rock or block of wood put under the rim to allow fresh air to reach the plant. If a cool night is expected it is best to not tilt the cover. Gradually "harden off" the new plant over the period of 7 to 10 days and watch it closely before leaving the protection

off permanently. In the wintertime we often leave cuttings covered for longer periods as the roots formed are actively storing starches to prepare for vigorous spring growth. Roses are seldom harmed until the temperature at ground level is below 26 degrees F. Continue growing uncovered in the same location for 8 or 9 months before transplanting in another location, gradually introducing to sunshine. Be aware of the following climate conditions and make adjustments as necessary.

**CLIMATE CONDITIONS** – If the sequence of temperature and light and moisture is not maintained properly the cuttings die.

**TEMPERATURE** – Cold weather is not likely to damage roses. But, not insulating them with mulches to prevent sudden shocks of temperature changes is often devastating, whether it is heat or cold.

**LIGHTING** – Never place rose cuttings in a direct sun location but always in a bright light spot. This means in "dappled light", but never in complete shade. There is a relationship between the amount of light the cutting receives and the speed with which the roots grow. As for sunlight, be aware that all flowering plants need some light, not necessarily sunshine but roses need some. Light reflected from a white house serves quite well to stimulate blooms. True, all roses do not like the same amount of light so just start out assuming they want all the light they can get and watch how they respond. It is well to keep some kind of sunshade ready to protect young cuttings from burning. Cuttings in pots may be moved as necessary. It takes a while for a young cutting to grow enough leaves to protect themselves. Like all of us, they require certain amounts of sunblock. They are, after all, just babies and need to be treated as such until strong enough to handle it.

**MOISTURE** – To make roots roses need constantly moist soil, they have to have freely draining soil, and if containerized they must be watched daily, so rain does not fill the container and it does not drain. I usually place all of mine in pot dishes to assure moisture in dry times and remove them during heavy rain times so they can drain. There are people who seem to think roses need soil that is wet rather than damp all the time and lose their cuttings. Water fills the spaces between soil particles so air (oxygen) cannot reach the nodes that would sprout new top or root growth if the cutting was not being drowned. Cuttings cannot survive long in water and also cannot be allowed to dry out. Once a cutting has been allowed to dry, it is too late to expect recovery. The same as when it has been smothered from air (oxygen). It is not staying in this fine balance that cuttings are lost. Soil fungus that makes the cutting get black spots on the stem is due to excess water or dryness. Failure to control moisture is the primary reason most cuttings "fail."

**MULCHING** – Leaves mixed with pine needles is popular for mulching as they are usually readily available and serve to keep the cuttings warm as well as moist. The pine needles do not adversely acidify the soil, but unless mixed with leaves will form a thatch that sheds water off. Therefore, be sure that pine needles are mixed well with leaves so that water is allowed to strain through to the soil. It is not good to push the mulch closely around the cutting for it could keep the base of the cutting so moist that it might rot off at the soil level.

This is true for applying any mulch at any time around roses - apply it over the area where roots are to be growing, 3 to 4 inches back from the understock bud union.

**GROWING INDOORS** – There is not much future of growing roses indoors at any stage. They may survive for a while but they do not thrive very well. They will quickly harbor spider mites. It is possible to get them to grow and bloom indoors, but in mild climates they survive most winters quite easily outdoors. Indoor light can be provided with fluorescent light placed about four inches above them and left on about sixteen hours daily. They like the fluorescent lights because they do not create heat like regular incandescent light bulbs. The indoor growing of roses is both labor and financially intensive.

### A Final Word

Almost all roses are susceptible to Blackspot and mildew. Be aware that mildew is a climate problem that is with us all the time. It becomes evident when the temperature is right for it. There are products that can be used to control these conditions. We recommend them only if needed to prevent destruction of the plants. Never use an insecticide or fungicide unless you see the suspect actually doing damage to the rose, like really eating the foliage or bloom. In the case of insects, the best way is to mash'em. Stay away from products in the pantry on roses. The same is true when a "soil moisturizing" compound is offered. Call an ARS Consulting Rosarian. Roses will not root if the grower is not pure in heart!!



## Texas Rose Rustlers Board Members

Chairman.....	Kathy Hyatt	<a href="mailto:trrchair@texasroserustlers.com">trrchair@texasroserustlers.com</a>
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Historian.....	Becky Smith	<a href="mailto:trrhistorian@texasroserustlers.com">trrhistorian@texasroserustlers.com</a>
Secretary .....	Faith Bickley	<a href="mailto:trrsecretary@texasroserustlers.com">trrsecretary@texasroserustlers.com</a>
Treasurer/Membership.....	Flora Tiedt	<a href="mailto:trrmembership@texasroserustlers.com">trrmembership@texasroserustlers.com</a>
Webmaster .....	Barbara Buckley	<a href="mailto:webmaster@texasroserustlers.com">webmaster@texasroserustlers.com</a>
Welcoming Committee.....	James Buckley / Jane Gray	<a href="mailto:trrwelcome@texasroserustlers.com">trrwelcome@texasroserustlers.com</a>
Old Texas Rose Editor .....	Carolyn Stracik	<a href="mailto:trreditor@texasroserustler.com">trreditor@texasroserustler.com</a>