

Old Texas Rose

VOL 27, SUMMER 2015

Greetings Fellow Rose Rustlers ---

Message from the Chair - AUDREY McMURRAY

Many thanks to John Ferguson, Mark Bowen, and their wonderful staff for being such accommodating hosts at Nature's Way Resources. Rain threatened to cancel our Spring Symposium but the Board voted to keep going and they ended up being right - we had a great time! Thirty-six brave souls made the trip and were not disappointed. We were treated to a tour through large hills of soil and mulch, and a nursery filled with plants that thrive in our crazy Gulf Coast weather. The grounds, themselves, are a like a horticultural history lesson and Mark discussed their plans to expand in the coming years.

John ended the day with a discussion about the relationship between healthy soil and healthy bodies, mineral deficiencies and disease states, illustrated with stories about his own life and how he got to be where he is now. It was an enlightening look at a relationship that is too often ignored as we go about our busy lives. We are - quite literally - what we eat. We lack - quite literally - what we *don't* eat, and suffer the consequences in terms of our physical and mental health.

We took a picture of those of us who lasted all the way to the end but there were others who had to leave early, for various reasons. I will forever think of you all as the Mudbugs, an honorary title for you tough Rustlers!

Audrey McMurray



BEWARE OF CLAIMS OF “CURE” FOR ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE

By Gaye Hammond, Master Rosarian

Reader be AWARE! Information is swirling through cyber-space claiming there is a “cure” for the dreaded Rose Rosette Disease. We would all like to find a cure for this devastating condition, but a basic knowledge of the disease will allow a rose grower to properly evaluate any promised cure.

Rose Rosette Disease (“RRD”) is caused by a virus which is transmitted by the mite, *Phyllocoptes fructiphilus*. There is currently **no credible cure** for plants with a confirmed RRD diagnosis. Plants infected with confirmed RRD that are left in the landscape have the ability to infect otherwise healthy roses – thereby putting the entire rose garden at risk of infection.



Figure 1 ‘Witches Broom’ growth from a Belinda’s Dream rose infected with rose rosette disease

“There is an urgent need to control rose rosette disease,” said Dr. Dave Byrne, Texas A&M AgriLife Research horticulturist and holder of the Basye Chair of Rose Genetics. Because this disease has the ability to impact the U.S. domestic bare-root and container rose production with a value of about \$400 million, scientists and researchers from across the country have joined together to develop a set of best-management practices to manage mite transmission of the virus as well as undertake studies to identify the sources of genetic resistance to RRD and quickly transfer resistance into roses for use by the nursery industry. The 17-member multidisciplinary team conducting this research includes experts in plant breeding and genetics, molecular genetics, plant pathology, entomology and is collaborating with rose breeders in four states, as well as the Plant Research Institute in The Netherlands. One of the collaborators is the Houston Rose Society’s own member, Dr. David Zlesak, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

The United States Department of Agriculture, through its National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s Small Crop Research Initiative, has extended a \$4.6 million research grant to the 17-member group headed by Dr. Byrne to fund the research effort to fight RRD.

Besides costly chemical treatments some of the suspect recommendations I have seen which give cause for concern include:

* **Suspect.** Stop planting Knock Out® Roses and add more biodiversity to the rose planting.

There is no data to support that gardens of one rose variety are more apt to succumb to RRD than gardens with multiple varieties of roses and other plants. In fact, the National Earth-Kind Rose Research Trial funded by the Houston Rose Society directly contradicts this claim. At that North Texas trial site, RRD was first identified in a planting of hybrid tea roses in garden beds adjacent to the trial. Within a year, RRD was found in a variety of shrub roses – but what we saw was that no one rose variety appeared to be more susceptible to RRD than any other variety.

* **Suspect.** Prune off diseased and deformed growth and then spray tools with hydrogen peroxide. It has long been suggested that pruning on a plant infected with RRD and then using the same shears on a healthy plant could cause the transmission of the virus from one plant to another. There is no credible literature that I have found to suggest the use of hydrogen peroxide is an effective disinfection agent for viral pathogens. When working with any plant suspected of having a disease, it is recommended that pruning shears be disinfected between cuts with a solution of 1/4th cup of household bleach mixed with 2 ¼ cups of water. The University of Kentucky also recommends disinfection using solutions of 70% alcohol to 30% water; or, 70% Lysol to 30% water.

* **Suspect.** Treat plants infected with RRD with hydrogen peroxide. According to members of the RRD Task Force there is no credible data to show that hydrogen peroxide will help a plant infected with RRD. In fact, hydrogen peroxide has the ability to damage plants.

According to Dr. Zlesak, “Once RRD becomes systemic in the plant (in its blood stream), nothing sprayed on the plant is going to remove this lethal virus from the plant.”

In some instances, a plant may have sentimental value and may be precious to the gardener. In that instance, Dr. Zlesak suggests that the diseased portion of the plant may be pruned well below the infection point, taking great care to disinfect pruning equipment thoroughly with an appropriate disinfectant between cuts and certainly before cutting on a healthy plant. Gardeners taking this approach should keep a watchful eye on the plant that RRD symptoms do not recur, and take immediate action to remove the plant if evidence of RRD reappears.

Some symptoms of RRD mimic damage caused by pests and/or disease processes which are controllable. Plant damage caused by chilli thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood), herbicides and exposure to plant growth inhibitors can be similar to some symptoms of RRD. For this reason positive identification of the presence of RRD is critical! When it comes to RRD, relying on unsubstantiated “cures” which have not been subjected to replication in controlled settings is like playing Russian roulette with your garden. The stakes are simply stacked against you!

AmericanHort, an association of nursery and landscape professionals has established a RRD website, <http://roserosettedisease.com>, which will be an outlet for the RRD Task Force’s national study and action plan. There is a wealth of good information available on this website.



Specimen samples from plants suspected of having RRD may be sent to the Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Texas A&M University. Directions on how to take and submit samples, along with testing fees are available at <http://plantclinic.tamu.edu>

Figure 2; Production of excessive thorns is a symptom of RRD (courtesy of John Hartman, University of Kentucky Bugwood.org)



Book Review – Conrad Tips

ROSES FOR TEXAS GARDENS, 1888

Evelyn Oppenheimer, Gilbert Onderdonk: the nurseryman of Mission Valley, pioneer horticulturist. Univ. of North Texas Press, 1991.

At 22, Gilbert Onderdonk, an invalid, came to Texas in search of a benign climate. He died at 91 after an unusually adventurous life, honored by all. His nursery in Victoria County was well regarded nationally and internationally as well for decorative and economic plants. The following, taken from the 1888 catalogue, is Mr. Onderdonk's choice of roses for Southern gardens.

Prices of Roses.--At nursery, strong plants, 50 cents each; \$5 per dozen except where otherwise stated. Rare varieties not named in this list and special assortments will be supplied at special rates.

China, Tea, and Bourbon Roses

Aristides--white, buff center; Tea.

Azelia Imbert--Canary yellow; Tea.

Cheshunt Hybrid--Cherry carmine, shaded violet; of vigorous growth, very large rose, free Spring bloomer, but rarely blooms in Summer. Hybrid Tea.

Capt. Christie--Flesh, with deeper center; free bloomer, fine flower, dwarf, thornless. Hybrid Tea. \$1.00.

Duchere--White, free bloomer. China.

Empress Eugenie--Large, very full, beautifully cupped; delicate rose; an extra good flowerer. Bourbon.

Etoile de Lyon--Large, full, canary yellow. Tea.

Louis Phillippe--Dark crimson, often silvered center. China.

Mme. Alfred Corrier--Pure white, sometimes tinged with flesh; very free and constant bloomer. Hybrid Tea.

Marshal Niel--Deep canary yellow, sometimes a tinge of pink shading; large and full, a free bloomer, has not generally succeeded with us on its own roots. We supply it only budded on strong stocks. Climbing Tea. 75 cents each.

Pink Daily--Pretty buds; not a fine rose but desirable on account of its extra blooming habits. China.

Picayune--Pale pink; very small, often not larger than a dime; double; a cute little curiosity; constant bloomer. China.

Perle de Lyon--Dark yellow; one of our best yellow Teas.

Zelia Pradel--One of our purest white roses; half climber. Tea. When ordered alone 75 cents.

Hybrid Remontant Roses.

This class should comprise the main bulk of every collection. They are all hardy, upright growers and produce large flowers.

Achille Gonod--Lilac rose; very large bloom; good grower; one of the best.

August Von Gert--Bright lilac rose.

Adam Paul--Large, open flower, pink, good bloomer.

Blach de Meru--Light flesh.

Belle of Normandy--Lilac pink, large and sweet.

Bessie Johnson--Light blush.

Crown Prince--Purplish crimson.

Duc de Cazes--Purplish red, shaded violet; dwarf growth.

Dr. Sewell--Crimson scarlet, shade purple.

Duke of Connaught--Deep crimson, velvety; dwarf habit; not a free bloomer.

Fanny Pitsold--Clear satin rose.

Gen Jacqueminot--Fiery red; an old popular variety much called for, but we think there are several better roses.

Infant of Mt. Carmel--Clear, bright rosy pink; large and very double; an old rose but too good to lay aside.

John Nesmith--Brilliant deep red. Louis Odier--Clear satin rose.

La Reine--Deep rosy lilac; a standard old variety.

Marshal Suchet--Deep carmine pink.

Magna Charta--Bright pink.

Mme. Moreau--Deep brilliant carmine, changes to purple; perpetual bloomer; our favorite of its class. 75 cents.

Princess Louise Victoria--Deep crimson changing lighter.

Princess Mathilde--Dark crimson shaded purple.

Prince Albert--Deep crimson.

Paul Neyron--Deep pink; one of our very largest roses.

Perle des Blanches--Pure white; free bloomer; a strong competitor of Zelia Pradel.

Peonia--Crimson red.

Prince Camille de Rohan--One of our darkest crimson roses.

Sidonie--Light pink; our favorite of its color and class.

Vulcan--Velvety crimson changing to purple.

Polyantha roses.

A new class of roses produced by crossing the Japan type and Texas.

Cecile Brunner--Flowers about one and a half inches in diameter; salmon pink, deeper center; beautifully formed.

Mignonette--Delicate rose changing to blush; flowers very small, blooming enormous profusion. Almost constantly in bloom during the

whole growing season.

Paquerette--Pure white; flowers very small; free bloomer.

Annual blooming roses.

Valuable at the North but should never be planted here where we have such a wealth of free bloomer. We carry only a very small stock of these roses, confining ourselves altogether to such as are most called for. We feel that every customer who buys one is getting nothing for his money. We put them into our list only because the demand requires it. We shall be glad when the demand ceases altogether.

George IV--Dark velvety crimson, changes to purple; a beautiful flower; blooms splendidly for about two weeks and then waits for the following year.

Mrs. Hovey--Medium size flower; variegated carmine; a very strong grower; we use it as a stock on which to bud Marechal Niel.

Queen of the Prairie--Clear bright pink, large, compact, very double and full; blooms in clusters; is one of the finest of all the Prairie roses.

Seven Sisters--Small flowers in large clusters; varies in color from white to crimson.

Moss roses.

For several years we maintained a quite full collection of Moss Roses. We have not been pleased with their general behavior. Most of them are Spring bloomers, but a few of them bloom occasionally and are called Perpetual.

Eugene de Savoie--Pink.

Salet--Pale rose, perpetual.

Glory of Mosses--Light pink, compact habit.

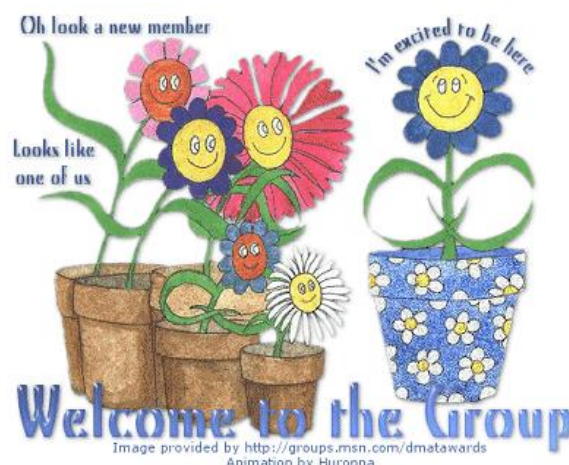
Zobride--Pink.

Interesting that quite a few of these are still available.

Welcome New Members:

Sandra Garrihy, Conroe
Suzanne Hall, Conroe
Barb & Walt Harremann, Cypress
Holly Hecht, Granbury
James McMatin, The Woodlands
Susan Peacock, Cypress
Adriel Rush, Conroe
Trish Smith, Crystal Beach

We look forward to getting to know you and your gardening ways!



TRR SUMMER MEETING AT MERCER ARBORETUM

The Texas Rose Rustlers will meet Saturday, July 11th at 9:30 AM for our annual Summer Rookie Meeting.

The agenda for the meeting:

9:30 AM Meet and Greet

10:00 AM Gaye Hammond, past president of the Houston Rose Society and a member of the National Earth-Kind Advisory Board, and Susan Kelly, a member of the Houston Rose Society and a volunteer at the M.D. Anderson trial gardens, will speak about the Earth-Kind trial gardens at M.D. Anderson. Gaye will speak about the trial process; Susan will talk about the individual cultivars and where to find them.

There will be a break for a lotto drawing between speakers.

12:00 Lunch – As usual we will have a pot luck lunch. Please bring a dish to share with the group. Water and coffee will be provided.

1:30 PM Pam Greenewald, owner of [Angel Gardens](#), a rose nursery in Florida, will speak about her experiences using only natural methods of caring for her antique roses. Pam is an enthusiastic and interesting lecturer who will talk to us about "Busting Myths and Boosting Musts". She will also speak on a project involving veterans and the businesses that are growing out of their work together.

2:30 Lotto

Note: As usual all times are flexible.

Hope to see you at Mercer!

Mercer Arboretum
22306 Aldine Westfield Rd.
Humble, TX 77338

Have you had a Tetanus Booster lately?

It is a good idea to have a Tetanus booster at least every ten years, with a five year interval preferable. We all work in the soil and occasionally get stuck with thorns, which makes having the booster important. Tetanus is a soil born bacteria which can have some rather unpleasant symptoms. So if it's been a while, make your appointment now, please!!!



The Mudbugs



John Ferguson talk



Mark Bowen giving tour



California Bound

by Faith Bickley & Becky Smith

What happens when you have a friend with a bucket list of rose venues to visit? You get to go to interesting places with spectacular rose displays.

Becky Smith and I had made friends with two women, Patty Click and Susan Hill from the San Francisco Bay Area, when we went to the Heritage Rose Foundation's New Orleans meeting in November. Through them we met Anita Clevenger who is in charge of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden in the Old City Cemetery which just happened to be on Becky's bucket list. There are over 400 beautiful roses in this collection which date from 1850-1915.

We found out that the Open Garden Day was April 18th so we flew in from our separate locations the day before. And, what do you do when you arrive in a new city and have a free afternoon? You research rose gardens and head for them. We first went to the McKinley Rose Garden in Sacramento. What a display of roses! The blooms were more than spectacular and the foliage pristine (we found out they don't even spray).

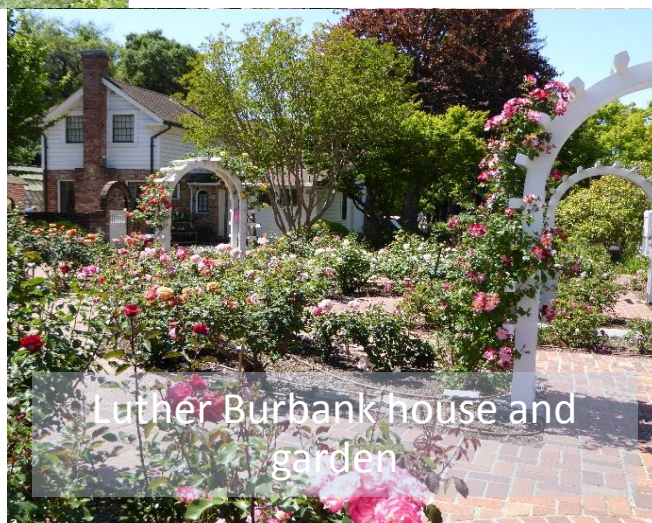
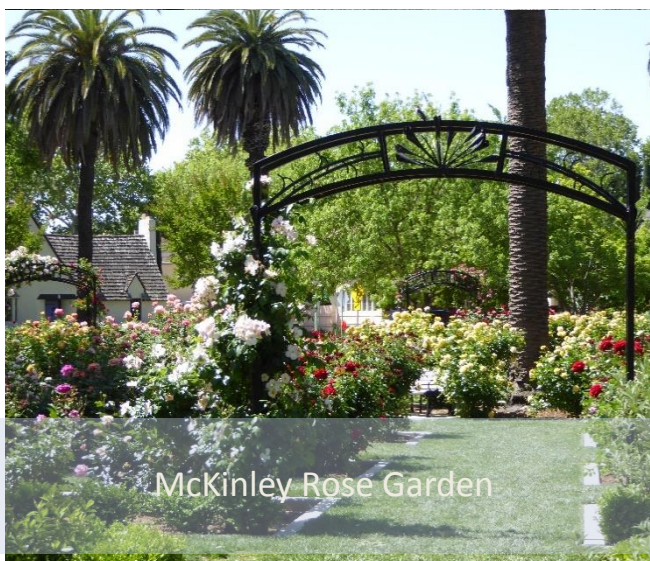
Then what do you do when you find out that the cemetery you will visit tomorrow is only 12 minutes away? You head there for a preview. We drove around in wonder at the myriad of roses and companion plants amidst the headstones and had a good visit with some other Heritage Rose Foundation members who gave us tips on the rose sale the next day.

We followed their advice and were in line more than an hour before the sale. Becky ended up with 7 roses and I, with 2 (don't ask about the ease of transporting those babies home on the plane). Then we toured the roses and had lunch with our CA friends.

Sunday was another adventure set up by our friends- a day of roses in San Jose. First Tom Liggett took us on a tour of the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden and then on to the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden which he designed and developed. Is there such a thing as "rose overload"? What an experience! To top off the day, after lunch with our friends, we went to tour Tom's own garden. He has done a lot of work with roses and many other plants, and his setup was very interesting. Then, he served some delicious strawberry shortcake made with strawberries from his garden.

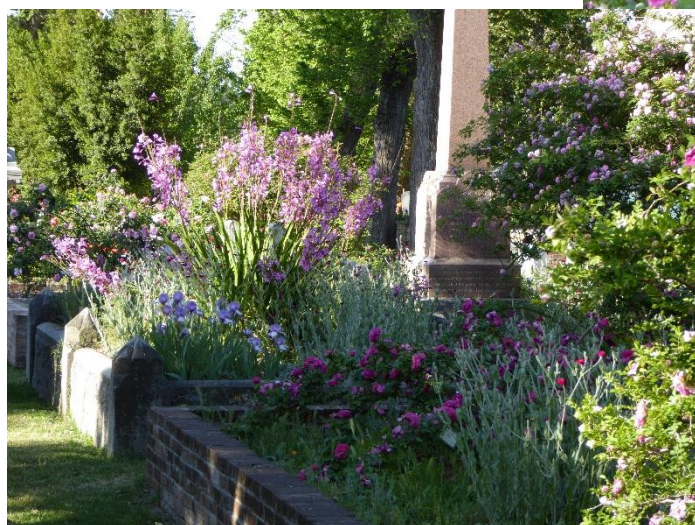
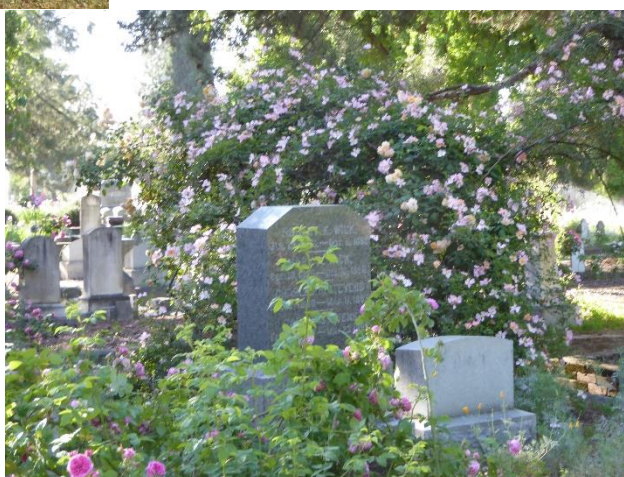
Thanks to some fortuitous happenings, we crossed off one of the things on Becky's bucket list. Want to bet on whether there will be more??!!







**Becky Smith, Anita Clevenger
& Faith Bickley at Sacramento
Old City Cemetery.**



Feeding Roses Made Easy

SHOPPING LIST



FROM HOME DEPOT
Brute 32gal Trash Can -- 29.97
Brute Can Dolly -- 34.97



FROM ACE HARDWARE
Sump Pump 1/4hp -- 89.99



FROM ACE HARDWARE
PVC Male Adaptor -- 1.99
PVC Female Adaptor -- 1.99
PVC Elbow -- .39
PVC Cement -- 2.79
10 ft. PVC 3/4 pipe -- 2.30

Are you avoiding feeding your roses because of the hassle of measuring and mixing fertilizers and mineral supplements?

Well - for just under \$175.00, here's a system that takes the drudgery out of fertilizing. In one short shopping trip and in less than an hour, this system was up and running.

Other items you might need other than those pictured would be a PVC cutter, 32 oz measuring cup, 50 or 75 ft hose, a water wand and 100 ft. extension cord. So make a list of all the extra items you also might need and off you go. Here are the simple steps.

1. Secure the Brute Can Dolly to the bottom of the 32gal Brute Trash Can.
2. Cut a piece of PVC pipe the end reaches just above the lip of the can.
3. Cement the female adaptor on one end and attach to the pump. (Make sure it's hose thread)
4. Cement the elbow to the other end of the pipe.
5. Cut another piece of pipe (about 8 - 10 inches) and cement into the elbow.
6. Attach the male adaptor to the end of the pipe. (Make sure it's hose thread.)

You are now ready to rock and roll.

Other suggestions:

1. Mark the volume in 5 gallon increments on the inside of the container so you won't make too much fertilizer.
2. Set your new fertilizer rig on a flat, solid surface.
3. Add the fertilizer as you fill with water to make sure that it totally goes in solution. Bob & Kitty Belendez pre-dissolve water soluble fertilizers in hot water.

Caution: Never mix fertilizers with insecticides or fungicides -- you never know what kind of chemical reaction you'll get.



Chris Greenwood

Save The Date

October 3 - Fabulous Fall Festival and Plant Sale

Stephen F. Austin Mast Arboretum

2900 Raguet St.

Nacogdoches, TX

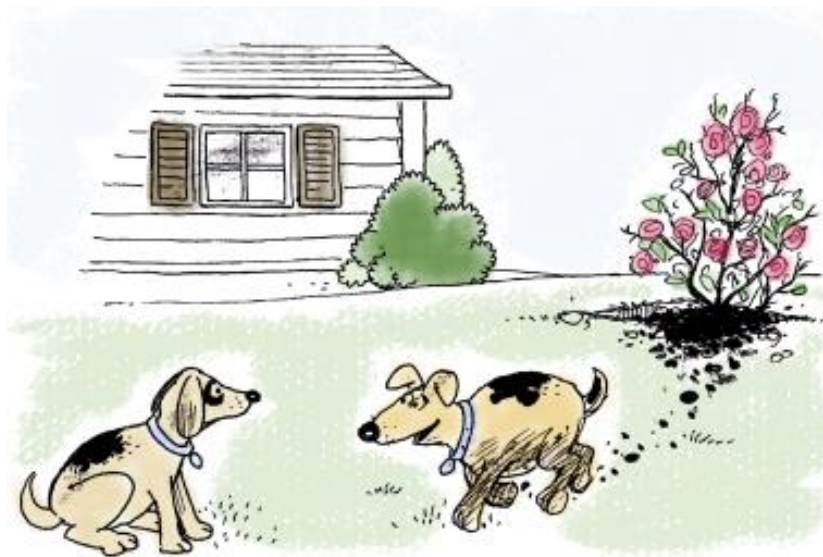
9:00 a.m.

Website - <http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu>

November 6-8 - Heritage Rose Foundation Annual Conference

Antique Rose Emporium Fall Festival

www.antiqueroseemporium.com



"SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA STOP & DIG UP THE ROSES."

*Thanks to Gaye Hammond of the Houston Rose Society for her article on Rose Rosette.

Thanks to Chris Greenwood of The Pacific Rose Society for his article on Rose Fertilization made easy.

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