



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007



THE CAPITAL ROSE

A publication of the Arlington Rose Foundation
and the Potomac Rose Society.
Affiliated with the American Rose Society.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, November 12
7:30 p.m.

ARF Monthly Public Meeting

at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks
12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax VA
**Annual Rosebush Auction &
Election of Officers**

The rose auction is a great way to add roses to your garden at a fraction of the cost. Members offer up roses they no longer need as a fund raising event for the ARF. Any member can offer up some of their roses for auction. And everyone can bid on the roses being offered.. Bring your list and have some fun! Delivery is either fall or spring. Refreshments will be provided by Judy Albert

Sunday, December 9, 12:00 noon
ARF Annual Holiday Brunch

At P.J. Skidoo's
Fairfax VA

See page 7 for more details

POTOMAC ROSE SOCIETY

Thursday, November 15
7:30 p.m.

PRS Public Meeting

At McLean Governmental Center
1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean VA

**Review of 2007 in the Rose Garden
and Winter Protection**

Joe Mirilovich, past president of the Arlington Rose Foundation; CR, judge, and expert rose grower; will describe which roses bloomed well and which bushes performed best over this past, very dry year. He will also discuss how to winterize rosebushes to protect them for winter. Elections for 2008 Officers also will be held. Open to all. Free. Light refreshments.

FERTILIZER PROGRAMS PART 6

By Dave Maxwell

In the July issue we were in the middle of discussing the characteristics of some fertilizers in Table 30. We will use the Table in building our fertilizer programs.

Item 7, Blossom Booster is 51% nitrate and 49% ammonium; we assign a one week duration to one half and two weeks to the other half. Item 8, Miracle-Gro is 86.7% urea and 13.3% ammonium; we assign 4 weeks. Only items 9 -13 are natural organic fertilizers. Item 14, Espoma Rose-tone is >58% ammonium sulfate, an inorganic fertilizer and <42% organic; we assign 2 weeks to 58% of the product and 8 weeks to about 42%. Alfalfa (item 10) is intended to prepare alfalfa tea although it can be directly applied as a solid as well. Fertilizers 3, 5-14 & 17 are called complete formulations in that they have all three of the primary macronutrients (N, P & K). Additionally items 3 -8, 13 -14 & 17 have guaranteed micronutrients.

Item 15, IBDU is a unique urea-based nitrogen fertilizer formed as a condensation product of urea and isobutyraldehyde. Since IBDU is relatively insoluble, it dissolves very slowly in moist soil allowing each IBDU molecule to cleave into two urea molecules which are then converted to ammonium by the enzyme urease. This process is referred to as hydrolysis and can occur at very low temperatures (above freezing). With constant soil moisture the release rate depends on particle size, temperature and pH, in order of decreasing affect. Item 16, Greenview Late Fall (Fairway Formulation) is a 100% IBDU (31-0-0) consumer product which contains 28% WIN (water insoluble nitrogen) and 3% WSN (water soluble nitrogen). It is readily available in this area and has a mix of particle sizes ranging from about 1.25 mm to 3 mm with an average of 2.3 mm. It provides a relatively uniform release over a period of about 16 weeks under normal conditions (adequate moisture, <50°F and pH 6.5). During the summer months in the DC area where the ground temperature averages around 79°F, the release duration is somewhat shorter and estimated to be about 12 weeks. Other products include Par Ex SGN 150 and Par Ex 19-0-19 which have smaller IBDU particles to achieve mid-summer durations of about 8 weeks and 6 weeks, respectively.

Item 17, Osmocote Pro with IBDU (20-4-8), is a popular formulation combining IBDU and CRN, releasing nutrients very slowly over a very long period. It is remarkable for its innovation by combining IBDU, a water insoluble nitrogen (WIN), for excellent cold weather release of N, and polymer-encapsulated sulfur-coated nitrogen for abrasion resistant warm weather controlled release of N (and other nutrients). This can be applied before new growth emerges (early March) for a nearly uniform release of N (and other nutrients) over a 6 to 8 month period (in our area). It covers our entire growing season and could be your exclusive fertilizer program. The primary drawback is the inclusion of elemental

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Membership

1 year	\$15
2 years	\$26
3 years	\$33

The term of membership begins on January 1st; dues for new members who join between June 1st and December 31st will carry them through the following year, at no extra charge. Payment should be sent to:

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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PRS

Peggy Sander Ashburn VA

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Membership

Dues are \$15 per year.
Send payment to:

Joe Covey
831 Azalea Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Membership is also encouraged in the American Rose Society (ARS), dues for which are \$49 per year (\$46 for those 65 and older). To join ARS, send dues to: **American Rose Society, P.O. Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130**

ARF President's Message

This is the last article that I will be writing as the President of the Arlington Rose Foundation. It has really been a pleasant experience. I thank all of you for your support. I will still be active in ARF, so you will still be able to count on me for support. There is one thing that is troubling me as I leave and that is the dwindling support of our Foundation and the massive loss of memberships in all of the rose organizations that I am aware of, particularly the decline in membership of the American Rose Society (ARS). We, as supporters and lovers of roses, must do something to slow down this apparent lack of interest in growing roses. Personally, I feel we all should give serious consideration to reversing this trend. We of the Arlington Rose Foundation have an excellent chance to try to stop this trend. On our next general meeting, November 12, 2007 at the Merrifield Garden Center in Fair Oaks, we have one of our more popular activities and that is our rose auction. We still have time to canvass our friends and neighbors to attend this meeting and demonstrate to them one of the advantages of being a member of ARF and give them a real pitch on joining both the Arlington Rose Foundation and the American Rose Society.

Don't forget our Christmas party on December 12, 2007 at P.J. Skidoo's in Fairfax. This is also a good opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor. Again I want to thank ARF for the opportunity to serve you. You all were great supporters and it was an honor to serve as your President and I will never forget it. Thanks and see you at our next activities.

Dink

GET YOUR 2008 ARS CALENDAR!

The new calendars are in! Next year's calendar features a lower price—\$10.00—and gorgeous rose photos of the same quality as in years past. They will be available for sale at the November meeting and December Brunch, or call Dave Maxwell at (703) 860-0071.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 PRS SLATE OF OFFICERS

President	CAPT Eddy Krauss
1st Vice President	Michael Berger
2nd Vice President	Nita Bowen
Secretary	Kathryn George
Treasurer	Joe Covey
VP for Membership	Joe Covey
Board of Directors	Kim Lutz (2010)
	TBD (2010)
	TBD (2009)

NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 ARF SLATE OF OFFICERS

President	John Simonton
1st Vice President	David Maxwell
2nd Vice President	Ellen Davidson
Secretary	Jeanette Linza
Treasurer	Sheri Mirilovich
Board of Directors*	Joe Mirilovich (2010)
	Melanie Dostis (2010)
	Dink Dinkins (2010)
	TBD (2010)

*Bill Blevins & Monique Simonton's term runs to 2009

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CHECKLIST

by Joe Mirilovich
ARF Master Consulting Rosarian

By now everyone growing roses in the Washington Metropolitan Area has experienced a frost and/or a hard freeze traditionally signifying the end of our growing season. We now turn our thoughts to roses for winter.

Diseases and Pests. If you have not been faithful to spraying for fungus disease so far this fall then there is a plentiful supply of viable fungi spores distributed about the rose garden. Rose foliage may appear gray and withered but cane bark is still green and subject to attack. Spraying one last time in November with a good contact fungicide like Mancozeb or Maneb will knock down a blackspot infestation. Equally important is the removal of leaf drop due to this disease. If Powdery Mildew was a problem earlier then consider adding some Banner Maxx to the spray mix to keep that disease in check. Insects and spider mites should not be a problem at this time of the year.

Fertilizers. Some of our better growers apply a high phosphorus/high potash granular fertilizer at this time to help the roses slip into dormancy. It is not absolutely necessary but some say it helps. I like to add granular limestone at this time of the year to keep pH levels in balance. If you haven't limed earlier this year then a cup of granular limestone distributed about the base of each plant is recommended. Our soils are naturally acidic so a light application of limestone once a year should keep the pH in a good 6.0 to 6.5 range. If rain is not in the weather forecast then water the limestone in.

Pruning. Cut back tall bushes to waist high over the next two months. This will prevent the plants from rocking loose in their holes or bed and the larger canes from rubbing against one another. Pruning for the coming (2008) flower season is done in the spring so this is just an effort to top out the largest growers and keep things in bounds. It also helps to have shorter bushes if we get heavy snow cover. Shorter canes tend to bend and break less from the weight of the snow and ice.

Mulching. Adding a few inches of mulch after Thanksgiving is a good practice. Try to pile some of it next to the base of the rose plant to protect any exposed crowns. Pine bark works well but don't be too picky at this time of the year. Take what you can get from the hardware store or County mulch piles. In gardens that are exposed, one might construct wire cages around the more tender rose varieties and then pile the mulch to a height of about 1 foot. This should aid in carrying the plant through the winter.

Transplanting. Now is the time to move rose bushes to new locations. First cut the canes back to about 18 inches in length. Thin out the lesser canes and the really old ones and then strip off any remaining leaves. Next, dig around the plant and lift gently. Try to move as much soil with the root ball as you can. At the new location, make sure your hole is big enough. Improve the growing area with peat moss, compost, or other high quality organic material. Place the rose so it rests at ground level or slightly below. Backfill with improved soil and water well. Your plant should be ready to resume normal growth the following spring.

Miscellaneous. Keep weeding the rose bed. Winter weeds, particularly chickweed, can be difficult to eradicate but it's important to keep them in control so they don't use up the small bits of nitrogen left over from the previous season. Our roses will benefit from this food early next year. Hand pulling works best, especially on established clumps of weeds. Chemical products are not recommended at this time.

Take inventory of your rose gardening needs for next season. The ARF Country Store spring order form will be in the next issue of the newsletter. The store has great prices on Osmocote, Mills Magic Mix, PlantTone, RoseTone, and a host of other fine items for your rose growing hobby. Order early to ensure you get your share of the Store's limited supplies.

PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1 Lynn Anderson

Susan Chan-McCarthy

Page 5 About Face

Judy Albert

BILL'S ROSE NOTE BOOK



by *Bill Blevins*

ARF Consulting Rosarian

Sorry but it's the same old story when we say weather. Record drought and one of the hottest Octobers on record. Think rain.

Helped judge the Colonial District Show and got to see a little bit of it. Ken Borrmann had 3 great blooms at the top of the Court. **Moonstone**, **Mavrik** and **Raphaella** all were as good as it gets. Great separation of petals and good color, size, balance and proportion and of course FORM. I'm talking picture perfect, impeccable, absolute form. Unfortunately, one of the best blooms in the Show got disqualified. **Ronald Reagan** was mislabeled as **Donna Darlin'**. **Ronald Reagan** is a great show rose and no slouch in the garden as I recall - about 18 beauties on my own bush one day this past September.

The Mini-Florals were quite good at the District Show. I don't recall the winners as I was forced to leave a bit early to attend a wedding, but a new one got my attention. **Whirlaway** had held for up to 3 weeks and still made the Royal Court, now that is a show rose. Impressed with the brilliant deep yellow color of the new mini - **Ty**.

Didn't get my reports into *Horizon Roses 2007* on time and missed the deadline. You can read them here. Start planning your replacement roses now.

HORIZON ROSES FALL 2007

FLORIBUNDAS:

Burgundy Iceberg - another sport of the Iceberg family. Deep purple, lots of

bloom and decent individual blooms. Got a spray, you got something.

Day Breaker - a surprise in apricot blend. Mostly singles come w/ surprisingly, fairly long lasting form but rather winter tender.

Julia Child - showy large blooms have color, sprays some and licorice scent.

Mardi Gras - somewhat small and the picture looks better than the real thing, but a modern day orange blend of older AARS **Bon Bon**.

Pinnacle - superb red blend has form and substance to spare.

Laura Bush - have yet to see a decent plant and lousy plants don't beget a good bloom.

GRANDIFLORAS:

About Face - tall plant, great orange color but stems too long and thin to hold up bloom. Where are the sprays?



Dream Come True - opens a bit fast but lots of color. Can probably get better as it has been too hot and dry.

Honey Dijon - great mustard color and good form but small blooms. Have yet to get through a winter.

Wild Blue Yonder - easy to grow and nice sprays. Suited for shady spots.

HYBRID TEAS:

Aromatherapy - better than average form and color. Bloom size could be better.

Denali - have seen some good blooms but where are the great ones?

Falling In Love - pink & white blend

on a flatter **Moonstone** type bloom shows potential but those stubby, thick stems and canes with king size thorns that resemble miniature machetes are a turn off.

Let Freedom Ring - zoomed to #11 top exhibition rose in 2006. Everything a red rose should offer except overpowering fragrance. Lasts a week in the vase. Some growers who have umpteen **Veterans' Honor** actually cutting their numbers in half to share the space with **Let Freedom Ring**. Hybridizer Ernie Earman has one more to offer perhaps, a knockout seedling of **Wildfire**.

Memorial Day - good garden rose and large medium pink bloom but suffered badly the winter of '06.

Neptune - lots of hoopla but its claim to fame may be the fastest opening bloom of all time.

Nine-Eleven - hard to find plant but find one and it can deliver a long-stemmed brilliant, radiant red of stunning form.

Parole - pink blend - NO! mauve blend - YES! Extraordinary size, fragrance and form. The one rose to get if you want to exhibit. Most show as a floater or in a brandy snifter but blooms too large for bowl. You need a transparent coal bucket to show these huge beauties.

Tahitian Sunset - this apricot blend is a candidate for sleeper of the year. Tons of perfect blooms as a potted rose at local garden centers a la the HT **Whisper**. If only we could just transfer that magic to the garden.

We Salute You - deep burnt orange with decent form and unusual foliage with distinct density and color. A lot of the parent **Voodoo** tends to show up, which is okay.

Wildfire - brilliant vibrant orange red color but slow to repeat. Ironically, hot dry 2007 was one of its better years. Ernie Earman has a seedling from it which may be **Wildfire's** best chance at fame.

FERTILIZER PROGRAMS...

(Continued from page 1)

sulfur which causes unwanted acidification (in our area).

Potential Acidity is a rough measure of the expected change in pH. These are not absolute numbers as there are many factors that enter into pH change in soil. They merely reflect a tendency with larger numbers having a greater tendency. The potential acidity values for items 1-3 are from standard industry literature. Items 4-7 are from the bag. Item 8 is -2.436 lb lime per lb N from the manufacturer (incorrect table). Items 13-14, the Espoma products, are also from the bag and items 9-12 are scaled to Espoma Plant-tone based on their %N. They are natural organic sources of N and therefore have a similar acidic reaction, based on their N content. The literature is silent on the acidity for IBDU (isobutylidene diurea), so I have estimated the potential acidity to be about 1/3 that of urea (on a #Lime / #N basis). This assumes there will be little nitrification for the WIN portion, since it is intended to be applied during cold weather when the microbes causing nitrification are (relatively) inactive. I suspect the acidity for warm weather application would be somewhat higher. Similarly, the acidity of Osmocote is not stated on the bag but can be estimated from the ingredients.

Fertilizer Programs: Since all soils vary in nutrient levels, any specific recommendations for a fertilizer program should start with a soil test. A comprehensive soil test will measure the level of available nutrients stored by the soil and provide an assessment of the need for additional fertilizer. Any fertilizer program is merely intended to augment the nutrients already stored by the soil. In fact, except for the mobile nutrients (those that move freely through the soil – nitrogen, sulfur, boron and chlorine), most soils contain sufficient nutrients to provide exceptional rose growth. The immobile nutrients (those that do not move freely through the soil – phosphorous, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, molybdenum, and nickel) are stored by the soil and available for plant uptake (as modulated by pH and precipitation). Thus soil acts as a buffer for immobile nutrients, supplying them in times of shortage and storing them in times of excess. If insufficient (or no) fertilizer is applied the rose dips into this storehouse to sustain its demand for nutrients. If excess immobile nutrients are applied, the soil stores the excess beyond the rose's demands. In time, after repeated applications of an immobile nutrient in excess of the rose's uptake, a dangerous buildup could occur. Too much can be worse than not enough.

So the question is what are the rose's demands for nutrients? This is most easily answered by investigating rose culture in soilless media, where there is no buffer – hydroponics to the rescue. Extensive studies of commercial greenhouse hydroponics has shown the average repeat blooming rose under average growing conditions will uptake the nutrient levels shown in Table 33 (caution: greenhouse growers operate 12 months a year versus our 8 month season in northern Virginia – the values in Table 33 have been reduced by 2/3 to reflect that difference). Note the values provided are in lbs per 1000 sq ft for the majors and lbs per acre for the minors. This is done in order to represent the uptake without a lot of zeros before or after the decimal. For a nominal soil, i.e. one testing in the High to lower Very High range, the fertilizer program should approximately match the rose uptake in Table 33. The soil will then only be required to buffer the short term variations in rose uptake, leaving the year to year variation rather small, and obviating the need for annual soil testing. Notice how the demands for nitrogen, a mobile nutrient not readily stored by the soil, ranks the highest along with potassium (K₂O), an immobile nutrient. Therefore N must be supplied continuously throughout the growing season, and thus becomes the driving force behind all fertilizer programs.

	lb/1000 sq ft		lb/acre
N	16	Fe	4.5
P ₂ O ₅	7	Mn	1.5
K ₂ O	16	Zn	0.9
Ca	9	B	0.8
Mg	3	Cu	0.3
S	4	Mo	0.2

Derived from private correspondence with den Haan
Research Laboratory and Horticultural Consultants

Table 33: Approximate (8 month season) Nutrient Uptake for Roses

Although nutrient removal is an important consideration in overall soil fertility, fertilizing based solely on nutrient removal could lead to deficiencies or overuse of nutrients.

Nitrogen: Crop removal indicates the minimum N required. Leaching and denitrification may result in as much as 50% lost.

Phosphorous: Crop removal is a poor indicator of P fertilizer needs for two reasons. A large part of any application of phosphorous fertilizer is tied up (fixed) by soil iron, aluminum and/or calcium. Also, soil P is very immobile and difficult to distribute over the entire root zone after planting. If a soil tests low in P, high rates need to be applied to correct the deficiency. Also after years of high rate applications the soil's fixation capability becomes saturated, allowing a build up of available P.

Potassium: Crop removal is a better indicator for K needs than for any other element. Since potassium is more mobile than phosphorus some leaching does occur. Also some fixing by clay occurs. Much less than 50% will be lost to these effects.

Calcium and Magnesium: Crop removal is seldom a consideration, since good soil amendment practices provide each in abundance. The combination of these typically represent >80% of your total soil nutrients.

Sulfur: Crop removal on most soils is a good indicator of S fertilizer needs since SO₄²⁻ is readily leached from the soil (by contrast elemental S

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FERTILIZER PROGRAMS...

(Continued from page 6)

is relatively immobile). Sulfur is also provided from atmospheric sources and mineralization of organic matter.

Boron: Crop removal is a good indicator of the minimum requirements. It is readily leached from the soil, and needs to be replenished frequently. But caution is advised because the toxic level is only slightly above the desired level.

Iron, Manganese, Zinc, Copper, Molybdenum and Nickel: Crop removal has little to do with application of these micronutrients in soil media as they are normally present in much larger amounts than the extremely small quantities taken up.

Soil properties such as pH and % organic matter are very important considerations in governing the availability of nutrients to plants. The sweet spot for pH is 6.5 and organic matter between 5% and 10% is ideal. Although variations in availability in the pH range of 6.2 to 6.8 of most of the nutrients is slight; two are particularly sensitive to pH. For both manganese and iron, the availability decreases as pH increases. For iron, the availability in the upper range of the sweet spot (pH 6.8) may require up to ten times the fertilizer in Table 33. For manganese, however, the problem occurs in the region below about pH 5.5 where the increase in availability may reach toxic levels.

Please direct any comments/questions you may have to davesroses@yahoo.com. The next series will present several fertilizer programs using the trapezoidal building block approach.



Arlington Rose Foundation

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH &
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

P.J. SKIDOO'S
9908 Fairfax Blvd. (Rt. 50)
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030
703 591 4515
12 NOON
DECEMBER 9, 2007

\$15.00* Per Person — Pay at the Door
R.S.V.P. by Dec 7 to John Simonton 703 380 2667

VERY GOOD  *VERY FRESH*

* Tax and tip extra

DOOR PRIZES!

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRS BYLAWS

Item 1: Proposed Amendment to Potomac Rose Society Bylaws. The following amendment to the bylaws of the Potomac Rose Society has been approved by the Board of Directors and is hereby presented to the membership for consideration and vote at the general meeting on November 15, 2007

Deletions shown by ~~strikeout~~

Additions shown by *italics*

Article II – Executive Officers

Section 1. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS of the Society shall consist of a President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Vice President for Membership, Secretary and Treasurer. The executive officers shall serve one year, beginning January first. ~~The President and First and Second Vice Presidents are not eligible to succeed themselves for more than one term until after an interval of two years. The Vice President for Membership, Secretary, and Treasurer~~ *All executive officers* may be re-elected indefinitely.