



NEWSLETTER

of the

VIRGINIA PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY



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2016 Refreshment Schedule

Note: there should be no more than (4) four items on the table for each meeting, including the beverage.

we need volunteers for:

April 3
May 1
September 11
October 2
November 6

Our Meeting Place: The Women's Club is located at 461 J. Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News, across from Riverside Regional Medical Center. From I-64 take exit 258A. Continue on J Clyde Morris, across Jefferson Ave, past the Virginia Living Museum on your left, SPCA on your right. Turn right at the next traffic light, the one-story, red-brick building is the Women's Club, park at the front or rear. Come with your rose questions, share your successes and failures, and - by all means - bring a friend!

SATURDAY, March 5, 2016

1:00pm Pruning at the Huntington Rose Garden

Don't forget to bring your pruners, gloves, and kneepads

The Rose Garden is located at 9285 Warwick Blvd, Newport News, where Warwick Blvd. intersects with Hornet Circle

Dear Fellow Rose Lovers,

March is a busy month for us as we all know. Finally we get to prune! Yea! The old saying is prune your roses when the forsythia bloom. Have you seen those lovely bushes blooming yet? I know my Candy Tuft has been blooming for weeks.

We will begin our pruning adventures as a club by holding our public pruning clinic on Saturday, March 5 at Huntington Rose Garden beginning at 1:00. We will prune until 3:00. Matthew Gobla has said he will set aside 3 beds for us. It would be lovely to see all of us participating especially since this is our only gathering in March. We hope for good weather. If it is massive rain or snow or ice or sub freezing, we won't hold it. But otherwise, please bring your clippers and gloves and knee pads and Elmer's glue if you like, and come on down to the garden.

Good luck with the care of your own rose beds. I hope we have blooms for our May 21 Rose Show at Patrick Henry Mall.

With best regards,
Cindy

'It is the
time you
have spent
on your
rose that
makes
her so
important.'

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry,
The Little Prince

Rosy Things to Remember

Any articles, committee reports, or notices you wish to have included in the newsletter, must be submitted to the Editor by the 15th

March 5-15, 2016

The Philadelphia Flower Show,
Contact Marlyn Lucoy, Director
of Programs at 215-790-9901x11,
programs@philahospitality.org

Philadelphia Hospitality
200 S Broad Street, Suite 910
Philadelphia, PA 19102

March 30 from 2pm-7pm, and March 31, from 9am-1pm

The 2016 Garden Club of
Virginia Daffodil Show is
sponsored by the Huntington
Garden Club, and is held at the
Hampton Roads Convention
Center, If you would like to
volunteer, call Rebecca Fass at
599-3909

April 16, 2016

19th Annual CNU Gardening
Symposium at Freeman Center.
The theme is "Creating Environ-
mentally Friendly Gardens" with
3 speakers in the morning and
panel discussion with Audience
participation after lunch. More
information at: [cnu.edu/
lifelonglearning/conferences](http://cnu.edu/lifelonglearning/conferences)

April 23-30, 2016

Historic Garden Week in Virginia
at vagardenweek.org

April 24-26, 2016

Colonial Williamsburg's 70th
Garden Symposium: "Gardens
We Call Home: Insights from the
Trailblazers and Trendsetters"
with Joe Lampl, of Tv's "Grow-
ing a Greener World." Register at
800-603-0948 or review all at
history.org/conted

May 21, 2016

Virginia Peninsula Rose Show at
Patrick Henry Mall, for more
information or to help set-up/
take-down call Sandy Pait at
804-725-1721 or e-mail her at
spait01@gmail.com

Pruning in March

by Vita Sackville West, a British writer as well as an accomplished gardener

Malapert* March is parent to all these,
The sowing- time, when warmth begins to creep
Into the soil, as he who handles earth,
With his bare hand well knows, and, stooping feels
The sun on his bare nape, and as he kneels
On pad of sacking knows the stir of birth.....
So does the good gardener sense propitious time
And sows when seeds may grow
In the warm soil that follows on the rime
And on the breaking frost and on the snow.
And then in safety shall he prune
The rose with slicing knife above the bud
Slanting and clean; and soon
See the small vigour of the canted shoots
Strike outwards in their search for light and air,
Lifted above the dung about their roots,
Lifted above the mud.
Yet, unlike fashion's votary, beware
Of pruning so that but the stumps remain,
Miserly inches for the little gain
Of larger flowers, exhibitions boast.

(* boldly disrespectful to a person of higher standing)

Gardening Tips

by Marie Iannotti

Preventing Damping Off Disease

Sprinkle a light dusting of cinnamon on the top of the soil in each container you use to start seeds. Cinnamon has antibacterial properties that will help prevent damping off. You can also use it once damping off has appeared, to stop the spread of the fungus.

Quick Plant Cages

Check out your local dollar store for plastic mesh buckets and baskets. They're a quick and inexpensive way to protect young plants from curious pets and hungry animals. Place them over plants and hold them in place with a brick or rock placed on top.

Locating Labels

Lots of gardeners like to hide plant labels out of sight, by tucking them below ground level or under branches. Make it easier to find them by always putting them in the same spot, for instance, always on the south side.

Consulting Rosarian Corner

The Basics of Fertilizer

by Ed Bradley, CR

The use of fertilizer to feed plant life doesn't have to be a complicated affair; however, it seems that many gardeners are uncertain or intimidated by the task. Plants use fertilizers – nutrients – to build plant food for their use in growing, producing flowers, and producing fruit or seeds. Nutrients are taken from the soil, in soluble form, and converted to plant food by the plant leaves through a process known as photosynthesis.

The three most essential elements for plant growth are: *carbon*, *hydrogen*, and *oxygen*, which are supplied naturally from the environment. We don't talk much about these because we don't normally take positive steps to ensure their presence – or so we think. The presence of these ingredients is a by-product of our gardening practices. *Carbon* comes from organic material in the soil (mulch, compost); *oxygen* is derived from the air spaces in an open, airy soil; *hydrogen* comes from the water (H₂O) we provide. If we follow good gardening practices, we won't need to worry about these essential elements. What we do need to worry about, and understand, are the other nutrients that may not be present in the soil, in the proper quantity to promote strong, healthy plant growth.

Nutrients Classified:

Plant nutrients fall into three groupings (these terms are sometimes used interchangeable, thus all are listed here):

- Major/Primary/Macro: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), Potassium (K)
- Minor/Secondary: Calcium, Magnesium, Sulfur
- Trace/Micro: Boron, Chlorine, Cobalt, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Molybdenum, Nickel, Zinc.

The primary nutrients are generally referred to as N-P-K. Fertilizer manufacturers are required, by federal law, to prominently display these symbols and the percentage of each (by weight), on the container. (More details later).

Types of Fertilizers:

Fertilizers are classified as two major types:

Chemical fertilizers are generally synthetic or man-made compositions.

Organic fertilizers are derived from natural products, that were once living organisms.

Both chemical and organic fertilizers come in several forms. Three types of chemical fertilizers are: dry/granular, or liquid, which may actually be in liquid form or water soluble powder. A separate type of dry fertilizer is the so-called slow-release or controlled-release. This type is designed to dissolve over a period of time (3-4 months, 4-6 months, etc.) to provide an extended period of feeding. Nutrients are released by a combination of temperature and water. Thus, during warm weather, every time you water or it rains, some nutrients are being released for the plants to use.

Organic fertilizers (other than natural manures) may also come in two types:

- Dry meals (fish meal, alfalfa meal, bone meal, blood meal, cottonseed meal, etc.);
- Liquids (fish emulsion, seaweed/kelp, molasses, compost tea, etc.).

Function of Nutrients:

Each of the 15 nutrients provides a specific benefit to plant life. The classification of fertilizers (Major, Minor, Trace) gives you a clue as to the quantity needed between the different groups.

- a. The element we consider the most critical is Nitrogen (symbol N). Nitrogen is the primary element that affects productivity of the plant. It is directly responsible for vegetative plant growth. Without sufficient nitrogen, the leaves will lack their lush green color and growth will be stunted – the leaves cannot perform the photosynthesis process to produce plant food.
- b. Phosphorous (symbol P) promotes strong root systems, large flowers and fruits. It also develops disease resistance in plants. A small amount of phosphorous goes a long way, as they say. Many soils have an excessive amount of phosphorous that has accumulated from excessive use of fertilizers with high phosphorous content. We all tend to want the biggest flower, strongest stem, biggest fruit, etc. So, we use a “super-bloom” product like 10-50-5 – which is 50% phosphorous!! Phosphorous is used slowly; it rarely moves in the soil, and is generally not leached through the soil. Thus, an excess is easily created. An excess of phosphorous will “lock up” essential secondary and micro elements, thereby making them unavailable to the plant. Don't over-use phosphorous.

c. The third element for healthy soil is Potassium (symbol K), which promotes vigor and color. It makes flowers “pretty”. Potassium is needed for the plant to create sugars (plant food). It is also essential to the plant’s capacity to resist disease, survive cold temperatures, and provide drought protection.

The minor and trace elements are essential for vigorous and healthy plant growth; however, we generally don’t need to worry about them for two principal reasons:

- a. They are required in very small quantities, and unless you are working with an extremely poor soil, your soil will normally contain an adequate amount of these ingredients.
- b. All fertilizer manufacturers recognize the need for these minor and trace elements, and therefore, most balanced fertilizers contain an adequate amount. For example, a typical lawn fertilizer (19-5-9) will contain, in addition to N-P-K, sulfur, iron, copper, manganese, molybdenum, and zinc.
- c. There is, however, one trace element that we need to be concerned about, and that is iron. With the alkaline soils and water we have, “iron chlorosis” is a fairly common symptom in this area, which is manifested as light green or yellowish leaves. Soils in the alkaline range cannot release naturally available iron.

What To Feed:

There is a plethora of excellent chemical and organic fertilizers on the market, with a good balance of N-P-K and minor and trace elements. Best results are normally obtained by using a combination of available fertilizers – dry, granular, liquid, synthetic and organic.

Read the manufacturers labeling to know the amount of N-P-K you are getting, plus what minor and trace elements are included. In the set of three numbers, the first number is Nitrogen (N), the second number is Phosphorous (P), and the third number is Potassium (K). In a formula of 19-5-9, with a 50 pound bag, you are getting:

<u>Element</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Weight</u>
Nitrogen	19% x 50	=	9.5 lbs
Phosphorus	5% x 50	=	2.5 lbs
Potassium	9% x 50	=	4.5 lbs

The remainder is filler or inert material. Different elements (N-P-K) are usually different colored granules. Organic fertilizers are generally slow-acting because they have to decompose to become plant nutrients; however, this also means their benefits are longer- lasting. Liquid fertilizers last about 2 weeks. Granular fertilizers last about 4 – 6 weeks. Slow-release will last from 3 – 4 months, up to 7 – 8 months depending on the formula used.

A simple feeding program would consist of:

- a. Liquid feeding every 2 weeks during peak blooming seasons–spring and fall.
- b. Use one application of a granular fertilizer for May – June.
- c. Slow-release (3 – 4 month formula) for summer months (June – September).
- d. Resume liquid feeding, or one application of granular fertilizer, in early September for fall bloom cycle.
- e. Don’t feed later than October 15th.

A Rose Pruning Primer..... Why Prune Roses?

Presented by L. Wiley, DFW Rose Society

1. To increase plant vigor. Removal of the diseased, small and old (brown instead of green) canes will result in a healthier plant.

2. To increase and prolong flowering period. Pruning encourages the growth of new canes. Since flowers appear on new branches, more flowers will be produced.

3. To train the rose to desired shape and direction.

Roses are planted for different purposes, such as an accent plant, hedges, climbers, ramblers, or in masses. In general, roses are pruned to have an open structure (urn-shaped) to allow the canes to grow slightly outward. This allows all the stems to get the maximum exposure to sunlight and air circulation.

4. To regulate flower size. Generally speaking, the more and longer canes the bush has, the more and smaller blooms there will be. Conversely, bushes with fewer and larger canes generate larger flowers (esp. the Hybrid Teas and Grandifloras).

5. To promote safety in the garden. With the exception of a few varieties, roses are prickly. Prune roses to keep the branches and their prickles from foot traffic and paths. [Speaking of safety: Tetanus is a danger to rose gardeners and it is recommended that they be immunized every ten years. Also, be alert to the fungal disease, Spirotrichinosis, which can be caused by rose thorn pricks. Watch for small lumps or bumps that are slow to heal or that turn into ulcers.]

Tools Needed

There are several hand tools that are essential to rose pruning.

1. Bypass pruners for cutting small branches.
 2. Long-handled bypass loppers for larger canes.
 3. Hand saw for close cutting of canes.
 4. Leather gloves to protect your hands and arms. (Those with long leather gauntlets are best.)
- Optional: Sharpener for your pruners; kneepads.



Basic Pruning Instructions for All Rose types

Pruning for all varieties except once-blooming climbers is best done in mid to late February to remove dead growth and shape the plants. It is important to remove all debris from your rose beds to help control disease.

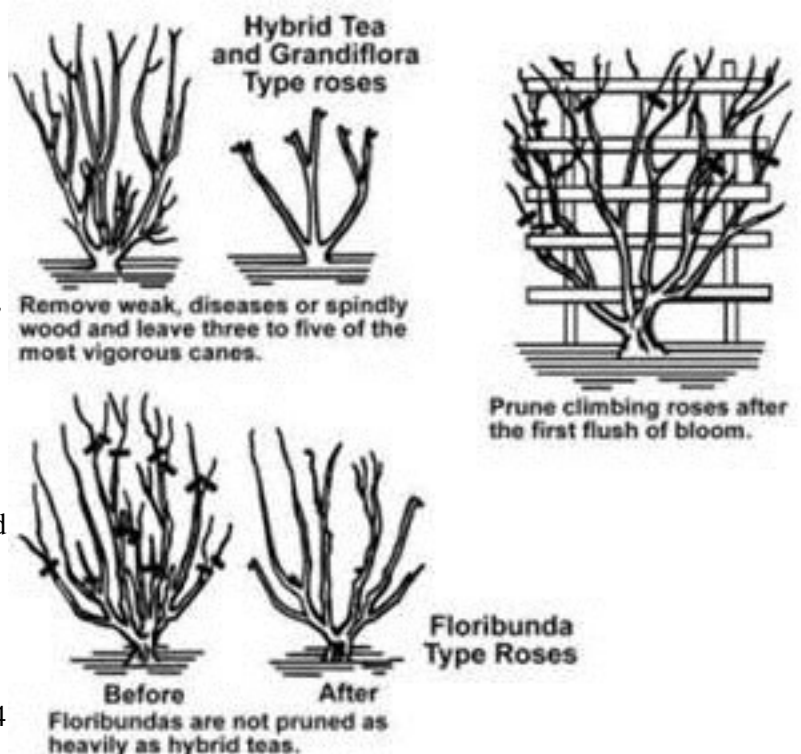
Pruning specifically for:

Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas, Mini-Floras, Miniatures:

After removing dead material from the bush, choose three to five of the strongest canes and remove any canes crossing them. The most desirable shape for a rose is urn-shaped, open in the middle to promote good air circulation. Prune the remaining canes down to about 12" to 15" from graft. (Of course, you'll need to adjust that height in miniatures and mini floras.) After pruning large roses, it is recommended that the freshly cut canes that are larger than a fat pencil be sealed with Elmer's Glue to help deter cane borers.

Landscape/Shrubs:

After removing dead material, prune back by about 1/4 to 1/3 and shape bush to desired shape.





Old Garden Roses:

Most experts agree that repeat-blooming OGRs should be lightly groomed throughout the year rather than severely cut back in the early spring. In fact, most OGRs don't like to be severely pruned: however, dead, tangled or unruly growth can be removed any time of the year. Shaping the plant and shortening vigorous canes by 1/4 - 1/3 of their length can result in more attractive and maintained plants.

Climbers:

For repeat-blooming climbers (those that bloomed after the first bloom in the spring), prune old canes to about where they are slightly thicker than a pencil. Then cut each side stem that has flowered to the lowest possible five-leaflet stem. This process will cause the cane to flower along its complete length. (For best results, the cane should be horizontal to the ground.)

For once-blooming climbers, prune and shape only AFTER the first bloom cycle, as they only bloom on old growth.

Deadheading

When blooms begin to fade, remove at a 45-degree angle to the 1st 5-leaflet—or to the desired leaflet. Make the cut about 1/4 to 1/3 inch above the bud (see below). This type of pruning can be done throughout the blooming season to encourage new blooms.

Beginner's Corner

The Importance of the Proper Planting of Your Roses

by Howard Jones, CR, Tidewater Rose Society

Arguably, the single most important step in good rose culture is proper planting. If a poor job is done of planting, nothing else you do at a later date will make up for it. So don't just stick that valuable bush that you may have gone to such lengths to obtain into a small hole in the ground, or you will probably be digging it back up in a year or two. Think of the time and money you will have lost.

So what are the major components in the "proper" planting of a rose bush? I would suggest that they are location, bed preparation and soil amendments, planting hole preparation and the actual planting. Each of these will be discussed in some detail in the remainder of this article.

Location

Recognizing that you may not have the "perfect" site for roses in your yard, you still will need to select the best possible location within the confines of your own yard.

Roses need a minimum of five to six hours of direct sunlight, and close to total sun would be even better for most cultivars. When you consider sunlight, be aware that both your trees and your neighbors' trees will continue to grow in both width and height. This is hopefully a long-term project. How much direct sun will you have in five or ten years? Also, consider that the sun's path in relationship to your rose beds will be different at different times of the year.

You also need a site where there is good natural drainage, or you will have to artificially provide that condition with gravel or drain tiles. Don't pick a low area in your yard because the drainage will be poorest there. Raised beds will help, and that may be the way to go if you don't have satisfactory drainage.

In addition, it is extremely desirable to have protection from the cold, north winter winds. Your house or other structures, a fence, or a tall hedge may provide this shelter.

Bed Preparation

After you select the site for your rose bed (or beds), decide what size bed(s) you want, depending upon the number of bushes you intend to plant. For Hybrid Tea roses, I would suggest that they be planted at least 30 to 36 inches apart, and Floribundas 24 to 30 inches, depending upon the vigor of the variety. Most Miniatures do well if placed 15 to 20 inches apart.

A bed 60 inches (5 feet) wide is ideal for a double row of Hybrid Tea bushes. You can make the bed any length; and if you stagger the bushes, they will be 30 to 36 inches apart on the diagonal also. If there will be more than one bed, leave an aisle or walkway at least 40 inches wide on each side of the bed so that you will have free access for pruning, spraying, fertilizing, etc., without stepping into the beds. This will also make it more enjoyable for visitors to your garden.

It is best, when possible, to prepare the bed in the Fall before planting your bushes in the Spring. Stake off the bed area; and if it is part of your lawn area, spray with Round-Up to kill the roots of all grass vegetation. If the roots are not killed, you will have a problem with grass in the beds later on.

Remove the dead sod and hand spade or rotary till the soil 8 to 10 inches deep. If you have very poor soil that is mostly clay, remove it and bring in good quality topsoil. Add large quantities of organic matter (peat moss, compost, well rotted manure, etc.) and 6 to 8 cubic feet of horticultural Perlite per 100 square feet. The Perlite is very important because it is a permanent soil conditioner and will not break down as the organic matter will. It will keep the soil open and porous so that it will hold water and air and still drain well.

Rotary till this mixture until it is homogenous and then water good and allow to settle. Next, take a soil sample and have the pH tested. Roses like a pH of 6.5 to 6.8, slightly acidic, and perform best in this range because they can take up the maximum amount of nutrients. If the tests show that you need to bring the pH up, add limestone; and if you need to bring the pH down, add the proper amount of agricultural sulfur. Most soils in the East are acidic and in the range of 5 to 5.5, and need to have limestone added. After adding limestone or sulfur to correct the pH, till it into the top 8 to 10 inches of the bed.

Raised beds of at least 6 to 10 inches will really help with your drainage. If you decide to go this way, you will need to add sufficient bulk materials to build the bed to the desired height, keeping in mind that the bed will settle. You will also need a border of some kind--salt-treated lumber, etc.--to hold the soil in the raised bed and make it more attractive.

Hole Preparation

I plant each bush in its own individual hole, since the entire bed was not worked 18 to 20 inches deep. This assures a deep root zone and good drainage. Most of the feeder roots are in the top 8 or 10 inches. Normally, I wait until Spring and prepare each hole at the time of planting.

Each hole is made 20 to 22 inches wide and 18 to 20 inches deep. This is a two-wheelbarrow operation. Remove the top 8 to 10 inches and place in a wheelbarrow. In a separate wheelbarrow, remove the next 10 inches, which will be mostly clay, and discard it or save it to be reconditioned and used in other areas of your yard.

Now, to the wheelbarrow that contains the top 8 to 10 inches, add enough peat moss and Perlite so that your mixture will be 1/3 soil, 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 Perlite. Since my natural soil has a pH of around 5.0-5.5, I add two cups of pelletized limestone, and because phosphorus does not readily move down in the soil, I add one cup of bone meal. Then all of the components are thoroughly mixed until they are a homogenous mixture.

Planting

Now you are ready to plant or transplant your rose bush. Depending on whether you are planting a bare root or potted rose bush, backfill the hole with your prepared mixture until the crown or bud union of the rose bush will be set at the proper height in relationship to the soil level in the bed.

In our climate zone of 8 here on the coast of Virginia, I like to set the bush so that the bud union will initially be approximately one inch above the soil level. It will generally settle to ground level or slightly above.

When your soil level in the hole is about 6 inches below the bed level, fill the hole with water (about 2 gallons) and allow to drain. Add one cup of bone meal or 1/3 cup of triple super-phosphate in the hole around the bush, and then complete filling the hole until it is at bed level. Water again thoroughly.

Next, cover the bud union with 2 to 3 shovelfuls of the amended soil to keep the bud union and canes from drying out until the bush breaks dormancy. As new growth begins to develop in 2 to 3 weeks, gradually pull the mound of soil away from the bud union, being careful not to damage the new growth. Generally, the soil that has been pulled back will be needed to level the bed where the soil in the hole has settled.



Conclusion

Having said all of the above about the importance of planting your roses properly, I am not saying that just because your rose bush has been planted properly that it will thrive on neglect from that point on. This is just the first important step in growing good roses. You still must give it the benefit of the many other cultural practices that will keep it healthy and productive. But without the right start, your rose bush will begin life with two strikes against it.

It now takes me 1½ hours to plant each rose bush. I hope this is because I am doing a good job and not just getting slower in my old age. Happy planting and successful rose growing. Remember that a rose bush that is “properly” planted has an excellent chance of being in your rose garden for a long, long time.

'Falling In Love' Photo By Bill Kozemchak

Top Ten Rose Pruning Tips

by Paul Zimmerman

This article reprinted from the January/February issue of the American Rose magazine. You may visit Paul Zimmerman's rose forum at www.paulzimmermanroses.com/forum

Here are some simple 'Rules of Thumb' for having a good rose pruning season:

1. If you can, spend extra money for good tools they are easier to work with and will last a lot longer; making them cheaper in the long run.
2. Let the way your rose grows determine how you prune. Some roses annually put out new canes from the base. You can prune these harder. Some, like the old Tea roses, take time to build up a structure and reach their size. These need a lighter hand.
3. Always start by pruning out dead wood. Why? Because it's dead and you can't make a mistake. Gets you warmed up!
4. Take out weak or damaged growth. Just trust your gardener's instincts to recognize branches that aren't full of vigor. This also better helps you see the plant's structure.
5. Never worry about making a mistake. It'll grow back.
6. With Garden Roses don't worry about outward facing bud-eyes and 5-leaflet leaf sets. Just prune to strong, healthy growth at your desired height. And if you don't know what a 5-leaflet leaf set or a bud-eye is don't worry about it. You don't need to.
7. Don't try to keep a tall rose short. It won't happen. If you want a rose in a particular spot to be short then plant a short one! As a rule of thumb don't reduce the height of most garden roses by more than 1/3.
8. Every now and then you will take out an old cane that no longer produces growth and blooms. We label that kind of cane “bloomed out”. Take it out at the ground level and you'll be amazed at the new growth you'll see in spring.
9. Pruning isn't just for “pruning season”. Feel free to shape your roses all season long like you would any other plant in your garden. While you are deadheading is a great time.
10. In the end trust your gardener's instincts. You know what you are doing so do it!

Rose Picture(s) of the Month

NEW: Please submit pictures of your favorite roses to lysi@cox.net



Prosperity

Hybrid Musk, Shrub

By Elaine Pawlikowski, CFRS CR

Have you ever wished for an entryway or trellis draped in the luxurious splendor of a climbing rose? While most modern climbers will fall short of your vision, there is a class of older shrub roses that can give you what you desire. The Hybrid Musk roses, which were developed from relatives of the original musk rose, *Rosa moschata*, date back to the early 1900's. Hybrid Musks are classified as classic shrubs, but in Central Florida, can be grown as climbers. Prosperity, a member of the Hybrid Musk family, is truly a romantic rose, whose trusses of creamy pink buds open to very double blooms of ivory white flushed with soft lemon at the center. Prosperity is well suited to be grown over an arbor or pergola, as her large clusters of blooms, sometimes numbering over twenty, hang down to greet their admirer with

sweet fragrance. Hybrid Musk roses are known for their ability to bloom in semi-shaded locations, and Prosperity is one of the best. She will reliably bloom with only four hours of sun each day. Prosperity displays rapid growth, great vigor, and is largely aloof to the bugs, heat, humidity and fungal diseases that plague most modern climbing roses in our climate. When searching for a reliable climbing rose with abundant blooms, think "Prosperity" – even her name guarantees success.

Photo courtesy of Akirarika, Fukuoka, Japan

VPRS Consulting Rosarians (CRs) are society members who have met the qualifications set by the American Rose Society and are there to help you with your rose growing problems. Call on them when you have questions:

Joy Long	Gloucester/Hayes	804-642-4556
Sandy Pait	Gloucester/Dutton	804-725-1721
Anne Fleming	Newport News	757-968-5534
Virginia Kostyal	Newport News	757-596-6452
Carole Waters	Seaford	757-988-8746
Cathy Daley	Virginia Beach	757-428-6093
Howard Jones	Virginia Beach	757-481-4158
Marti Youmans	Yorktown	757-867-5566

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VPRS Meeting Schedule 2016

March 5 - Pruning at Huntington Garden⁹

April 3

May 1

September 11

October 2

November 6

December 4 - Christmas Lunch