Roses in the Rockies 101

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Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
A rose is a rose...

• 3 main groups
  Species, Old Garden Roses, Modern

• Classes
  Damasks, Alba, Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, Minis, Shrubs

• Varieties (names) ‘Peace’ ~ ‘Iceberg’
7 Habits of Highly Effective Rose Growers

• Choose a good site
• Prepare your soil, plant properly
• Mulch
• Water
• Fertilize
• Be observant and use gentle intervention for pests and diseases
• Know what you want, choose the best varieties (hardy, disease and pest resistant)
Site Selection

• Level site with 6 hours sun
• No competing tree roots
• Accessible for care
• Adequate drainage
• East or south facing best
Plan For Mature Size
Knockout Shrubs

Plan For Airflow
Soil

• Soil conditions coupled with watering contribute to 80% of all landscape plant problems

Physical –
Not
Chemical

SOIL TEST
Soil

• 3 Most Frequent causes of poor plant growth as related to soil:

• Drainage
• Poor O2 conduction
• Compaction
12,000 grains of clay = 1 inch of soil
Managing Soil Tilth – Clay

Tilth = physical condition, suitability for growing plants

• Add plant based organic material, manure based can contain too much salt
• 5% organic matter ideal
• Foster activity of soil micro-organisms (decomposers) and earthworms
• Don’t work when wet-compaction
• Avoid soil interfaces
Planting
Grafted or Own Root?
‘Dr Huey’  Rootstock
Planting Container Grown

- Plant after May 15, **harden off** if greenhouse grown
- Hole 18-24” wide  14-18” deep
- Do not plant container
- Keep root ball intact
- Plant 1-4” below ground level if grafted, own root 1-2” below
- Water  (every day first 3 days, 2 times week for 2 weeks, then 1 time per week)
Planting Bare Root Roses

• Plant as soon as soil workable (prepare hole in fall if possible) finish by mid April
• Keep cool and moist until planted (within 24-48 hrs) can be soaked in water with root stimulator 24 hrs
• Prune canes to outward facing bud eye
• If must be held over ~ bury horizontally under burlap and layer of soil
• After planted protect canes with burlap or compost until danger of frost over. Uncover gradually.
Mulch!
Mulch

- Moderates soil temperature
  pull back in late May, re-apply early July
- Conserves water
- Organic mulch enriches soil
- Keeps down weeds

- Gravel not recommended
Watering

• Dependent on weather, drainage, and soil structure
• A mature, full size rose needs avg 1” week
• Check soil moisture
• Always water at base if possible or in the AM
• Winter water as needed
Fertilizing

• No universally accepted right fertilizer
• N P K (7 - 8 - 4) balanced
• Chemical vs. Organic
• Every 4-6 weeks, last one mid-August
• Water **before** and **after** (especially important if using chemical)
Pruning Tips

• Prune once bloomers after they bloom
• Prune relentlessly to clean, white pith
• Remove weak, twiggy, unproductive growth
• Not in the Fall
• Buy the best tools possible
• Tetanus up to date
• Do it! Helps prevent disease and insect problems, promotes growth
Insects (mostly)
Identifying Good things in the garden.

Lady Beetle
Green Lacewings
Leaf Cutter Bee
Spiders

Spiders eat between 400 and 800 million TONS of insects annually.
Rose Pests

- Rose Curculio
- Small Carpenter Bees
- Thrips
- Rose Gall Wasps

- Aphids
- Two-Spotted Spider Mites
- Leaf Rollers
- Rose Slug
- Japanese Beetles
Rose Curculio

Signs/Symptoms

• Puncture holes in buds
• Buds fail to open
• Flowers riddled with holes
• Buds appear wilted, bent over
• Prefer light colored roses

Control

• Knock off adults into container and destroy
• Prune and remove spent blossoms to prevent larvae development
Integrated Pest Management
A System Of Checks & Balances

• Observe your garden
• Correctly identify the problem
• Decide whether treatment is necessary
• Start with least toxic treatment
• Evaluate the results
Aphids

- Soft-bodied, pink, green, red, tan
- Overwinter as eggs on plants
- Feed (suck) on buds, young foliage and stems
- Heavy in spring, late season
- Low populations cause little damage
- Numerous generations
Aphids

**Signs/Symptoms**

- Deformed, stunted damaged new growth & blooms
- Weakened plant, curling leaves, sticky honeydew on foliage
- Presence of ants

**Control**

- Dislodge by hand or with strong water
- Insecticidal soaps, Neem oil
- Encourage beneficial insects
Aphid IPM
Sprayed with hose
Spider Mites

- Very small, size of pepper grain
- Usually orange
- Eggs laid in clusters underneath leaves
- Overwinters in protected areas, fallen leaves
- Like hot and dry (low humidity)
Spider Mite Damage
# Spider Mites

## Signs/Symptoms
- Leaves appear light yellow to bronze in color, stippled
- Webs on underside of leaves
- Heavy infestation leaves turn brown, curl and drop off

## Control
- Monitor high risk plants
- Minimize drought stress
- Increase humidity, **hose underneath leaves**
- Remove some bottom foliage, minis
- Don’t kill natural enemies
- Miticide sprays – not insecticides

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Pirate Bug
Thrips

- Small, yellowish brown insects visible with naked eye hide inside buds and blooms
- Damage petals with rasping mouth
- Prefer white and light colored varieties.
- Can attack during bud stage
- May over winter under leaves
Thrips Damage
Thrips

**Signs/Symptoms**

- Buds remain closed or bent over at sharp angle
- Bumpy petals, scarred and discolored with brown streaks,
- Insects scurry inside flowers

**Control**

- Remove, destroy spent blooms
- Spray buds & blooms, not entire plant
- Systemic is best
- Insecticidal soap, Imidacloprid, Bifenthrin, Orthene
- Blue dixie cups ~ spray adhesive
Small Carpenter Bees

- Adults are dark & metallic colored
- Lay eggs in cut cane and nest in pith
- Bees tunnel into & damage healthy tissue
- Result - hole in center of cane, wilting, dieback, death of cane
- Sawdust like material visible
- Prune infested canes below damage, dispose
- Seal all pruning cuts
Small Carpenter Bees

Bees nest in canes, provide pollen and nectar to young
Japanese Beetles

Grub overwinters in turf
Japanese Beetles

**Signs/Symptoms**

- Shredded foliage, flowers
- Skeletonized leaves
- Especially favor roses, grapes, crabapples and beans

**Control**

- Hand-picking in early am, late pm knock adults into soapy water and destroy
- Don’t trap
- Chemicals – may kill both good guys & bad guys
- Vigilance - attracted by others
2 Most Common Diseases

- Powdery Mildew (fungus)
- Blackspot (fungus)
Powdery Mildew

- Borne by wind & weather
- Spreads in both dry & humid weather
- Early symptoms raised blister like areas
Powdery Mildew Control

• Plant resistant varieties
• Preventative spraying GreenCure, Neem Oil, Rubigan, H2O in AM
• Remove and destroy infected leaves
• Good winter sanitation
Blackspot

• Favored by wet weather & 65-75 temperatures
• Spores spread by water, clothing, tools and hands
• Circular brown to black spots with fringed margins
• Does not survive in soil
• Cane lesions and leaves carry over spores
Blackspot Control

• Plant resistant varieties
• Practice good sanitation
• Controls-neem oil, sulphur, Immunox, Daconil, GreenCure
• Many fungicides used for powdery mildew will give limited protection from Blackspot
Choices ~ 3,000
What do you want?

- Size
- Growth habit
- Color
- Bloom Form
- Hips
- Fragrance
- Repeat
Good Choices

- Hardy
- Pest and disease resistant
- Recommended by Denver Rose Society
- American Rose Society rating 7+
- Purchase - reliable nursery
- Make a MAP
  ‘Grandma’s Blessing’
Hybrid Tea

• One bloom per long stem
• Classic bloom shape
• Petal count from 5 to 100
• Medium to tall growing habit
• Very good repeat bloom

‘Peace’
‘All My Loving’
‘Double Delight’ 8.3
‘Earth Song’

8.4

Grandiflora
'Peace' 8.0
Floribundas

• Clusters of blooms on each stem
• Informal bloom shape
• Bushy, short to medium growth habit
• Good repeat bloom
• Some fragrance

‘Trumpeter’ 8.2
‘Iceberg’ 8.5
‘Julia Child’ 8.2

“I enjoy cooking with wine, sometimes I even put it in the food…”
- JULIA CHILD
‘Ketchup and Mustard’ 7.4
‘Lavaglut’ 8.6
‘Trumpeter’ 8.2
Miniatures

- Refers to size of bloom, normally smaller plant, bloom and foliage
- Clusters or one bloom on each stem
- Classic or informal bloom shape
- Bushy plant habit
- Short to medium growing height
- Ideal for containers

‘Child’s Play’
‘All a Twitter’ 7.5
‘Gourmet Popcorn’  8.5
‘Smoke Rings’ 7.5
‘Sunblaze’ series
Shrub Roses

- Clusters or one bloom on each stem
- Informal bloom shape
- Easy care, disease resistant
- Short, medium, tall or very tall height
- Good repeat throughout year
- Many fragrant
‘April Moon’
‘Bonica’ 8.3
‘Boscobel’ ~ David Austin 7.8
‘Coral Cove’
‘John Davis’ 8.8
‘Knockout’
8.5
‘Screaming Neon’ Easy Elegance series
Climbers

- Clusters of blooms on each stem
- Classic or informal bloom shape
- Very tall, climbing growth habit
- Needs support or training
- Best blooms in spring
- Need minimal pruning

‘Polka’ 8.0
‘America’ 8.2
‘Polka’ 8.0
‘Ramblin Red’
‘William Baffin’  shrub  8.7
Denver Rose Society

- Educational meetings ~ calendar on web
- Rose Show
- Monthly newsletter
- Discounts on Mile Hi Rose Feed and publications
- $20.00 yearly dues
- [www.denverrosesociety.org](http://www.denverrosesociety.org) to join
- Membership Chair, Pat Colburn
datcolburn05@hotmail.com
American Rose Society

- 4 Months free with new membership in Denver Rose Society
- [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)
- 318-938-5402
- ARS Website 4 months only $10.00
Consulting Rosarians ~ Free Advice

• Dave Ingram  303-420-8709
• Mary Kirby  303-523-3211
• Ellen Nielsen 303-279-0732
• Barb Kemp  303-421-9602
• Peggy Williams 303-503-8927
• denverrosesociety.org

website
THANK YOU!