

Successful Gardener

NC STATE UNIVERSITY NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Helping Carolinians Increase Their Knowledge of Gardening, Manage Their Landscape Investment & Protect the Environment

Premier Roses for 2000

The timeless and classic beauty of the rose has ensured this flower's place as the queen of flowers in the hearts of gardeners worldwide. Three new rose hybrids – Gemini, Crimson Bouquet and Knock Out – have been crowned this year as All-America Rose Selections for 2000.

Experts evaluate hybrids over a two-year period for color, fragrance, disease resistance and hardiness. This year's winners make good choices for the rose lover.

Gemini is a medium-tall, upright hybrid tea. It features spectacular coral pink and cream-colored, 4 1/2-inch blooms. Each double blossom opens to reveal 25 to 30 petals. Gemini is mildly fragrant and has long cutting stems. The foliage is dark green.

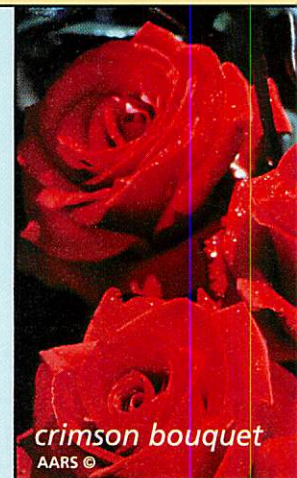
Crimson Bouquet has brilliant crimson blooms, 4 inches across with 20 to 25 petals. The foliage is a glossy, deep green. A classic grandiflora, it

grows 3 1/2- to 4 1/2-feet tall with 14- to 18-inch stems.

Knock Out has the highest disease resistance of this year's AARS selections. Touted as maintenance-free, this landscape shrub rose provides a continuous bloom cycle from spring until late fall. The deep cherry red blooms are 3 to 3 1/2 inches in diameter, with a petal count of 5 to 7. Knock Out has a medium rounded form, 3-feet high by 3-feet wide, with clusters of 3 to 15 blooms. Foliage is glossy purple with a swirl of burgundy.

Shrub types, such as Knock Out, can be used as a hedge, in beds, at patios, along boundaries, walks or fences. Grandifloras such as Crimson Bouquet can be used likewise, and in cutting gardens. All of these are useful settings for the most popular type, the hybrid tea, such as Gemini. Hybrid tea roses also can be used as foundation plants.

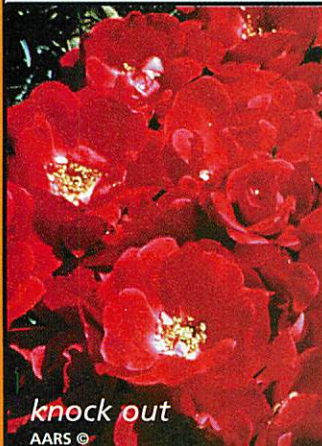
Mike Wilder



crimson bouquet
AARS ©



gemini
AARS ©



knock out
AARS ©

Roses at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum

Get an up close and personal look at a grand palette of rose varieties at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum at N.C. State University. The Finley Rose Garden is a good place to view and study climbers, hybrid teas, multifloras and grandifloras, old

types and new ones. For a complete list of arboretum plants, visit the website at www.arb.ncsu.edu and click on "Search Our Current Plantings." The arboretum is located at 4301 Beryl Road in Raleigh and is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset with no admission fee.

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Successful Gardener 1999 Silver Quill Award Winner



Robert E. Lyons ©

Give a Boost to Your Woody Plants

Most woody ornamental plants can benefit from a light annual fertilization. A few simple guidelines will produce good results for most shrubs and small trees.

When should you fertilize?

March is a good time to apply fertilizer, just as the plant is getting geared up for the new growing season.

What fertilizer should you use?

A complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10 should be fine for most plants or you may choose to go with a slow-release fertilizer that is sold for use on landscape plants. Using slow-release fertilizer reduces the chance of burning the roots or the fertilizer leaching into the groundwater. Slow-release fertilizers last from four to six weeks and help plants better utilize nutrients.

How much do you use?

A light, broad band of fertilizer applied under the drip-line of the plant should be sufficient. Always err on the light side. If necessary, an additional application can be made in late spring. Excessive application or putting too much fertilizer in one spot can lead to root damage, which will eventually show up as injury to the foliage.

Larger, well-established trees do not need to be fertilized as often, and they may pick up some nutrients from fertilizers applied to surrounding lawns. However, larger trees need fertilizer if they have been damaged or, in the case of a tree such as a pecan, where regular fertilization can lead to better nut production. For more details, contact your local N.C. Cooperative Extension center. *Kevin D. Starr*

gardentalk

"I don't know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice."

Roland A. Browne

Get Answers to Your Growing Questions

Tune in to Almanac Gardener at noon on Saturdays beginning in April on UNC-TV Network stations. The show is rebroadcast at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Almanac Gardener is produced by the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service and UNC Television. Almanac Gardener is hosted by Mike Gray and gardening questions are answered by Extension agents and specialists from N.C. State University.

Successful Gardener Is Recipient of the 1999 Silver Quill Award

We're pleased to announce that Extension's *Successful Gardener* has been recognized by the International Association of Business Communicators as the best newsletter in the entire Southeast!

Rose Planting and Care Guide

Roses need full sun, plenty of water, good fertilization and well-drained, loamy soil. Early spring planting is generally satisfactory in all parts of the state. In sections of North Carolina where the temperature seldom falls below 5 to 10 degrees F, roses can be planted in the fall. Follow this guide to planting and caring for roses.

1. Select first quality, dormant, bare-root plants that have good root systems.
2. Plant so that crown is just at soil level and not buried.
3. Pour water into hole to settle soil around the roots.
4. Firm the remaining topsoil into place around roots.
5. Mulch with 3- to 4-inch layer of organic matter to hold moisture, discourage weeds and prevent soil crusting. Replace mulch each spring to aid with disease prevention.
6. Fertilize using a commercial grade of 10-10-10 or 8-8-8 or a specialty blended rose fertilizer such as 8-12-4 or 14-12-11 at rate of 2 to 3 pounds per 100 square feet. Apply fertilizer

monthly during growing season.

7. If adequate rainfall is not possible, irrigation is recommended. The use of a soaker hose works well, keeping water off the plant foliage which lessens the problem of blackspot and powdery mildew.

8. Pruning improves overall shape, promotes healthier growth and eliminates dead, broken or diseased canes. Prune in the spring, just as buds break dormancy. Prune to an outside-facing bud, leaving only 1/4 inch.

Willie Earl Wilson





I have a bunch of little black bugs on the side of my house every fall and spring. They are about 1/2-inch long with red on the edge of their wings. What are they?

You probably have boxelder bugs which feed on several plants found in the landscape, though the worst populations are found around female boxelder trees. Boxelder trees are the only small trees I know of that have compound leaves with jagged edges arranged opposite each other on green stems. Boxelder trees prefer wet areas and often have seed clusters that look like dirty socks hanging on the tree. Sometimes, removing

the trees gets rid of the bugs. Once the boxelder bugs get inside the home, they are easily swept or vacuumed up. Outdoors, diazinon or malathion kills them. Don't spray the high rate on plants, and make sure you read the label carefully before spraying. Don't kill the bugs inside where you can't get them up unless you want to expand your insect collections with various beetles that feed on dead insects. *David Goforth*

ENVIRO- TIP

Try Friendly Pesticides in Your Garden

Pesticides are substances or organisms that prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate a pest. The most commonly used pesticides are synthetically produced such as carbaryl and malathion. These pesticides are safe and effective when used as needed and according to label directions. However, they have been misused and overused by urban gardeners. Alternatives to synthetic pesticides are available in place of the more common synthetics. They can give the home gardener a satisfactory way to control pests while decreasing the potential for pesticide misuse. Two readily available alternative pesticides are horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps.

Horticultural oils are highly refined so that compounds toxic to plants are removed. Considered effective and safe, they can be used to control several common insects. Both dormant oils and summer oils are available for pest control.

Dormant oils are used during the winter season when plants are dormant. The oils suffocate the overwintering eggs of aphids and spider mites, as well as adult scale insects.

Summer oils are a lighter version of dormant oil and can be applied to actively growing plants. Use summer oils to control aphids, mites, thrips, scales, mealybugs and their eggs.

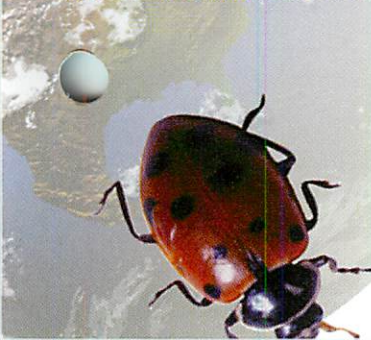
Research also is being conducted to determine the effectiveness of oils on controlling certain fungal diseases. Oil phytotoxicity (leaf burning) can occur if the product is not used properly. Plant damage is associated with the use of too much oil, plants under water stress, temperatures over 90 degrees F and when dormant oils are used on plants that are really not dormant.

Insecticidal soaps are effective against soft-bodied insects such as aphids, some scales, psyllids, whiteflies, thrips, mealybugs and spider mites. Soaps remove protective oils and waxy coverings from these insects, causing them to dehydrate. Apply the soaps directly on the insect for results. Certain plants may be sensitive to soaps, resulting in leaf burn. To avoid this phytotoxicity, always test a soap spray on a small area of a plant first. Purchase soaps or mix your own by adding 3 to 6 tablespoons of dish-washing liquid to one gallon of water.

Royce Hardin



Robert E. Lyons ©



Announcing

Extension's Regional



Topics

Creating a Beautiful Lawn

Learn easy lawn care and maintenance tips from the pros.

The Grandeur of Trees

Learn how to select and care for trees, plants that add significantly to your property's value.

Landscapes Alive!

Learn spring gardening and landscaping basics, from plant selections to turf care.

Creating Color with Annuals and Perennials

Learn how to bring your yard alive with color.

Dates and Locations

- ▶ **Wednesday, March 1**
 - Southern Spring Show, Charlotte
 - Details: (704) 336-2561
- ▶ **Saturday, March 4**
 - Mountain Horticulture Crops Research & Extension Center, Fletcher
 - Details: (828) 697-4891
- ▶ **Saturday, April 8**
 - Agricultural Resources Center, Newton
 - Details: (828) 465-8240
- ▶ **Fri.-Sun. April 14-16**
 - Southern Ideal Home Show, State Fair Grounds, Raleigh
 - Details: (919) 560-0525



Gardening in March

Edible Plants

- In the Piedmont and mountains, plant cool-season vegetables such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, mustard, onions, potatoes, radishes and spinach. In coastal areas, thin out seedlings, weed, water and fertilize.
- Start warm-season vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplant, watermelons and cucumbers indoors so they'll be ready to transplant after danger of frost.
- Fertilize fruit trees with a slow-release fertilizer in early March.
- Protect strawberry blooms from late frosts by covering with sheets of cloth or plastic.

Lawns

- Begin soil preparation for planting warm-season grasses such as centipedegrass, zoysiagrass and bermudagrass in April.
- Prepare and calibrate irrigation system to deliver one inch of water per week during dry months.
- Scout for weed problems and identify them to select correct herbicide.

Ornamental Plants

- Prune spring flowering shrubs after blooming is complete.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicides to flower and groundcover beds.
- Apply a fresh layer of mulch to flower and shrub beds.
- Apply a slow-release fertilizer to flowers and shrubs to feed them through early summer.
- Be sure newly planted shrubs receive adequate water.
- Resist the temptation to plant tender annuals until danger of frost has passed. Check with your county Cooperative Extension agent for the frost-free date in your area.

Generally, the last frost on the coast is late March, in the Piedmont it's mid-April and in the mountains it's late April. Unusual cold spells can occur up to two weeks later than the dates predicted. **Paul McKenzie**

Chinqua-Penn

Plantation, located in Reidsville, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This 27-room house, filled with art and furnishings from around the world, and its 22-acre historic garden and landscape are a must-see excursion. The grounds contain an Oriental pagoda, fountains, the Lutton greenhouses and a four-story clock tower. Visitors will see hundreds of varieties of flowers, trees and shrubs as they stroll nature trails. Rose, herb and formal gardens add further to the distinct beauty of this home. The once-private home and award-winning gardens, now open to the public, were recently featured as one of America's Castles on the Arts and Entertainment (A&E) Network. Special events are planned throughout the year such as tulip days in the spring, which is certainly worth a visit. Chinqua-Penn is located at 2138 Wentworth Street in Reidsville. Call (800) 948-0947 or access www.chinqua-penn.com.

Karen Neill

Garden Spot



Tune in to "Making It Grow!" – a gardening show featuring Extension agents from the Carolinas. Saturdays, 1 p.m. WTVI 42, Charlotte

Successful Gardener is provided to you compliments of:



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Ask for Extension's Successful Gardener at one of your local garden centers each month!

For a list of garden centers where you can find *Successful Gardener*, please call (704) 336-2561 or visit Cooperative Extension on the web at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu>

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