

Rosemania

Rosemania Recommends:

**Making It Through
Those
Hot Summer Months**
by: Logan Shillinglaw



July and August bring the hottest days of the summer and we are all showing the signs of the heat. It's not as much fun to be out in the middle of the day so it is important to make the most of your time in the garden. The most important thing you can give your roses this summer is plenty of water. Roses need water for feeding and protection. As we all know, a well hydrated rose can more easily fend off disease.

A common mistake is to think that those afternoon showers are giving your roses the water they need to thrive. We all think we know how much rain our garden gets but unless you have a rain gauge, you are only guessing. Trust me, that is the voice of experience

Soil Moist Water Crystals



Are you tired of watering your potted plants daily, or worse, finding them with weak bent necks from running out of water? Soil Moist Water Crystals are a high performance, long lasting, synthetic

acrylic (water and nutrient storing) copolymer. Soil Moist reduces plant waterings, reduces evaporation of moisture from the soil, time releases fertilizer and water, encourages deep root penetration, reduces soil compaction, minimizes transplant shock and lasts several seasons. Cost effective; We use 2 tablespoons in pots and 4 tablespoons for roses planted in a bed. We recommend hydrating the crystals before placing them in the soil. You can do this by soaking overnight. This is a must have for anyone in hot and dry areas or for anyone growing roses in containers.

8 oz-\$9.00; 1 lb-\$16.00; 3 lb-\$29.99

speaking. One of the best summer investments I made for my garden was to purchase an easy-to-read rain gauge. The one we offer at *Rosemania* can be mounted on a garden post or simply stuck right in the middle of your rose bed. With the gauge, I know whether or not I need to water. When you do water, be sure to give your roses a good, deep soaking. If you have well prepared soil, it is almost impossible to over-water your roses during the summer months.

One way to reduce the amount of water you need is to add *Soil Moist Water Crystals* to your planting medium. These tiny crystals absorb a great deal of water and swell to 200 times their dry size, reducing plant watering and evaporation of moisture from the soil. They are highly recommended in hot climates and are "a must" for container planting in many areas of the country. Be sure to pre-hydrate them before adding to your soil.

What you do to your roses during the summer can have a significant effect on how your garden will look when the cooler weather of fall arrives. For this reason, I want to cover two areas in this issue of "Rosemania Recommends" - the "don't forgets" and how to enjoy your cut roses.

The "don't forgets" are the things we know we need to be doing but may have the tendency to let slip during the summer months. They are all common sense items, but let's go through them.

Don't forget to feed your roses. They are heavy feeders and you will want to continue a good fertilization regiment through out the summer. *Mills EasyFeed* is my favorite because it is a complete fertilizer containing fish, seaweed, chelated iron and Epsom sales as well as the right balance of NPK. You want to mix *EasyFeed* at a rate of one tablespoon per gallon of water. I usually add either *Monty's Joy Juice* or *Liquid Karma* to the *Easy Feed* to give my roses that extra boost of color and vigor.

If you have a few roses, this is easy to do in a watering can or bucket. If your garden is larger and you water by hand, you might want to

consider using a *siphon mixer* and a bucket of concentrated solution. Mix the fertilizer at a rate of 16 tablespoons per gallon of water in a bucket to create the concentrate. Simply connect the siphon mixer to your hose (no more than 50 feet from the dispensing end), slip the tube from the mixer into the concentrate, turn on the water and start fertilizing. The mixer accurately combines the concentrate with water. If you want to make the task of mixing easier while reducing the risk of spillage, the *EZ Flo Automatic Fertilizing System* is the product you need.

Don't forget to add organics to your soil. In early May, I use *Mills Magic Mix* to give my roses the longer term effect of organic feeding. By August, it is time to put down another two cups per large rose bush and about one cup per miniature rose. Lightly scratch it into the soil and give the rose a good watering. Depending on your part of the country this should carry you through the rest of the season. In climates that are warmer for most of the year, you may do another application later in the year.

Don't forget to continue your preventative spray program. You need to be keeping disease in check and harmful pests out of your

EZ-Flo Automatic Fertilizing System



Now you can save time and money while enjoying great results with your fertilizing program. The E-Z Flo connects to your hose with an "E-Z Connection" that is included with each order.

Simply fill your E-Z Flo tank with water soluble fertilizer, set your desired mixing ratio, and start fertilizing your roses, lawn or other garden plants. Available in two sizes. The 0.75 gallon tank holds up to 5 lbs of fertilizer and is the recommended size. The 3 gallon will hold up to 20 pounds. Starting now, there is no need to ever mix in watering cans or trash cans again!

EZ-Flo 0.75 gallon - \$55.00

EZ-Flo 3 gallon - \$77.00

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garden. Be sure to water your roses well the day before spraying. Last month Robbie wrote a great article on controlling insects and mites. If you can't find your past issue of the "American Rose", you can check out the article on line at www.rosemania.com. You can also download a copy of our **Recommended Spray Programs** while you are there.

Don't forget to apply Clearex Salt Leaching Solution to rid your beds of any salt buildup. The results of this product continue to be impressive. By cleansing the bed of any unwanted salts, your roses can more easily take up the nutrients they need. The initial

Clearex

Salt Leaching Solution



Clearex® is an isotonic drenching solution that unlocks the ionic bond between the nutrient and the soil, correcting the problem of nutrient salt toxicity and lockout, allowing plants to excel again. Soil containers and gardens use 1 tablespoon of Clearex per gallon of water. Pour one gallon around the drip line of each plant. Wait 24 hours and then water and fertilize as usual. This is a wonderful product for anyone who wants to control salt buildup in their soil. A must have for exhibitors and for those who grow plants in containers!

\$19.99 - quart
\$37.99 - gallon

dose should be 1 Tablespoon per gallon with subsequent treatments of 1 teaspoon per gallon. I treated an older bed earlier this year and my roses are already responding to the more "healthy" soil.

Don't forget to remove old spent blooms from your rose plants. This encourages the plant to begin another bloom cycle. Use a quality pair of bypass pruners with a sharp blade. A clean cut reduces the damage to the cane on the plant. If you are cutting blooms to enjoy inside, a clean cut encourages uptake of water while in the vase. (More on enjoying cut flowers later). My recommendation is always the Felco line. They are a durable pruner with easy to replace blades. The **Felco #2** is the most popular model; the **Felco #6** is perfect for smaller hands, while the **Felco #7** and **#12** offer rotating handles to make pruning a bit easier.

Don't forget to protect the rosarian! Not only are gloves, coverall, respirator and goggles important, but hydration and sun protection for the rosarian are a must. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids before, during and after you work outside. Lack of water and overheating will creep up on you without warning. Wear sunscreen and a hat to protect your head - especially if the top of your head reflects the sun like mine does.

That covers the basic "don't forgets". If you remember these items and give your roses the water they need during the summer, you should be able to enjoy and share your beautiful roses with friends or as arrangements in your home - even during the summer months. Never cut roses in the garden without immediately placing them in water! I used to take just a bucket of water into the garden with me. Unfortunately, the roses would rub together, resulting in leaves torn by the neighboring stems' thorns.

Bloomsaver



Designed for the flower gardener to facilitate the gathering and proper conditioning of flowers. This handy tool enables the gardener to collect dozens of roses at leisure, while protecting them from wilting, crushing and bruising.

Now Only \$31.99

Along came the **Bloomsaver™** to save the day! The **Bloomsaver™** has three individual reservoirs for holding the cut blooms and a long "T" handle to easily carry them. Long stems will gently lean away from the **Bloomsaver™** keeping space between stems and dramatically reducing the chance of tearing leaves or scratching the rosarian. This

handy gadget is also a great way to carry blooms, even narrow vases, in the car!

Once you bring your roses into the house, it is time to re-cut the stems. You want to do this to eliminate the pocket of air that is naturally brought into the stem when the rose is cut. This air can lock out the stem's ability to drink water. I usually run about 4-6 inches of water in my kitchen sink. One at a time, I put the end of the cane under water and remove about 1 inch of cane. Make certain the water level is above the cut and make a clean 45 degree angle cut to allow more surface for water to be received. This also prevents the stem from sitting flat on the bottom of the vase.

Now its time to fully hydrate your roses. Do you wonder how some florists get their roses to last a week? The answer is "proper hydration and feeding". **Chrysal Pro 1** (also known as **RVB**) is the product used by the pros and rosarians alike for years. I mix 1 teaspoon of **Pro 1** in a gallon of water and then put about 3-4 inches in a vase. I place my roses in that vase and let them drink for about an hour. This pre-treatment not only kills harmful bacteria that can block the water passage but encourages water uptake by preventing vascular plugging. At the end of the hour, your canes and petals will be completely hydrated.

The final step is to give them some food. That's right, cut flowers continue to grow and develop for several days when provided proper nutrition. Chrysal offers three choices of food - all of which do a great job. **Chrysal Clear Cut Flower Food** is available in either a concentrated liquid or in the individual powder sachet packets. A new product, **RosePro**, is a liquid packet designed especially for roses. Whichever product you choose, simply mix as directed in water and add it to your vase of **Pro 1**. This combination should give you almost a week to enjoy your cut flowers before the blooms are fully spent.

For those of you with very large gardens, who exhibit, or just want the maximum convenience, **Chrysal Pro 2** is a premixed combination of Pro 1 and Chrysal Clear. Easy to use and now you can get it with a pump for pre-measured dosage.

That wraps it up for the hottest summer months. **Be patient, stay the course and your garden will reach its peak beauty this fall.**

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High performance (85psi) Shurflo Pump designed for heavy-duty spraying applications. This pump has Viton valves and a Santoprene diaphragm compatible with most present day horticultural chemicals.

7 gallon high density tank with graduation marks by the gallon; Extra tanks available and easily interchangeable; Sealed 12-volt lead-acid type rechargeable battery complete with battery Charger included; Spotshot's polypropylene spray gun with lockable trigger; The standard version comes with a 30 foot hose and 24 inch wand. The **Special Rosemania Version** comes with an longer 30" wand and 50 feet of hose!

An adjustable nozzle and a tee-jet flat spray nozzle are included in both models. Industrial-type 10" wheels with tires mounted on "no rust" high impact polypropylene wheels.



Standard Version \$399.95

Special Rosemania Version \$439.95

Free shipping to the Lower 48 States!

pH Meters



Kelway HB-2

Kelway HB2 \$115.00
Generic (like HB2) \$84.95
Soil pHD \$61.00

Mills Products

New BloomKote Time-Released Fertilizer

BloomKote 15 lb. resealable bag \$39.99
BloomKote 40 lb. plastic pail \$89.00
Magic Mix (9 lb.) \$14.99
Magic Mix (20 lb.) \$25.99
Mills EasyFeed (9lb) \$39.99
Liquid EasyFeed (1/2 gallon) \$23.99
Liquid EasyFeed (1 gallon) \$39.99
Liquid EasyFeed (5 gallon) \$174.99

Pruners & Loppers

Felco #2 Pruner \$49.99
Felco #6 Pruner \$47.99
Felco #7 Pruner (rotating handle) \$59.99
Felco #8 or #9 Pruner \$49.99
Felco #12 Pruner \$54.99
Felco Leather Pruner Holster \$12.95
Replacement Blades \$14.50
Replacement Spring (2 pack) \$6.50
Blade/Spring Combo (best value!) \$17.50
Felco F-600 Folding Saw \$29.00
Felco Lubricant Spray NEW \$13.95
Victorinox Rose Budding Knife \$21.00

Fungicides

Eagle 20EW (pint) \$72.99
Banner Maxx (pint) \$72.99
Honor Guard (pint; same as B. Maxx) \$57.99
E-RASE (pint) for Powdery Mildew \$24.50
Compass (8oz) \$229.00
Compass (2oz) \$69.99
Mancozeb (pint) \$24.99
Pentathlon DF (6 lb) \$39.99
Pentathlon LF (2.5 gallons) \$95.00
Daconil Ultrex (5 lb) \$85.00
Clearys 3336F (quart) \$72.99
Aliette WDG (5 lb) \$154.95
Stature DM (for Downey Mildew) \$139.99
CuPro (Kocide) 3lb. \$35.00
Decree 2.5 lb \$240.00

Specialty Products

Indicate 5 (quart) \$19.95
Indicate 5 (gallon) \$41.95
Response (quart) \$24.95
Response (gallon) \$58.00
Sequestrene 330 Fe
Chelated Iron (5 lb) \$48.00

Safety Equipment

Dual Cartridge Respirator \$34.50
Respirator Replacement Cartridges \$17.99
Nitril Disposable Gloves
100/box (sizes S/M/L/XL) \$19.99
Goat Skin Gloves (S/M/L/XL) \$15.99
West County Gloves(S/M/L/XL) \$32.95
Mud Gloves (XS/S/M/L) \$8.99
Goggles \$18.25
Tyvek Coveralls (sizes: S,M,L,XL,XXL)
1 pair \$9.25; 5 - 9 pairs; price each \$7.50

Banner Maxx

Tired of spraying every week? Banner Maxx has become our best selling preventative fungicide and for good reason..... it is very effective with a 14 day spray interval. For best results, alternate with **Compass**. If you need a more economical alternative, spray your first rotation with Banner Maxx mixed with **Pentathlon DF** or **Mancozeb**. After 14 days, use Banner Maxx alone and continue to repeat this process throughout the growing season. Usage is 1/3 - 2/3 teaspoons per gallon.



\$72.99 - Pint

Chrysal Preservatives

Chrysal Clear Cut Flower Food (250ml) \$6.99
Chrysal Clear Sachets (50 pkg) \$14.00
Chrysal Clear Sachets (100 pkg) \$22.00
Chrysal RVB Pro 1 (quart) \$32.50
New Rose Pro Liquid Sachets (25 pkg) \$16.00
New Rose Pro Liquid Sachets (50 pkg) \$26.00

New Chrysal Pro 2 - Gallon

\$65.00 gallon - Product only

\$12.00 - Pump Only

\$74.00 - Pump & Pro 2

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