



## INDIAN ROSE FEDERATION

### MONTHLY ELECTRONIC - NEWSLETTER – VOLUME - 3.



#### Presidents Page

Dear Members,

First of all let me wish you all A very Happy Dusshera, Almost all preparations are complete for the forthcoming Conference to be held at Hyderabad starting from 29<sup>th</sup> November - 2014 and ending on 2<sup>nd</sup> December - 2014, I am glad to note that many of you have registered for the same, but I still feel that more members should join in for the four day event and I presume that you all will bring rose lovers, family and friends for the same, so let us meet and enjoy.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September the Governing Council met at Hyderabad, I am glad to de – note that so many members participated, the out - come of the meeting was very fruitful, dear members I would like to inform you that besides the City Tour, we shall also arrange a tour to Ramoji Studios and the light and sound show at the Golconda Fort, since the GC members suggested that a large number of people would like to have these two programmes in the itinerary, we will also be printing a state of the art Annual and I appeal the members to book their advertisements, which will be in color only, those interested may approach the Secretary. IRF shall now onwards will be giving away trophies to the winners at rose shows held at the time of Conventions, since it has been observed, that outside participants are not handed over trophies, as most of the trophies are rotating, as such we have started a sponsor programme for the same and Arshad Bhiwandiwala has been given the duty to approach sponsors for the same, those interested may get in touch with him. Looking forward to your arrival at Hyderabad.

Regards,  
Ahmed Alam Khan

## EDITORIAL.



Hello my dear friends, Happy Dusshera, I hope that things are quite under control, since monsoon is wading away now, this is the season when the losses are high on roses, due to continuous rains attack of fungus on the root system is on the peak, with ultimate die back of the plants.

Now is the time to prepare for your yearly pruning and feeding programme, to ensure that you get the maximum number of flowers on your rose bushes, but this too varies from area to area, under different climatic zones. Since winter will be knocking on your doors, warning you to prepare for the rose shows starting from December - 2014, but this year you have to start early for the World Regional Conference, your area experts will advice on that issue, in the monthly tips page.

As I had said earlier and now repeating, I am not getting any write ups or information from you, at least those who are well versed with the art of growing roses should share their knowledge, it is not to keep it to yourself but to disburse it to others, so take the first step forward.

I have been visiting to rose shows regularly in different areas during the winter shows, What I have noticed is many of the judges are not well versed with the newer varieties which are entering the market, as seen regularly many of the judges selected have left growing roses, with due respect to them, I do not have any doubts about their knowledge or expertise, what I want to say is very clear, please keep a tab of these varieties for your personal knowledge by visiting the gardens of rose growers of your areas, as this will help the grower to learn from you and will enable you to be in touch with the new varieties entering the market.

Thank You, and yes be there at Hyderabad with your beauties for the peageant.

Arshad Bhiwandiwala.

Appeal :- Indian Rose Federation wants sponsors of Trophies of IRF to be awarded at Rose Show held during the Conventions, the donation will be parked in FD's and the interest accrued will be disbursed of in the form of Trophy, King, Queen, Prince and Princess have already been funded, remaining are the Over All Champion, Maximum Aggregate and Single Color blooms, those interested may please get in touch with Arshad Bhiwandiwalla, kindly note this will be a permanent affair and not one time.

News from Ashok Ghosh.

### ROSE WATER FESTIVAL IRAN

In the month of May and June, an annual festival of Rose and Rose Water is held in Kashan, Iran. This is the time for picking up the "Mohammadi Roses" (indigenous damask variety of Iran) to obtain rosewater out of them.

Golab – rosewater – is a fragrant distillate of rose which in Iran is used in different traditional dishes to flavor them or consumed as a religious perfume as well. Although there are many modern manufactories constructed to produce rosewater but it is made traditionally in large number in cities around Kashan, home to "Mohammadi Rose" in Iran.

The, traditional ceremony of obtaining rose hydrosol attracts a great number of people from around the country and outside the country to Kashan, Qamsar, Niasar, Barzak and other neighborhood cities.

Production of rosewater in Iran dates back to over 2,500 years ago. There were distillation equipment containing large copper pots with special pipes to obtain herb hydrosol and special oven made by bricks. The machines have been used to produce rose water and other herbs, hydrosols for commercial purposes.

Before distillation starts people collect "Mohammadi Roses" and collect their petals to put into the copper pots. Then the pots are put on the oven made from bricks or stones and mud. Almost, every 30 kg of rose petals are poured into the pot containing 80 liters of water. The pot is then covered to steam the water and rose. The pots include iron or aluminum pipes for the steam moving through to obtain hydrosol.

The process ends and Golab – rosewater – is ready with its excellent fragrance to be used in Persian dishes and for healing purposes.

THE SEASON STARTS WITH PLUCKING OF FLOWERS



ROSE PETALS COLLECTED FOR DISTILLATION



## YIELD OF PETALS



## THE DISTILLATION PLANT



Meet your Rose Grower.



Atul Jain from Haryana, my love for roses started just two years back when I visited the Chandigarh Rose Garden, that was love at first sight for me, I do have many varieties of plants, but roses are the cynosure of my eyes, like my babies, at times I have this habit of visiting them in the dark nights, just to ensure that they are fine, the word rose is nothing else but, Joy, Happiness, Peace and Love.

The temperatures in Hissar during summer are around 48<sup>0</sup> C to 50<sup>0</sup> C, this is the time when utmost care is required, with watering being the most essential part, I bathe my plants thrice a day with cold water to keep the soil and surrounding cool at the same time taking care not to over water the plants, which makes the soil soggy and wet, we have a very rich soil out here and we use cow dung very liberally, being a novice I was looking out for help from Rose growers, since in Hissar there are no rose societies nor any experts to guide the new growers, to my great fortune, sitting on Facebook I came across this page of rose lovers and came into contact with Rahul Kumar, Sanjoy Mukherjee, Ganesh Shirke and Ashish More, from then on there was no looking back, I thank them for helping me to overcome my problems in growing roses, never had I seen any rose show and I was thrilled when my dear friends told me to join Indian Rose Federation and attend the Convention at Bhopal, what a joy it was to see all those lovely blooms set up for display and competition, it was a sight to behold, my maiden visit to a rose show left me spellbound at the sight of those roses, that day I decided that I will not rest, till I compete and grow quality blooms which were there at the show.

I have a collection of some 100 varieties like Color Magic, Kamal Kantha, Chicago Peace, Ingrid Bergman, Black Baccara, Lady's Choice and etc. my request and appeal to all my friends of the rose family, never miss a rose show, as you will gain less and loose more, those two to three days are the best Celebrations and the memories linger for one year when you visit the next year to meet and revel.

Below a view of Atul's Garden



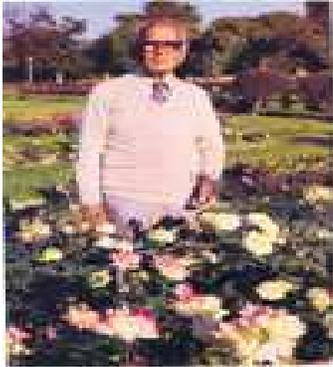




MIAL – MRS FLOWER SHOW FELICITATION



## Late B. P. Pal Rose Breeder of India



Dr. Benjamin Pearly Pal was not only a gifted plant breeder and geneticist, but was endowed with amazing human qualities. As a bright scientist he grasped the critical issues of Indian Agriculture. He was deeply sensitive to the beauty and harmony in nature. A warm and compassionate person, a darling of his colleagues and with a profound store of wit and wisdom, his interests were wide and varied from painting to music.

Dr. Pal was born on May 20, 1906 at Mukandpur, Punjab. He had his early education in Burma where his father worked as a Medical Officer, he attended St. Michael's School, where he developed his love for roses and painting, his School had a beautiful rose garden. He joined IARI in 1933 at Bihar, later shifting to New Delhi.

Dr. Pal was a rose breeder of distinction and created many new varieties. He was the founder President of Rose Society and Bougainvillea. With, Mr. M. S. Randhawa he set up the Chandigarh Rose Garden. His home was always open to all and he was a friend, philosopher and guide to both young and old research workers. He wrote many books to popularize his love for flowers. Notable amongst them are "The Rose in India", "Beautiful Climbers of India" and " Flowering Shrubs".

Dr. Pal was a gentle person and deep humanist. Many of the exquisite varieties of rose he had bred, were named in honour of eminent persons like Sir. C. V. Raman and Homi Bhabha. His first love remained the IARI and towards the end he willed all his property, including his two houses in New Delhi and Shimla and his rare collection of roses and other articles to IARI, Dr. Pal passed away in 1989.

Chit Chor bred by Dr. Pal.



Haseena bred by Dr. Pal



## CARE OF ROSES, YOUR EXPERTS ADVICE TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

Ganesh Shirke from Pune :- October heat has started which is very intense in Pune area, one has to water twice a day along with a good shower, attack from mites and scales is high during this period, I suggest 2 ml. of Malathion along with 1 ml of Karanj Oil per litre of water, add liquid detergent and spray, starting from the bottom going upwards, since we have our Conference starting 29<sup>th</sup> November, I suggest that pruning should start on 17<sup>th</sup> of October, by 10<sup>th</sup> of the month feed your plants organic manures very liberally, remove all infected leaves and prune your plants moderately not hard, immediately after pruning give a dose of Humicil 2.5 ml per litre per plant, after a gap of four days feed them with DAP and as the shoots emerge give doses of 19 : 19 : 19 per week, at intervals ensure that you spray micro nutrients every week, plan your pesticide and insecticide spraying, with exodus, derisome, score which I have found to be very effective, for some quality roses I suggest that you try this organic concoction, 7.5 kg. mustard cake, add 3.5 kg. rice atta, add 40 litres of water, store it for 21 days at the same time stirring it every day, keep it covered, at 21 days fermentation is complete, add 40 litres of water again diluting the mixture and feed the plants at 500 ml per plant.

Sudhakar Sangamnerkar from Bhopal :- October is the resting period for roses or one can say plant remains dormant during this month. Continue once a week watering and gradually reduce by the end of third week. Do not water ground Roses one week before the pruning? Start preparing for pruning. Sharpening of pruning tools, arranging feeding material like cow dung manure, bone meal, mustard and Neem cake and NPK well in advance shall reduce the pressure of work at the time of pruning. Red scale, mites, thrips are the major diseases seen on the plant during this month. Continue spray of pesticides and washing the plant between the two sprays regularly. The idle time for pruning here (M.P.) is from beginning of last week of October to first week of November. Prune, first Miniatures then floribundas, climbers and lastly HT's to get flowering in time. Go for light, moderate or hard pruning according to the health and age of the plants. Remove the top soil around the plants and fill with one full basket of well rotted cow dung manure, plus little quantity of sand and "Falidol" for soil treatment. Feed the plants with 150 to 250 grams of rose mix per plant (as per age and health), before first watering after pruning tentatively by 31<sup>st</sup> October. Make Rose mix in proportion of 1:1:1 / 4 part of, Bone meal / sterra meal, Mustard and Neem Cake,

NPK. Pot roses can be pruned in the last week of October, add cow dung and feed as in the case of ground Roses. Stop watering two days before pruning. Plan pruning in such a way that first watering is done on 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> November. In other parts of India, pruning may be done 50 to 60 days before the exhibition date for better results.

September pruned Roses, in preparation to, participate in Hyderabad Convention may require foliage spray of 19:19:19 & micro nutrients at 10 to 15 days of interval for healthy growth.

Rahul Kumar from New Delhi : - During the month of October do not feed your plants for the first ten days, stop giving shower to your plants, as also spraying of insecticides or pesticides, on 14<sup>th</sup> of the month remove upper layer of soil approximately 3'' to 5'' add vermin compost, neem oil cake, bonemeal, castor oil cake along with soil, mix it thoroughly and add to the pots, on 29<sup>th</sup> of the month prune your plants removing dead shoots, weak and spindly shoots opening up the plant, remember you should not do hard pruning, defoliate your plant leaving some leaves which are healthy and green, after eight days start spraying of insecticides and pesticides at interval of eight days, along with foliar spray, start you NPK feeding after and interval of eight days from pruning.

Ashish More from Mumbai : - In our Mumbai region October is very hot and humid with bright sunlight hence feeding organic manure instead of chemical fertilizer is more beneficial for plants and also these conditions are favorable for attack of mites and thrips, jet spray of water in lower part of leaves, every 3 days regularly is helpful as preventive measures for control of red mites. Start taking preventive spraying of Monocrotophos, Malathion, Lambda Cyhalothrin 5% Ec and further with Imdacloprid alternative sprays every 12 to 15 days period for control of thrips and other sucking pests. Happy rose growing

Sanjay Mukherjee from Kolkatta : - Friends another new season of rose growing starts, this season is the most important, as this year we have to showcase to the World the art of rose growing India has, start the month with feeding of Organic fertilizers, spraying your plants with water to keep them cool and eradicate pests, at the same time spraying of insecticides, fungicides and pesticides on an ongoing basis, but taking care about the doses, since the month is warm, chemical fertilizers should be applied at the rate of 1 gram per litre and NO hard pruning, attack from thrips will be heavy my

advice is to use Confidor at 3 ml per 5 litre of water for spraying, after the rains the top soil solidifies, hence remove the top layer by 8 cms, loosen up and fresh soil, minor cutting down of roots will not harm your plants, after this apply a top dressing of rich vermin compost 4%, soil 6%, Neem Oil Cake 1 kg, Sterrameal 500 gms. Mix well and apply, before watering agitate the water by whipping or stirring, this will increase the quantity of Oxygen in the water and then apply, this process enhances the moisture in the media and can cause sufficient aeration for the whole day thereby increasing the growth of the plants, twice than the usual growth.

Dr. N. V. Shastri from Nagpur : - October is an important and busy month for rose growers. Roses are pruned between 10 and 20 October starting with floribundas and minis. When I started growing roses in the late 1970's, old timers used to say that they cut down the plants to half their height. My experience is that most varieties resent that in our conditions . ( Change of weather pattern or varieties or both ? ). It is now more common to do the pruning at the level of somewhere between light ( top one third ) and moderate (half). We give a bucketful of FYM, one fistful of sttera meal one week prior to pruning. Some rosarians also give a dose of DAP / NPK at this time. Others, give the chemical fertilizer when the new growth starts. Spraying every week as usual. Judicious watering keeping the soil moist, not wet. Be on the watch for mites, spray with a suitable miticide ( e.g. sulphur / Omite etc ). If all goes well it is a pleasure to see the new colorful growth and wait for the first flush with baited breath.

Khadar Alam Khan from Hyderabad : - October is the important month for the rose, it is the month of pruning. The purpose of pruning is to get rid of old and dead wood and encourage regular development of strong and healthy stems which helps to give a well shaped healthy bush. We start pruning on 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, with judicious feeding of organic manures prior eight days of pruning, loosen up the top soil and feed the mixture of organics, that consists of rich well rotted FYM along with bone meal, fish meal, castor oil cake, neem oil cake and single super phosphate, After eight days of pruning the plants require a dose of artificial fertilizer – NPK or Foliar spray. Keep spraying the plants to ward of infestation of pests and disease, Pruning is different for HT while Floribundas require mild pruning. We can enjoy the blooms after 40 – 45 days after pruning.

## The Mystery of Basal Shoots

By Prof. A. S. Waranashiwar

When England's fast bowler 'fiery' Freddie Truman was asked which was the most fascinating sight on the cricket field for him, he responded the one when he sends the batsman's stumps cart wheeling! Similarly, a tough competitor will find greatest satisfaction when he beats his opponent and wins the 'King of the show' in a keen contest in the rose competition. Winning or losing is part of the game, but to win you have to have healthy rose plants through the year. If your rose plants are throwing basal shoots (also known as basal breaks), it is an indication that your plants have reached their optimum health. As a matter of fact, the plant rejuvenates itself by throwing new basal shoots in the first two years, if powered with good feeding programme. There are, however, constraints if one has to grow roses in pots. The rose plants get root - bound within a couple of years and refuse to throw the new basal shoots. The soil in the pot gets rose sick and even after aggressive doses of chemical fertilizers, one after another, the rosarian feels that his plant has reached a point of no return, resulting in a dry plant without desirable flower production. With die - back as a major threat, he has apprehension over pruning the rose plants hard at the onset of monsoon. Pruning becomes an impending doom, with number of stumps turning black. If he has a garden of say, hundred rose plants and two branches per plant are turning black due to dieback, you can visualize the horrible sight of 200 canes turning black ! ( In spite of the drop at the cut ends. What an insult to copper fungicide ? ). If the dieback is halted, and the basal shoots emerge regularly, you could be as happy as the 'fiery' Freddie because you can ensure a prize winning bloom to knock the opponent down !

If a bush bears limited number of canes, one is afraid of pruning the thick and big old canes because there are so few of them. As a general rule, in case of H.T.s, if you remove older canes at the time of pruning, new ones will grow. A bud union will get filled with unproductive stubs that interfere with the development of basals. When removing old or dead canes they should be cut off evenly from the bud union. Some people 'massage', or clean the bud union with a brush. Severe pruning each monsoon season promotes more canes and a bushier plant with new, young and productive canes. According to one rosarian's experience a cup of magnesium sulphate (Epsom salt) was

dissolved in four and half litres of water (make sure that it is fully dissolved) and poured it at the base of a two year old plant to encourage new basal growth for a hybrid tea. So it worked or nature did its work but it did give several new basals that year ! You must have, of course, copious amount of well - rotted cow dung manure to save the plants from sudden side effects of the chemical fertilizer.

It's a common practice to go for hard pruning in order to induce new basal growth. If your rose bush has strong canes, you can cut them to size, say up to half, followed by good manuring and fertilizing. A new vigorous shoot that emerges from the base of a plant in a basal break; but it is not always a result of hard pruning. The basal break can emerge on its own, especially when the plant is new.

The basal shoot is extremely tender and utmost care should be taken to see that it is not knocked off by the gardener or by gust of the wind. It is safer to rake up the soil around the new, tender shoot and any thin or unproductive branches coming in its way should be cut off to safeguard the new growth. The basal shoot is tender, juicy and red in appearance. As the cane matures, it will turn green bearing a big terminal bud and some side shoots as well. It emerges from the bud union and anything below the bud union is a 'sucker' which may be promptly cut off from the root stock as soon as it is noticed, otherwise it will consume the vitality of the main plant.

Roses on their own roots, propagated by cuttings in case of floribunda and miniature do not get suckers. Grafted roses are liable to get suckers, so one has to be watchful ! The keen observer is capable of distinguishing the basal shoot from the sucker. The sucker is a parasite for a budded plant and grows on the rootstock.

If you cut off the basal shoot by accident, it would do no harm to the main plant except that it deprives you of a nice, new segment of rose bush because a basal shoot is such a desirable, thick shoot which will produce lots of beautiful roses on it and on its laterals. The laterals will form strong branches and stems. The rose plants should be planted at least two inches above the soil so that the basal's can be easily noticed. If a rose bush is planted in the ground, the plant will throw a number of basal shoots, but if the rose plants are grown in pots, they will not produce basal shoots after a period of two years. One of the solutions is to transfer the plants from smaller pots to bigger ones. So repot the roses in bigger containers with fertile soil and good organic

manure. The transplantation can help produce more basals than before as the scope for development of roots is enhanced. Hard pruning for roses is out of question for roses in pots. Hence moderate pruning is the best. A regular dose of magnesium sulphate is ideal and appropriate to induce the basal breaks. The plant should not be allowed towards vegetative outgrowth as the higher buds suppress the lower buds from emerging from the base.

Magnesium is an essential component of the most important green plant pigment chlorophyll. It is also concerned in enzyme systems. Spraying with magnesium compounds helps breaking of dormant buds @3 grams per litre. Application in the soil is most beneficial to get the new basal breaks. Roses in pots are not expected to give basal shoots as plants in the grounds are, if the pots are small. Answer to root binding may be repotting every year. (Cutting 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of roots before shifting to bigger pots may help accommodate the roots and also encourage new roots to grow). The effect may not be as great as far as basal shooting is concerned. Magnesium is supposed to encourage shooting. Many people include magnesium sulphate in their NPK mix at the level of 6 to 10 percent. If you cut the stem a bit below when you are cutting the flower that may induce healthier shoots. A rosarian from Bengal has suggested that the flower stem should be cut half. Another rosarian stated that he all the time removes anything short that is less than pencil thick (this, however, would require heavier feeding since you are depriving the plants of their food). Hard pruning is another and more familiar way of encouraging strong shooting. Unfortunately it is out of question in hot region. Perhaps in cold climate like Delhi or Himachal Pradesh hard pruning may induce basals, if the rose bushes are in the ground.

When a keen rosarian observes the new growth in the form of a basal shoot, his heart is filled with joy as the shoot grows with remarkable speed and a flowering bud at the top. Its journey is exciting for him and he watches it with great curiosity and interest because every basal shoot is a potential winner !

Last months Indian Variety was 'KANVA' by Mr. Kasturi Rangan.

Recognize this variety name of winner will be declared in next newsletter

