



## INDIAN ROSE FEDERATION

### MONTHLY ELECTRONIC - NEWSLETTER – VOLUME - 4.



#### Presidents Page

Dear Members,

Happy Diwali and a very prosperous New Year to all the members of the rose family, the countdown has begun and I am joined by my team and members of the Governing Council in welcoming you all to the World Regional Conference, with high hopes that you will be there fully prepared with your roses, family and friends to enjoy and make this event, successful and memorable too.

As said earlier that all preparations are complete, we just have to finalize the list of Trophies to be awarded at the Rose Show, my sincere thanks to Dr. Vikas Mhaskar, for sponsoring the King and Queen Trophies and Mr. Manchar Irani for sponsoring the Prince and Princess Trophies, but we still have not received response for other Trophies, which I hope that members will come forward and arrange for some sponsors, this will be a permanent affair and not a one - time sponsorship, the money received has been parked under fixed deposit, under the name and title of the donor and will be mandatory on all future Conventions Rose Shows.

The Annual is almost complete and I expect some advertisements coming for the Annual, this is going to be state of the art Annual it is not a souvenir but the IRF Annual which is being printed for the last thirty years, the format, paper and style have been changed, equivalent to International standards, which I presume will be admired. So dear members and friends of the rose fraternity, till we meet at Hyderabad.

Happy and bountiful Rose Growing,

Regards,

Ahmed Alam Khan

## EDITORIAL.



Belated Greetings to you all for Diwali and the New Year, with wishes of prosperity, health and wealth too, so we are here in November just eagerly waiting for the big day that is 29<sup>th</sup> November - 2014 and I hope by now all of you must have registered and made your arrangements of Travel and accommodation, those who have not done should do it immediately as you will be missing an event for which you will regret later for not attending, so pack up your bags, the participants I hope are going well with their roses, keeping a timely schedule of feeding and spraying, let the best flower win and who ever will be the grower will be the pride of our country, with so many International luminaries of the rose World in attendance.

I admire these young Turks of the rose family and they are the future of our Organization, Ashish More from Mumbai, Ganesh Shirke from Pune and Sanjay Mukherjee of Kolkatta, they were all there at Hyderabad for the pruning of roses at the Public Gardens and the Private Gardens of our President, was really amazed to hear that almost 20,000 rose bushes were pruned in two days, along with a team of 20 volunteers, these three stooges are routine winners at the local shows and at All India Rose Shows too, my sincere thanks to them.

At the discussions held at Hyderabad where I was present, I was informed by the President that growers from West Bengal and Ranchi will be participating, delegates will be surprised to see entries coming from Kolkatta and Jamshedpur, in the pot grown roses, soil less culture and which is rampant in the eastern region, some 250 pots are being transported all the way from these two points, each having loads of beautiful roses on them, I was really amazed to see "Sada Bahar" at the Kolkatta show having 284 blooms in an 8" pot and nurtured by Sanjay Mukherjee, this culture will be an eye opener for all the delegates coming from our Country and Abroad. Well, see you at Hyderabad.

Regards.

Arshad Bhiwandiwalla

Repeat 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 Bhiwandiwala, kindly note this will be a permanent affair and not one time.

THIS IS TO INFORM ALL MEMBERS OF IRF THAT THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS HAS BEEN EXTENDED UPTO 15, NOVEMBER - 2014, AFTER THIS DATE NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE TAKEN ONLY SPOT REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED AT Rs. 5,000.00 PER DELEGATE AND SPOUSE AT Rs. 4,000.00.

#### Society News

#### M P ROSE SOCIETY, BHOPAL ELECTIONS - 2014 - 16

Elections for Executive Committee for the year 2014 - 16 were held on 05.10.2014. The results are as follows.

President : Shri. Sushil Prakash

Vice President 1 : Shri. Prakash Rai

Vice President 2 : Smt. Nisha Singh

Hon. Secretary : Shri. S. S. Gadre

Joint Secretary : Shri. Pooran Singh Kirar

Treasurer : Shri. Neelabh Shrivastav

#### Executive Committee Members

Shri. Rajesh Raikwar,

Shri. Avinash Galande,

Shri. D. K. Verma

Shri. R. S. Yadav,

Smt. Shamim Ali,

Smt. Shamim R. Khan

Shri. Laxmendra Maheshwari,

Shri. Shailesh Agrawal

Shri. Satish Chitwar.

### Life's not a bed of roses for Kannauj's perfumers

Quaint. That's the word that springs to mind as one takes in the redolence and the old - world charm that Kannauj seems to overflow with.

The 'perfume city', as Kannauj has been dubbed, is about 200 kilometers from Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow. It has an easy - going, languid grace that makes it seem that it is light years away from the frenzied world of computers and dot - coms.

But, think fragrance and you should think Kannauj. For, it is the largest perfumery of the country: a fact that not many are aware. The modest - looking town generates a turnover of Rs. 800 million annually; a major chunk of which is through exports.

Dusty, ruinous roads, constricted lanes speckled with single - storeyed houses, lone horses lugging carts into town are some of the common sights in Kannauj. And perfume making is almost a cottage industry, with every second house fashioning some form of aromatic material or other.

The entire town seems to be involved in the trade - directly or indirectly. Over 100,000 people are employed in the perfume industry.

Kannauj boasts of 10 sandalwood oil mills that produce over 20,000 kg. of oil each year. A kilogram of sandalwood oil costs Rs. 14,000. The capital involved in the business is formidable, yet the industry still remains small - scale in status.

Take Vishwanath Misra, for instance. His perfumery is being run by the seventh generation of his family. As he elucidates the crests and troughs of his trade, one cannot help but be transported to the world of Mughal emperors who allowed "royal" flowers to be used to extract essence.

The technique that Misra, employs is as ancient as the world his narrative transports you to: all of 800 years old.

But Lad Dada, who has a unit in the town, doesn't seem very enthusiastic about his age - old occupation. He sighs, reclining on his diwan, that the "business is very dull". It is very unlike others. "And one look at his unit and one readily see why the trade is dull'.

Like most of the perfumers of Kannauj, Lad Dada has not kept up with the changing face of his occupation. The unit still employs ancient accouterment and is ill – equipped to face up to the challenges of a modern market.

The trade does not seem very organised. The industry seems bereft of muscle to take on the might of the multinationals as they flood the markets with their merchandise in beautifully - chiselled, crystal vials. The perfumer's of Kannauj have a long way to go before they match the economies of scale of the corporate giants in the arena of fragrances.

"One never felt the need to update the manufacturing unit because of the nature of this business," says Lala Amarnath Tandon who is a recent entrant in the business. His unit, however is much bigger than that of Lad Dada.

The quaintness of the town also extends to the essence – extraction process that the perfumers use. Copper cauldrons ( or degs as they are called by the manufacturers ), are best suited for the purpose of extracting the flower essence.

Seasonal flowers are put in water inside standard copper vessels, and the entire system is then heated. Firewood lit under the vessels keeps the entire admixture boiling.

"This process continues for more than 15 days so as to get every drop of essence out of the flower," informs Lad Dada.

Then using the condensation technique, the fragrant vapour is collected in another airtight copper beaker filled with sandalwood oil. Sandalwood oil is the base used for manufacturing attar (perfume).

Once the right consistency is reached the attar is stored in jars and then dispensed in small glass bottles. The process of arriving at the right consistency is a rather painstaking one. Innumerable trials and debates precede it.

The rose essence, sold in plain undecorated glass and plastic bottles, fetches around Rs. 800 for 10 grams. Rose concentrate costing Rs. 700,000 a kilogram is exported to countries like France and China. Perfumes worth Rs 290 million are exported to Saudi Arabia and France every year. TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

## Meet Your Rose Grower



Jayant Choudhuri from Jabalpur, a rose lover as his father late Mr. Binimoy Choudhuri was one of the founder member of the Rose Society of Jabalpur, which was founded in 1973. Following his father's footsteps, Jayant is an ardent rose lover and grower, an eager participant at Annual Rose Show's held in Jabalpur and at IRF Convention shows. He love's high centered roses and his favorite roses are Headliner, Pampa, Delica, Laura, White Success and Peter Frankenfield .

Jayant grows his roses in pots and ground, his sprawling garden is an envy for his neighbours, the fragrance emitted from his garden lingers in the lane where his bungalow is situated, his latest passion is to learn the techniques of growing roses without soil. Having a collection of more than 200 varieties comprising of H. T., Floribunda and Miniatures, with Indian Bred and Foreign Bred.

So far he has won 6 King and 2 Queen Trophies in Jabalpur Rose Show and has won 1 2 first, 2 second and 1 third prize in All India Rose Show held in Bhopal this year.

A very active worker of rose fraternity in Jabalpur, At present he is a Treasurer of the Jabalpur Rose Society and also a Governing Council member of I. R. F.

His dream project is a public rose garden in Jabalpur.



## Workshop on Pruning at Bhopal on 19.10.2014

The M. P. Rose Society, Bhopal organized a workshop on pruning roses, as a part of 34<sup>th</sup> All India Rose show, to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> January - 2015, on 19.10.2014 at Nehru Rose Garden, Berkhera at 9.00 am, and at Government Rose Garden from 11.00 am.

Senior Rosarians, Mr. Sushil Prakash, Mr. S. S. Gadre, Mr. Sudhakar Sangamnerkar, Mr. D. K. Verma, Mr. Shailesh Agrawal and Mr. P. S. Kirar spoke on the subject and gave valuable tips, they have learnt during last so many years. It was explained how to prune, feed and protect the Rose plants pests and diseases. At the same time information about foliar sprays and micronutrient sprays were also given. Sale of fertilizers, micro nutrients, Insecticides and pesticides was also organised for the convenience of the members attending the sessions. A large number of Rose lovers were present on this occasion.

### Members at the session



Lecture in Progress



M. P. Rose Society Executive Committee meets the Chief Patron



M. S. Viraraghavan Rose Breeder, India



M. S. Viraraghavan nick named Viru, but I call him Dr. Rose, has developed thousands of rose seedlings and registered over 90 new rose varieties with the International Rose Registry in the U. S. A. he has been conferred Gold Medals for his activities in India and abroad, Viru and Mrs. Girija are also known the rose couple.

Quite often taking the wrong road acts as a powerful incentive to finding the right one, which is exactly what happened when I first started rose growing as a young boy barely in his teens, in the early 1950's. On a sudden impulse I told my father that we must start growing roses. My father was a man of great energy and quite well placed as a senior civil servant to collect plants from the vast area of Madras State in South India, (now Tamil Nadu) which he oversaw as Director of Agriculture. So in an unbelievably short time a dozen giant rose plants arrived, with stems as thick as a man's arm. I now realize that they were China Roses, probably varieties like 'Slater's Crimson China', 'Old Blush', and 'Archduke Charles' - all of which grow to tremendous size in the hills of the east coast of India, from where these roses had been collected, Quite predictably, such large plants, obviously ruthlessly uprooted, and now planted near the sea, in pots not large enough to hold them, very soon perished.

Following my father into the civil service, I landed in an obscure little town on the east coast, Narasipatnam, some 700 kms, north of Madras. In the long evening's after the day's work was done, there was ample chance to read the rose lover's special brand of romantic fiction - the rose catalogues ! One of these was the catalogue of B. S. Bhattacharji & Sons. Bhattacharji was India's pioneer rose breeder and a man of strong opinions. He made it plain that rose growers should not waste their time coddling delicate varieties raised in the cooler climates of the West. He sternly declared that rose

growing is for the pleasure of growing healthy plants under normal care, and stressed the need for good Indian bred roses, capable of withstanding the rigours of the tropical climate.

One of the problems of civil service is frequent transfers from place to place, often hundreds of kilometers from each other and in this process I landed in the middle of the Deccan Plateau at a place to the north of the central Indian city of Hyderabad - Nizamabad. There the climate was much more favourable with even a semblance of winter, so a large collection of roses could be made. I had not forgotten Mr. Bhattacharji and with the confidence of youth, started to breed 'Indian Roses'. Two strategies suggested themselves.

1. Using standard modern varieties like 'Montezuma', 'Pink Parfait' and 'Mr. Lincoln' which do well in tropical warmth, and 2. Breeding with heritage roses which do well in India - 'R - Edward', the original Bourbon, 'Gruss en Teplitz', Teas like 'Etoile de Lyon' and 'Madame Falcot', as well as a host of Chinas - mostly with no names.

In these early years of my rose breeding (1960) were evolved a few roses which are still quite reliable performers in the heat. Two, derived from 'Gruss en Teplitz', were a lilac H. T., 'VANAMALI' and a cerise red with lovely darker undertones, 'KANCHI'. A very pretty continuous flowering climber, 'KANYAKUMARI' came from 'MONTEZUMA'. 'Vanamali' is today doing well even in Japan along with many of my varieties.

Editors Note :- Viru Uncle was quite busy with his breeding programmes and preparation for the Conference, as such excerpts were collected from his earlier write up "A Rose Pilgrim's Progress", his work on *rosa clinophylla* and *rosa gigantea* is remarkable, in the hand painted series his varieties are a rage and are doing excellent well in the Rose Gardens of U. K., U.S.A., Australia, China, Japan and other European Countries, his write ups are revered Globally and of course in our Country too.

PRIYATAMA



AHIMSA



COFFEE COUNTRY



TWILIGHT TRYST

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

Ganesh Shirke from Pune :- Last month's weather was very unpredictable temperatures soared to 38 ° to 40 ° then sudden heavy rains, which brought in black spots and mildew, I recommend spraying of Score for fungicidal attacks, remove the affected leaves, give a good drench of Redomill give a good shower bath to the plants every alternate days, feed fish meal and bone meal to the plants every week with 1 gm. Calcium Nitrate per plant, this will help in a healthy growth.

Sudhakar Sangamnerkar from Bhopal :- Already pruned Roses shall start sprouting and growing. Watering may be repeated after 3 - 4 days of first watering after pruning.

Apply foliar spray of 19:19:19, (one ml in one ltr.), and micronutrients (Combi - S or X - scyte, as per recommended dose) once a week alternatively for better and healthy growth. Fortnightly liquid feeding with well rotted mustered and Neem cake, after normal watering, should prove beneficial for still better growth, flowering, shine and colour on leaves and flowers.

Water adequately ground plants once in a week and potted plants once in two days. Hoeing and weeding should be done regularly before watering the plants. Spraying combination of insecticides and pesticides like SCORE + KARATE and REDOMIL + POLYTRIN C once in 10 days should be followed strictly to avoid diseases on the plants.

Roses specially pruned for 'Hyderabad Rose Convention' need special attention. Regular sprays as mentioned above, regular feeding and disbudding of HT's should be done to get healthy & quality blooms in time.

Rahul Kumar from New Delhi : - Tips for November - after pruning now it's time to welcome the new baby shoots. They need care. Keep continuing spraying of pesticides and fungicides once in 10 days . Foliage spray of NPK and micro nutrient . As I have guided earlier, you know how and what composition of mixture you have to prepare, use that mixture every week one tea spoon in pot and three tea spoon in ground roses. Lime water every week to maintain the ph, and most important proper shower. Hope for the best.

Ashish More from Mumbai : - In November temperature drops to 30 degree centigrade in

our region, December, January and February it's time for rose exhibitions so along with feeding of N:P:K for healthy growth you can give macro nutrients mainly Ca, Mg and S which is available in granular form in grade 10:5:10 but very less amount is to be given, simple way to give half the quantity of N:P:K you give in granular form for soil application, Micro nutrients like Fe, Zn, Br which is required in trace amount should be given once in month, it is, readily available in combination of powder form for soil application and also in EDTA form for spraying this will give healthy growth and foliage to you roses. Keep spraying for Thrips and mites at regular intervals.

Happy Rose growing.

Sanjay Mukherjee from Kolkatta : - Winter flowering activities starts from November. Now the weather has changed and the time of pruning has come. Prune the plants by first Sunday in November. Ensure that the plants are properly mulched. Before pruning the plant may be fed by organic or inorganic way, continue watering and washing the plants, use plenty of water to wash the plants with a powerful jet spray. Use foliar spray ( 20.20.20 ) twice on alternate weeks after pruning. During, this month Indian weather is normally cool. But the temperature difference during day and night invites the powdery mildew and thrips spray Score 1.5ml \ 1 in the first week. After 7 days spray Amister 1.5ML \ 1, and Confidor ( Imidacloprid, 2.5 ML \ 5ml, if possible do not water the plants in the evening, strengthen up the root system as much as you can.

Dr. N. V. Shastri from Nagpur : - November is a some, what relaxed and peaceful time for the rose grower in this region. The ordeal of pruning is over and the feeding has been done last month. Watering and weekly spraying are the only major things to be done. Any way we shall otherwise be busy with Diwali. The new growth that started showing by the end of October should now be on its way to give the first blooming cycle that should start by the last week of this month. What a pity that we do not have a single rose in our gardens at the Diwali time ! In Nagpur region, it has been observed in recent years that the October pruning leads to a lot of blind shooting. Though there can be many reasons for this, I suspect that the sustained maximum temperature of 35<sup>o</sup>c plus throughout October may be a contributory factor. Such high temperatures, are known to encourage blind shooting.

Comments from other members are welcome

Khadar Alam Khan from Hyderabad : - November is the month when utmost care has to be taken, as flowering starts in the fourth week of this month, regular spraying should be done religiously to ward off any attack from pests or setting up of any disease, regular feeding of organic along with inorganic should be taken up as the plant will be very active at this time of the month, food requirement of the plant increases and one has to adopt a programme of weekly feeding of magnesium sulphate, super phosphate, with sterra meal and vermin compost and micro nutrients. Liquid manure though cumbersome but highly recommended at intervals of eight days.

### The Rose Show At Pune: A Glance

By Prof. A. S. Waranashiwar

The use of DORS and Ananddham (which are both pre - digested organic manures fortified with some chemical treatments, manufactured at Coimbatore ) were found to be extremely helpful in growing healthy rose plants.

Incessant, rains in August - 2014 were putting "speed breakers" to the normal growth of new shoots and cloudy atmosphere ( lack of sunshine ) stopped the growth of buds for the rose show which was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September - 2014 by the Rose Society of Pune. However the last 15 days with bright sunshine prior to the show date helped develop the buds to open up for the show which was glittering with colorful blooms. The continuous showers resulted in a cool atmosphere which was conducive to roses and for improving their quality. That's why Pune monsoon show is always considered to be better than shows at other places. Attack of insects and pests was found to be absent as foliage of most of the blooms was clean and healthy. Stalwarts like "Moonstone", "Veteran's Honor", "Diana – Princess of Wales" and some big names of Indian bred varieties was missing this time.

The temperature at Pune on the Show date was maximum 26.2 c and Minimum 22.1 c. My rosarian friends can take help of [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) to know the weather forecast at their places and plan their horticultural operations accordingly. Happy rose growing for the Hyderabad Convention and Best Wishes to all Rosarians !

The Winners



A view of the Show



Arun Patil being awarded the Vijay Pokarna Gold Medal at the hands of Dr. Deepak Tilak



Ganesh Shirke with his Trophy



Preserving Roses: Late Dr. Mangala Mhatre and Datta Mhatre

Given below is the write up of my mentors, my teachers, my Guru's in the field of roses, I have put this up so that it may help you, if you strike an early exhibition flower and would want to preserve it.

The Rose enjoys pride of position as the unquestioned 'Queen' of flowers. One should therefore strive to always display her in her best form.

Roses are usually required either for exhibition / display, competitions or for auspicious occasions. For a competition, the blooms must be at their exhibition stage or best form, at the time of judging. Growers with thousands of plants can get such blooms easily. However for growers with a limited number of plants it is essential to master the process of preservation, in order to obtain the maximum number of exhibition blooms for the show, by carrying out preservation in a streamlined fashion. One can successfully display a large number of blooms at a particular stage of development, at the zero hour. Sometimes due to miscalculation, atmospheric variation or due to some personal error, a flush comes unduly early. All the promising blooms of such a flush can still be preserved and presented on the day of the show.

#### SELECTION OF BLOOMS.

One should select only the best quality exhibition blooms for preservation. Long and strong stems, more than pencil thick, should be chosen. It is very important to know just when to cut the blooms. You should remember that your bloom is going to age by only 6 to 8 hours, beyond the stage at which it was cut, no matter how many days it spends in your refrigerator. This assessment of growth expected in 6 to 8 hours, is very critical, and your success or failure depends upon it. This decision calls for very fine judgment based on your practical experience of observing growth of cut blooms from show to show, year after year, in transit, the blooms that are packed loosely and those that face bright sunlight or heavy wind or too warm atmosphere, will open faster than others. An average exhibition bloom should be cut when it is just 1 / 4<sup>th</sup> open. A bloom with few petals should be cut earlier than the full - pettaled variety.

Colour: In the preservation process yellows are intensified. Bi - colour blend somewhat, and mauves change their colour slightly. All these changes occur to such an extent that when judged individually they appear perfect but when coupled with their freshly cut counterparts, they show the slight difference in colour. Reds of outstanding quality are not always blued, contrary to the observations of other authors.

Fragrance: In blooms which are received within a week, the fragrance is intensified to such an extent that one feels as though the bloom is literally spraying fragrance into its surrounding atmosphere. However, blooms revived after more than 10 days, slowly lose their fragrance and develop a mild offensive odour, which only the sensitive nose will detect.

#### MATERIALS REQUIRED.

- 1.Thick polythene bags (3' x 6') (as long as your refrigeration compartment can accommodate) to be reused year after year.
- 2.Wax Bath.
- 3.Candle.
- 4.Wax Paper.

#### METHOD

- 1.While still on the plant, label the blooms with snug fitting labels, written with a 6B pencil, and tied with wool at the neck of the bloom. At the same time, wrap a wax paper around the bloom. For protection
- 2.Immediately after cutting immerse the bloom in water.
- 3.After fifteen minutes give a cut underwater of 1' inch
- 4.Remove the thorns and foliage from the lower 3" of the stem.
- 5.Dip the bottom 1" of the stem In melted wax in a wax bath, in order to seal it.
- 6.Place up to 5 blooms in one plastic (polythene) bag and seal it immediately by drawing it over a candle flame.
- 7.Place the bags in rows in the refrigerator, keeping them upright
- 8.The temperature of the refrigerator compartment should be maintained, constant at about 10 C, and should not be allowed to fluctuate.

(This is the optimum temperature that most refrigerator manufacturers recommend for routine use). We have found that keeping the sealed blooms at still lower temperatures gives disappointing results; the stems and foliage become greenish brown and the petals are irreversibly damaged. Blooms kept in water, without sealing, in the refrigerator, get dehydrated upon long standing and are not comparable to the blooms in sealed containers.

REVIVING: Before reviving, blooms give a very disappointing view, to us, they appear like cadavers in whom 'rigor mortis' has set in or like Egyptian mummies.

They appear hard, dry, stiff and the stems and foliage look dry and dull green.

Materials required: 3 to 4 large buckets of water, scissors and Secateurs.

Method: After cutting open the polythene bags, each bloom should be

Carefully taken out and the wax seal on the stem, removed, the end should be re-cut and crushed or split longitudinally by two cuts at right angles to each other, in order to expose the maximum water absorbing area. The bloom should be dipped in water up to the neck, just short of the label Group the blooms in 4 or 5 buckets, In order of colour and entry, in order to minimize, handling and subsequent damage so also, to assess the blooms at a glance

Within 4 – 6 hours, these blooms will revert to their original freshness, with enhanced fragrance. The common concept that preserved blooms wilt fast is a fallacy in practice, we have seen other freshly cut blooms drooping) on the exhibition bench while the preserved blooms remained intact till the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.

Conclusions: For us the competition benches at various shows have been the best Judges to assess the merits of this preservation process we had been displaying our roses since 1972, and we started competing at the shows from 1974. Every year we can enter into 4 - 5 shows in the Bombay - Pune Sector, and thus can practice preservation at least 4 - 5 times each year

Our blooms "Fontainebleau", "Papa Meilland" and "Happiness" which bagged the highest honour of being selected as Kings of the Show in 1976 Winter, 1978 Winter and Monsoon respectively were all preserved in the refrigerator for not less than 7 days

Our Blooms Fragrant Cloud and Papa Meilland" which brought us the trophy for the most fragrant bloom from a Bombay and Pune Rose Show in 1976 and 1977 respectively were also preserved by this method for 7 days to our pride, these blooms had the best possible exhibition form in addition to their' supreme, fragrance.

For one particular show, our flush was unduly early and we did not have a single flower in the garden for 10 days before the show, yet the preserved blooms brought a maximum number of prizes and trophies, in various sections, this means that the blooms preserved by this method maintain their freshness and exhibition qualities and can definitely compete with the fresh blooms, to summarize, properly selected, scientifically preserved and successfully revived blooms, have very bright

chances on the exhibition table.

## Balanced Diet for beautiful Roses

Prof. A. S. Waranashiwar

Growing roses for competition is no joke! There are thousand and one reasons which come in your way till you achieve the goal. Not only that novice make mistakes but even the most experienced rosarians do make mistakes. It is like a horse race, and no one can give a guarantee that A will win & Z will not. The result can be topsy turvey. In spite of my 33 years of rose growing experience, I feel butterflies in my stomach when the judging is going on. The journey from pruning to the show bench ( and of course the result ) is a game of patience and perseverance and though it is painstaking, it is equally fascinating ! One of the ways to ensure excellent roses for competition is the nutrition you give to your roses to build them up for the 'Grand Finale'.

A balanced diet is to be crafted by the rosarian so as to fulfill the all round needs of his plants. The soil should be enriched with well rotted cow dung manure or compost before you prune your roses for exhibition. After the active growth starts after pruning, the feeding programme begins with the doses of chemical fertilizers. I would like to dwell upon a very popular and effective NPK mixture 'Suphala' 15:15:15 which contains essential ingredients for a healthy growth of roses. For proper growth of rose plants, a good supply of balanced plant nutrients is essential. Suphala (15:15:15) is a unique granular complex fertilizer, which has proved to be an ideal fertilizer for roses. It contains not only major plant nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium in sufficient quantities but also contains other important plant nutrients like magnesium, calcium, sulphur and iron, which are quite essential for colour, smell and healthy growth of your roses.

For better establishment of the new rose plants, 20 - 30 grams ( 3 to 4 teaspoonful ) of Suphala should be mixed in the soil - compost mixture, which is to be filled in pots or pits for planting. Later on 5 - 10 grams of Suphala and urea should be applied at an interval of 2 months up to one year. For obtaining best results from grown up rose plants, 60 - 75 grams ( 8 to 10 teaspoonful ) of Suphala (15:15:15) and 20 - 30 grams

( 4 to 6 tea spoonful ) of urea should be applied to each rose plant in 3 equal splits preferably one in the month of January, second in June and third at the time of October pruning. Ratanshi Velshi Shah ( Byculla east : Mumbai ) has been selling 'Toprose' which is an ideal mixture of NPK with appropriate dosage of micro nutrients. I used it for a pretty long time and reaped the harvest of prizes. It was prepared according to Park's Formula and proved to be a tonic for roses without a shadow of doubt! But the finest combo of NPK with ideal dosage of all micro nutrients in my 33 year long experience is undoubtedly the Miracle Gro (R). During my second visit to USA, I happened to get it and brought half a dozen cartons of this water soluble Rose plant food. It can be used if planting in existing soil or topsoil, apply Miracle Gro Rose Plant Food at planting time to promote vigorous root development and quick growth. Plants need water, sunlight and nutrition regularly to flourish throughout the season. You can feed this plant food every 7 - 14 days when the plants are actively growing, because I can say from experience that Miracle Gro grows bigger, more beautiful roses. I can assure you that the use of this American Rose Society endorsed plant food is so effective because it has double feeding action - feeds through roots and the leaves. It is safe for the plant and guaranteed by the manufacturing company not to burn when used as directed. It starts working instantly and promotes quick results. Available at Home Depot in any American city.

LAST MONTHS VARIETY WAS "FAIRYLAND" BY DIBY'S

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

