

Meetings and Announcements

Happy Thanksgiving

Master Gardener Program

Same as last month.

UC Cooperative Extension in Kern County has received funding for a Master Gardener (MG) coordinator. The funding cycle began Oct. 1. Therefore, we hope to begin the MG program, probably next spring. The MG program offers classroom instruction in horticulture with a required volunteer-hour component. We have not had an MG program in Kern Co. since ca. 1993, when we moved to an educational outreach in horticulture without the volunteer component. I don't have plans for a horticulture class this fall and likely not until the MG program begins.

Annual Winter Pruning Demonstration

We plan to hold our annual winter pruning demonstration for deciduous fruit trees and grapes in January 2024. We have not made a decision on the date, but probably the second or maybe third week of January.

Next Horticultural Tour?

I am exploring the idea of an autumn 2024 tour to Portugal and northern Spain. We had a very good visit to Madrid and southern Spain a few years ago. Certainly, the food would be good. At the moment, such a visit is a little higher on the list than Japan, although both destinations have much to offer.

I have also been exploring itineraries to visit gardens and landscapes in Japan. Certainly the horticulture there is exceptional. Yes, it's a long plane ride, but that has been true for many other places we've visited. The 2009 International Rose Symposium was held in Japan, and it was a good experience.

Winter Pruning of Outdoor Roses

In December to early January on the valley floor of Kern County, annual winter pruning will be needed for hybrid teas and grandifloras. The time of pruning can be delayed in mountain areas until the coldest weather has passed, but before bud swell occurs.

Rose pruning in home gardens and landscapes can be a simple matter requiring little time. As for other woody plants, pruning is used for roses to invigorate the plant and

direct its growth, but the amount of pruning depends on rose type and purpose in the landscape.

Broadly speaking, most roses grown outdoors can be divided into two groups. Roses grown for cut flowers include hybrid teas and grandifloras, for example, the classic varieties 'Peace,' 'Oklahoma,' 'Mister Lincoln,' and 'Chrysler Imperial.' The shrub- or landscape-type roses are grown as floriferous shrubs, for example, the varieties 'Pink Simplicity,' 'Knock Out,' and 'Flutterbye.'

For hybrid tea and similar roses, we remove dead, diseased and damaged wood as well as older canes showing poor vigor. Canes severely affected by scale insects can also be removed. The rose plant can be thinned, removing central canes to favor 3-5 canes growing toward the outside. Although a standard recommendation is to make cuts at a 45° angle just above an outward-facing bud, it is not necessary for plant health to be so precise, since roses have many dormant buds and can form new buds readily. For hybrid teas and grandifloras, about 10-15 minutes per plant should be enough time for pruning. In other words, don't worry too much about exactly how and where cuts are made. An exception to that statement would be pruning for show roses and, of course, we are not talking about greenhouse flower production where pruning is specific per variety.

The function of the rose plant in the landscape should influence the amount of pruning. Roses used for screens or accent plantings can be lightly pruned so as to retain their size, removing perhaps 1/3 of the height. Pruning a rose to shorter canes does result in longer flower stems, if that is important to you.

Shrub- or landscape-type roses should be treated as floriferous shrubs, and should not be pruned back to a few short canes as hybrid teas can be. Dead wood should be removed. Older canes can be removed, and (gasp) a hedge trimmer can be used for speed to shorten long canes and make the plant a bit smaller in size. Use of a hedge trimmer, however, does not imply that plants should be formed into little globes or boxes, diminishing their aesthetic value and defeating their purpose in the landscape. Shrub / landscape roses are typically (and should be) only lightly pruned, since they function as colorful shrubs, so upright varieties can be left to 5-8 feet.

A recent peer-reviewed study conducted by Dr. Jim Downer of the University of California Cooperative Extension showed that it is variety rather than pruning that has the most influence on flower number and growth of landscape-type outdoor roses (Downer et al., 2015, *Acta Horticulturae* 1064: 253-258). There were few differences in plant quality between intermediate pruning treatments (36 or 18 inches height). Severe pruning (6 inches) resulted in significantly fewer flowers in most varieties during the four-year study period. Plants pruned lightly had the greatest number of flowers. Variety selection had the most influence on plant characteristics over four years.

The University of California has three free publications, recently revised and updated, that describe the care of outdoor roses including insect and disease management. These can be read and downloaded from the UCIPM website, <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/>.

John Karlik
Environmental Horticulture/Environmental Science

Disclaimer: Discussion of research findings necessitates using trade names. This does not constitute product endorsement, nor does it suggest products not listed would not be suitable for use. Some research results included involve use of chemicals which are currently registered for use, or may involve use which would be considered out of label. These results are reported but are not a recommendation from the University of California for use. Consult the label and use it as the basis of all recommendations.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a U.S. veteran, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the UC ANR ADA Coordinator, phone: 530-750-1317, email: daritz@ucanr.edu or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint with the USDA, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov. The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) is an equal opportunity provider. Alternatively, a program discrimination complaint may be filed with the UC Harassment & Discrimination Assistance and Prevention Program (HDAPP) by email hdapp@ucdavis.edu or phone: 530-304-3864; or contact the UC ANR Title IX Coordinator at (530) 752-9466. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to: UC ANR, Interim Affirmative Action Compliance Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1280. Email: tjordan@ucanr.edu. Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.
