

# THE ROSE PETAL

A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY



## CALENDAR

### **MOUNTS PLANT SALE**

**April 24, 25 (volunteers needed)**

### **GPBRS VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Apr.26 7:30 GoToMeeting**  
Speaker **Bob Martin, ARS President**

**May 24, 7:30 GPBRS meeting** Jeff Garrett,  
Fertilizers

### **GPBRS PICNIC**

**June 5 at Mike Becker's**

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13. *Bd. Of Directors, Consulting Rosarians*
14. *Membership Application*

## A Message from our Presidents, Debbie and Geoff Coolidge



Happy April, It is so hard to believe that a year has gone by since we all had to stay home. Your rose gardens should be looking good with all this free time on your hands. By now your roses should be blooming away if you pruned and fertilized



everything back in Jan/Feb.

Also as I write this I hope everyone is fully vaccinated!

The Spring plant sale at the Mounts Botanical Gardens is coming up this month. The sale is April 24 and 25. Please call, email, or text me to let me know when you want to help out. (See page 11 for info.) By signing up it will enable you to get in free to the sale. We are supposed to be in the same spot as usual.

Maria has been hard at work on finalizing everything for the June picnic and the speakers for the next few months. How about some free roses? Sign up for the picnic and let us know what side dish you are bringing and your name will go in the hat to win a rose bush or two.

If you ever need help with a rose related question don't hesitate to contact one of the board members or consulting rosarians, we are just a call away.

Have a rosy day,  
Debbie & Geoff



**Maria says:**

## A PICNIC IN THE ROSE GARDEN

Hosted by: The Greater Palm Beach Rose Society

### JOIN US

We will be hosting a picnic at the home of Mike and Pat Becker, where their garden display of 120 rose bushes, rare palm trees, hibiscus, plumerias and desert rose plants will not disappoint!

The GPBRS will provide the hamburgers and buns, and we are asking you to bring a side dish.

### FLOWERS • FOOD • FUN

**JUNE  
5**

Event will begin at 11 AM

This event is FREE to GPBRS members and their families.

We welcome guests and prospective members for a charge of \$5.00 per person.

**11119 SW Rose Apple Court Port St. Lucie, FL 34987**

RSVP to Maria Wolfe at [tcacad\\_registrar@yahoo.com](mailto:tcacad_registrar@yahoo.com) with the side dish you would like to bring, and so that your name will be left at the gate.

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 28, 2021

# Tea Time in the Garden

*By Mike Becker, Master Consulting Rosarian, April 2021 Rose Petal*

Every once in a while I like to sit out in my garden, relax and enjoy a good cup of tea. There is nothing like being a bit lazy and wasting my time just taking in all the sights and pleasant fragrances my garden has to offer. However, with some deep thought and contemplation I look at my roses and wonder if they might enjoy the same.



After much deliberation and a bit of self-motivation I sometimes decide to make a batch of garden tea for my plants. Now, having extra bags of several different potential tea material...rabbit manure, cow manure and compost, I settle on the prospect of making a large batch of good old rabbit tea. Otherwise, called “Bunny Brew”... made with “Bunny Berries” or “Poo Pebbles”. How’s that for dressing up a disgusting drink with more glamorous terms? I didn’t invent those names but can sure borrow them.

Here is the process I undergo to concoct my special tea. Not having a large container to produce the tea I first had to make a quick trip to my local home improvement store to procure a 32-gal trash can with lid. Yep, 32 gallons. Since I have over 100 roses, I decided to go for a single large batch rather than taking eons to produce my tea in 5-gal buckets. I have neither the time nor inclination to buy twenty 5-gal buckets. Otherwise, I’d grow weary-some and my roses would starve before all was done. So, a 32-gal trash can it was...with lid.

Back at home I cut up a couple of my old T-shirts into large squares from the front and back of each T-shirt. I needed about 6 squares. I’m sure my wife was glad I made better use of my old T-shirts rather than wearing them. That gave her the excuse to tell me to go to the store to buy new replacements. That would be later. More important things were at hand...like feeding my roses.

After producing six square cloths I put about a quart-sized amount of rabbit manure in the center of each and then pull in the four corners and tie them with twine, thus fashioning some semblance of teabags. I then fill up the 32-gallon trash can with water and throw in all six teabags of rabbit poo. Luckily, bunny brew doesn’t take but about 3-4 days of brewing. The only additional work involved was to stir the concoction once a day to induce a bit of oxygenation and not allow a more pungent odor to develop. Luckily, rabbit poop isn’t as malodorous as either cow or chicken. I also don’t want to offend my wife with concocting anything too strong. In any case I make darn sure the lid is on the trash can to prevent flies from taking special interest in my tea-making. I don’t like taking any unnecessary chances.

After my third or fourth day I decide my time has arrived. I take out the teabags and temporarily set them on the ground. In the one 5-gallon bucket, I fill it with 1 gallon of brew from my trash can and then filled it up the rest of the way with plain old water from my hose. My process is to apply one gallon of solution at the base of each plant and repeat the same process for each rose in the garden. After slugging around buckets of tea, each weighing in at about 40 pounds...



nothing is too good for my roses... I take a much-needed break myself before proceeding with the second part of my tea making effort. Yes...I take a tea break. That must be the English part of my heritage.

Upon returning to my teabags resting on the ground, I decide against the prospect of making a second batch and opt instead to distribute the tea grounds to some of my favorite roses. I opened each of the teabags – not a pretty sight to say the least – and carefully delivered the precious mess to my aforesaid favored roses. That is not exactly my – well, my cup of tea. I couldn't resist that metaphor. What a mess. But delivered non-the-same. Again, nothing is too good for my roses.

Afterwards, I then usually go to my chair set out amongst the roses, sit down, and congratulate myself in the fact that I once again gave my roses the opportunity to continue producing the many beautiful roses that I so liked! And that is how I do tea in the garden.





## Propagation from Cuttings.

By Mike Shoup

Whether we are offered cuttings from a friend's rose, find interesting varieties while traveling, or just want to increase numbers of our exciting roses, successful rooting of roses may be a daunting task. As a collector, grower and distributor of many old, rare or un-named varieties of roses, I have been exposed to dozens of methods of rooting cuttings that homeowners and nurserymen have invented in order to duplicate their roses. They range from large greenhouses with automated mist systems to a simple upside-down mason jar. One of the best methods, and ironically the easiest, is the use of a clear zip-lock style plastic baggie.

So here is a method of rooting cuttings that rarely fails us - The Zip-Lock Bag Method. You will need only a few supplies: 1 gallon size zip-lock baggies, all purpose potting soil (Not coarse screen), perlite, and root hormone (optional).

To start, fill the bottom of the baggie with 2 inches of moist potting soil and coarse perlite mixed in a one-to-one ratio. Perlite acts as an aerator, preventing the potting soil from commotion and over-saturation of water. (Air is a very important component of successful root formation. Add only enough water to create a moist, not wet, medium. Properly moist medium will NOT drip if squeezed in your fist. (The greatest percentage of rooting failure, I have seen, has always due to water-soaked medium not allowing good air exchange with the emerging roots from the cuttings.) You can place up to 10 three-inch cuttings in each baggie. (Cuttings taken from stems that have just bloomed are best.). Stem cuttings that are 3 to 4 inches long, containing two to three leaves, usually root well. Remove only the bottom leaf to allow the stem to easily enter the medium. You can dip your cuttings into rooting hormone containing IBA to aid in the speed and percentage of rooting. I have found that most cuttings will still root without it.

Correct placement of the baggie while roots develop is important. Direct sunlight can cook the un-rooted plants in the sealed baggie. Too little light won't provide the energy the cuttings need to form roots. I have found that a northeast or northwest facing window sill offers excellent light for rooting. East or west facing windows are good as well, as long as some relief from the direct sun is offered. Shaded greenhouses are ideal, or shade under trees works well, provided the temperatures aren't too cold. Optimum temperatures for rooting are from 55 to 85 F. To maintain the 100 percent humidity that the baggie environment provides, you may need to add up to 2 tablespoons of water every third or fourth day. Condensation on the baggie's inside walls is a good sign that this terrarium environment is being maintained.

You can actually see roots emerging, and, in three to five weeks, touching the bag's sides. In five to seven weeks, the baggie can be opened from the top to start weaning the cuttings from their 100 percent humid environment. You will need to water more often as the newly

## Propagation (continued)

rooted cuttings acclimate. In 10 to 18 weeks, rooted cuttings can be planted into small pots with regular potting soil, or into protected areas of the garden.

This method of rooting works with many other types of plants as well. I have also found that some cuttings without leaves, or even dormant hardwood cuttings, will root, but at a lower percentage and at a slower pace.

**About the author:** Mike Shoup is the owner of the Antique Rose Emporium. Visit his company's Brenham and San Antonio display gardens for endless ideas on landscaping with roses. To order roses online, visit [www.weAREroses.com](http://www.weAREroses.com)

This article was reproduced from "Tropicana", the newsletter of the Tropical Rose Society, edited by Norene Monaghan.



In three weeks or so you should be able to see roots.

\*\*\*\*\*



Marchese  
Boccola

An Old Garden  
Rose

Another online resource, courtesy of The American Rose Society, is the RoseChatPodcast. It's informative and entertaining. Try it out at [RoseChatPodcast.com](http://RoseChatPodcast.com)



## **It's a Disease** By BJ Abshire, *reprinted from Thorny Issues, Acadiana Rose Society, BJ Abshire, editor*

No, it's not black spot or powdery mildew. It isn't rust, downy mildew or botrytis. And, it affects most if not all rosarians. Symptoms include, but are not limited to, stopping at nurseries just to look, talking to strangers about roses, and road trips to places like The American Rose Center and Antique Rose Emporium. It goes by many names:

R.B.S. – Rose Buying Syndrome,  
A.R.D.S. – Acquired Rose Disease Syndrome, A.R.S. – Acquiring Roses Syndrome,  
U.R.B.D. - Uncontrollable Rose Buying Disease

But I like to call it **Rose-itis**.

Basically, people just can't resist buying roses. Even if they don't have room for them they buy them any- way. It's addictive. Many of us are in denial, letting this disease go untreated, acting like we have unlimited real estate. We ignore the fact that there's no more room in our rose beds. "I'll just put it in a pot" you say or "It's 50% off" or "I've been wanting this rose. You people know who you are.

In an effort to help people with Rose-itis, clubs have been formed. They meet on a monthly basis year round teaching members about rose culture. Oh, yeah, it's fun and informative and they even have food. But the hard reality is that it only makes it worse. There could be a presentation on Old Garden Roses with all the great pictures or the one we saw featuring the new potted roses from All Seasons and Chastant Bros. Everybody was oohing and aaawwing at the sight of these colorful roses. And If that isn't bad enough, there are door prizes at the meetings, too. And sometimes there are potted roses for door prizes! Someone has to win those roses. And don't forget, when a nursery has all those newly potted roses for sale like they have right now or a clearance sale the disease really flares up.

Now, I'm not saying that we should be seeking a cure. After all, we wouldn't have this affliction if we didn't love roses so much. But something must be done before it's too late. You could simply ignore it, which is what I usually do. Or, you could simply buy 2 rose bushes and call your Consulting Rosarian in the morning.



*Article courtesy of Flowers on Spring, reprinted from **Rose Scents**, newsletter of the Greater Milwaukee Rose Society, editor Betty Jo Gurschke*

## Benefits of Worm Castings

Worm castings contain a highly active biological mixture of bacteria, enzymes, remnants of plant material and animal manure as well as earthworm cocoons (while damp). The castings are rich in water soluble plant nutrients and contain 50% more hummus than what is normally found in topsoil.

Worm castings are packed with minerals that are essential for plant growth, such as concentrated nitrates, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium and calcium. They also contain magnesium, copper, zinc, cobalt, borax, iron, carbon and nitrogen. However, the best of all is that these minerals are immediately available to the plant without the risk of ever burning the plant roots. Animal manure and chemical fertilizers have to be broken down in the soil before the plant can absorb them.

As the organic matter moves through the elementary canal of the earthworm, a thin layer of oil is deposited on the castings. This layer erodes over a period of two months. So, although the plant nutrients are immediately available, they are slowly released to last longer.

The bacteria in the elementary canal of earthworm transforms organic waste to natural fertilizer, the chemical changes that the organic wastes undergo include deodorizing and neutralizing. This means that the pH of the castings is 7 (neutral) and the castings are odorless (they smell like a forest after rain). The worm castings also contain the bacteria, so the process is continued in the soil and microbiological activity is promoted.

What can worm castings be used for?

Worm castings can be used as an ingredient in potting soil for indoor and outdoor potted plants in and around the house. It can also be used as a

planting additive for trees, vegetables, shrubs and flowers. When used as a mulching material, worm castings will ensure that the minerals are absorbed directly into the soil when it is watered. Because worm castings will never burn plants you can use as much of it as you would like.

### **Benefits of Worm Castings:**

- The humus in the worm castings extracts toxins and harmful fungi and bacteria from the soil. Worm castings therefore have the ability to fight off plant diseases. The worm castings have the ability to fix heavy metals in organic waste. This prevents plants from absorbing more of these chemical compounds than they need. These compounds can then be released later when the plants need them.
- Worm castings work to help plants grow in soil where the pH levels are too high or too low by buffering pH. They will prevent extreme pH levels from making it impossible for plants to absorb nutrients from the soil.
- The humic acid in worm casting stimulates plant growth, even in very low concentrations. The humic acid is in an ionically distributed state in which it can be easily absorbed by the plant, over and above any normal mineral nutrients. Humic acid also stimulates the development of micro flora populations in the soil.
- Worm castings increase the ability of soil to retain water. The worm castings form aggregates, which are mineral clusters that are combined in such a way that they can withstand water erosion and compaction and also increase water retention.
- Worm castings reduce the acid forming carbon in the soil and increase the nitrogen levels in a state that the plant can easily use. Organic plant wastes usually have a carbon/nitrogen ratio of more than 20 to one.

Because of this ratio, the nitrogen is unavailable to plants and the soil around the organic waste becomes acidic.

**Directions for Use:**

Roses - 2 cups worked into the soil around the drip line twice a year. The first time when the soil is warm enough - about 55 degrees and the second time late June or early July.

Potted Plants & Seeds/New Seed Plants - Potting mix: use one part earthworm castings to three parts soil.

Vegetables & Annual Flowers - Line bottom and sides of plant holes and seed furrows with 1 to 2 inches of castings. Set seeds or plants in place and cover with soil. Side dress during growing season at rate of 1/2 cup per plant or 1 cup per linear foot of row once every two months.

Perennials - Work 1/2 cup into the soil above the root zone taking care not to damage shallow roots. Apply in spring, early summer and early fall.

Trees, Shrubs, Roses & Berries (new or freshly planted) - Mix one part earthworm castings to three parts soil. Surround newly dug hole with mixture. Spread roots over a mound of the mix in the hole and cover.

New Lawns - Apply 10 pounds per 100 square feet, work lightly into the topsoil. Mix in seed grass and water well.

Established Lawns - Distribute as top dress - 10 pounds per 100 square feet

Casting Tea - One part castings in three parts water for 12 to 24 hours. Stir well and water as usual. Casting tea is excellent for fruiting, flowering or difficult to access potting plants.

Compost Piles - Spread a thin layer of castings between each new layer of material to be composted.



Kathy and Bob's garden this month:



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MOUNTS BOTANICAL GARDEN  
WILL BE HOLDING ITS SPRING PLANT SALE  
APRIL 24, 25, 2021  
PLEASE CALL or e-mail DEBBIE COOLIDGE TO  
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## Benefits of ARS Membership

You can renew (or join) online at: <http://www.rose.org/join-renew/>. Consider taking advantage of their four month, \$10 trial offer.

- Five issues of the *American Rose* magazine plus the end-of-the-year issue of the *American Rose Annual*. These bi-monthly 84-page issues, devoted exclusively to roses and rose culture, feature informative articles and beautiful color photography for beginners and experienced rose growers alike. View a [free issue](#) online.
- The annual issue of *The Handbook for Selecting Roses*, a rose-buying guide to over 3,000 roses.
- Members-only online access to Modern Roses Database with information on every rose variety.
- Online access to five quarterly bulletins, the *Mini/Miniflora Bulletin*, *Old Garden Rose & Shrub Gazette*, *Rose Arrangers' Bulletin*, *Rose Exhibitors' Forum* and *Singularly Beautiful Roses* are available online to ARS members only.
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021****Co-Presidents.** Debbie & Geoff Coolidge

Debbie 561-313-0077, Geoff 561-310-8508

[coolidge38@gmail.com](mailto:coolidge38@gmail.com)**Past President,** Bill Langford. 561-309-8736[whl2@prodigy.net](mailto:whl2@prodigy.net)**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.** **Position vacant**

.....

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Our consulting Rosarians are appointed by the American Rose Society after spending years growing roses and being tested on their overall knowledge of roses and their care. They freely share this knowledge with anyone who loves and wants to grow roses.

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\*Master Rosarian

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**Greater Palm Beach Rose  
Society VIRTUAL Meeting, Monday  
April 26 at 7:00 (EDT)**

**Please join my meeting from your  
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(Membership period runs from January to  
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**Make checks payable to: GPBRS and  
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Bob Ewart, 445 NW 10<sup>th</sup> St., Boca Raton FL  
33432-2542