

Rosemania

Rosemania Recommends

Welcome to 2010!

by: **Robbie Tucker**



Welcome to our seventh year of writing the "Rosemania Recommends" column. We want to thank you for making it one of the most read columns in the *American Rose*. But most important, we thank you for your continued support of our company. Since the readership is very diverse, we always like to start the year by reminding everyone of a rose's basic requirements.

- 1. Roses require a minimum of five hours of direct sunlight per day.** More is better, but if you have at least five hours of direct sunlight, you have passed the first challenge. If you have a rose bush that is not getting enough sun, the spring is an excellent time to transplant it in a better location.
- 2. Roses need a balanced soil with good drainage.**
- 3. Roses need plenty of water and nutrients.**
- 4. Almost all roses require a preventative spray program for common fungus issues like blackspot, powdery mildew, rust, and downy mildew.**

Rose Bed Soil

The soil you use should be balanced. A good rule-of-thumb has always been to use 1/3 sand, 1/3 topsoil and 1/3 organic matter like humus, peat moss or some type of compost. This should be well mixed. I recommend to **not use** "sand-box" sand because its fine texture has a

tendency to bind together with soil to restrict drainage. For bigger projects, a tiller is recommended. For small projects a wheel barrow and a shovel work fine. Some nurseries offer a "rose mix" and this can make the job easier. Be sure to test the pH of your soil. You can do this by either sending a soil sam-



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

ple to the Agriculture Extension Service in your area, or by purchasing a good pH meter. Since I check my pH several times a year, owning my own pH meter is very practical. The **Kelway pHD** and **HB2** are both excellent meters and will give you many years of service. (We carry a generic version of the highly regarded HB-2 for a much lower price.) Roses like to grow in slightly acidic soil. I target a pH of 6.0 to 6.5 for my rose beds.

If you have beds that are more than three years old, you may begin to see a de-

Clearax Salt Leaching Solution



\$19.99 - Quart
\$37.99 - Gallon

cline in the vigor of your rose bushes. This is normal since roses are heavy feeders and the high amounts of fertilizer you have used over the years have naturally caused salt build-up in your soil. This can be easily corrected by the addition of **Clearax Salt Leaching Solution**. For the first treatment, I recom-

mend watering each plant with a gallon of water containing 1 tablespoon of **Clearax**. This will neutralize the salts and allow your roses to start thriving again. We recommend using **Clearax** twice a year... Spring and late fall. We introduced **Clearax** six years ago and the feedback continues to be dramatic.

Planting New Roses

You will want your roses to first establish a good root system, BEFORE you concentrate on bloom production. When you give a rose bush nitrogen, you tell it to grow canes and leaves.

Liquid Karma

Quart - \$25.00
Gallon - \$69.00



Having more canes and leaves than the root system can support is not a good idea for obvious reasons. Therefore, DO NOT fertilize your newly planted rose bush until it has produced one complete bloom cycle. Instead, use a good plant starter like **Liquid Karma**. The only exceptions to the "no fertilizer" rule at planting time is the use of organic fertilizers, worm castings and humates. The reason organic fertilizers don't apply to the rule is because they take several months to break down and become usable to the plant. In the meantime, however, earth worms will find the organics, giving you the double benefit of worm castings and aeration prior to becoming food for your plants. Adding **Mills Magic Mix** to the surface of the soil and lightly scratching it into the top two inches is highly recommended. Use two cups for hybrid teas and other large roses and one cup for miniature roses.

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Mills Products

<i>Worm Castings (20 pound bag)</i>	\$25.00
<i>New BloomKote Time-Released Fertilizer</i>	
<i>BloomKote 15 lb. resealable bag</i>	\$39.99
<i>BloomKote 40 lb. plastic pail</i>	\$89.00
<i>Magic Mix (9 lb.)</i>	\$14.99
<i>Magic Mix (20 lb.)</i>	\$25.99
<i>Mills EasyFeed (9lb)</i>	\$39.99
<i>Liquid EasyFeed (1/2 gallon)</i>	\$23.99
<i>Liquid EasyFeed (1 gallon)</i>	\$39.99
<i>Liquid EasyFeed (5 gallon)</i>	\$174.99

The makers of *Mills Magic Mix* are now offering premium *Worm Castings*. Worm castings have a natural slow release quality and may be used on all types of plants, trees, shrubs, etc. They are considered by many horticulturist to be the very best soil amendment available and aid in gradually restoring long-depleted soils naturally. *Worm castings* are odorless, non-toxic and will not burn plants.



Nature's NOG

Quart - \$34.94 Gallon - \$99.95

We also strongly recommend the use of humates in your soil. *Nature's NOG* is a totally organic, natural compound designed to enhance root formation, increase vascular strength, promote green color, and reduce stress on ornamental and agricultural plants. *Nature's NOG* is environmentally safe and completely non-toxic to humans, animals and fish. So why does it work? Seaweed provides the growth hormones while humate provides the soil conditioners and stimulates microbial activity. I also like to use this product in my regular pre-

ventative spray program.

Another product you should definitely add when you plant is the natural fungus, *mycorrhizae*. We have written about this natural fungus many times and you can read much more information in past issues or on our website, www.rosemania.com. We have chosen the *Plant Success* line of mycorrhizae products which make it easy to improve your soil and are perfect for roses and other ornamental plants.



***Plant Success*
Soluble Mycorrhizae
4 ounces
Only \$24.00!
Treats 50 plants**

Industry Updates

Compass 8oz Discontinued

The popular fungicide, *Compass*, will no longer be available in an 8oz. size. While *Compass* will still be manufactured, it will now come in a one pound container. We still have a few bottles of the 8 oz. at the time of this writing. Please check our website for availability.

New Insecticide/Miticide - Kontos

We are always looking for new products from reliable sources so we are proud to announce the introduction of *Kontos* Insecticide/Miticide to the greenhouse and nursery markets.

Kontos is a new systemic insecticide that is both xylem and phloem active, meaning the active ingredient moves upward and downward in treated plants, according to Dr. Richard Lindquist, OHP senior technical manager. "*Kontos* can be applied as a foliar spray or drench and controls a number of major sucking insect and mite pests, including aphids, leafhoppers, mealybugs, psyl-

ids, spider mites, and whiteflies," notes

Dr. Lindquist.



Kontos is a suspension concentrate (SC) formulation and is packaged in 250 ml bottles.(8.45 oz) Usage is 1.7 to 3.4 oz per 100 gallons. (1/8 to 1/4

tsp per gallon).

***Kontos 250 ml bottle*
\$199.95**

Lower Prices and More Generics

It is always a pleasure to announce price decreases. In the struggling economy it seems a few of the manufacturers appear to be listening and have lowered their prices on items for both the hobby gardener and the larger growers.

Visit our website or call and you will find lower prices on the fungicides, *Banner Maxx*, *Eagle 20EW* and *Clearys 3336F*. For the larger growers, there has been a significant decrease in the price of *Avid* quart bottles and *Banner Maxx* gallons.

We also now have a generic version of *Avid* called, *Lucid*. *Lucid* is only available in quarts but a great price!

Be sure to check out all our products at

www.rosemania.com

Valued Customers!

Don't miss your last chance to order our #1 grade bare-root hybrid teas, climbers and floribundas from *Week's Roses*, as well as our own proprietary miniature roses grown in 3" pots. See our website for our complete rose list with color photos and descriptions.

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