

Rosemania

Rosemania Recommends

Making It Through Those Hot Summer Months

by: Logan Shillinglaw



July and August bring the hottest days of the summer and we are all showing the signs of the heat. It's not as much fun to be out in the middle of the day so it is important to make the most of your time in the garden. The most important thing you can give your roses this summer is plenty of water. Roses need water for feeding and protection. As we all know, a well hydrated rose can more easily fend off disease.

A common mistake is to think that those afternoon showers are giving your roses the water they need to thrive. We all think we know how much rain our garden gets but unless you have a rain gauge, you are only guessing. Trust me, that is the voice of experience speaking. One of the best summer investments I made for my garden was to purchase an easy-to-read *rain gauge*. The one we offer at Rosemania can be mounted on a garden post or simply stuck right in the

middle of your rose bed. Now I know whether or not I need to water. When you do water, be sure to give your roses a good, deep soaking. If you have well prepared soil, it is almost impossible to over-water your roses during the summer months.

One way to reduce the amount of water you need is to add *Soil Moist Water Crystals* to your planting medium. These tiny crystals absorb a great deal of water and swell to 200 times their dry size, reducing plant watering and evaporation of moisture from the soil. They are highly recommended in hot climates and are "a must" for container planting in many areas of the country. Be sure to pre-hydrate them before adding to your soil.

What you do to your roses during the summer can have a significant effect on how your garden will look when the cooler weather of fall arrives. For this reason, I want to cover two areas in this issue of "Rosemania Recommends" – the "don't forgets" and how to enjoy your cut roses.

The "don't forgets" are the things we know we need to be doing but may have the tendency to let slip during the summer months. They are all common sense items, but let's go through them.

Soil Moist Water Crystals

Soil Moist Water Crystals are a high performance, long lasting, synthetic acrylic (water and nutrient storing) copolymer. Soil Moist reduces plant waterings, reduces evaporation of moisture from the soil, time releases fertilizer and water, encourages deep root penetration, reduces soil compaction, minimizes transplant shock and lasts several seasons. Cost effective; We use 2 tablespoons in pots and 4 tablespoons for roses planted in a bed.

8oz - \$9.00

1 lb. - \$17.95 3 lb. - \$32.99



Liquid Karma

Quart - \$32.00
Gallon-\$75.00



Don't forget to feed your roses. They are heavy are heavy feeders and you will want to continue a good fertilization regiment through out the summer. *Mills EasyFeed* is my favorite because it is a complete fertilizer containing fish, seaweed, chelated iron and Epsom sales as well as the right balance of NPK. You want to mix *EasyFeed* at a rate of one tablespoon per

Mills Products

<i>Magic Mix (9 lb.)</i>	\$17.99
<i>Magic Mix (20 lb.)</i>	\$25.99
<i>Magic Mix (40lb pail)</i>	\$58.99
<i>EasyFeed (3 lb.)</i>	\$19.99
<i>EasyFeed (9 lb.)</i>	\$44.99
<i>Liquid EasyFeed (pint)</i>	\$9.99
<i>Liq. EasyFeed (1/2 gallon)</i>	\$23.99
<i>Liq. EasyFeed (1 gallon)</i>	\$39.99
<i>Liq. EasyFeed (5 gallon)</i>	\$174.99
<i>Bloomkote (15 lbs.)</i>	\$39.99
<i>Bloomkote (40 lbs.)</i>	\$89.00



gallon of water. I usually add either *Response*, *Liquid Karma*, or a product we introduced last year – *Nature's NOG* - to give my roses that extra boost of color and vigor.

If you have a few roses, this is easy to do in a watering can or bucket. If your garden is larger and you water by hand, you might want to consider using a *siphon mixer* and a bucket of concentrated solution. Mix the fertilizer at a rate of 16 tablespoons per gallon of water in a bucket to create the concentrate. Simply connect the siphon mixer to your hose (no more than 50 feet from the dispensing end), slip the tube from the mixer into the concentrate, turn on the water and start fertilizing. The mixer accurately combines the concentrate with water. If you want to make the task of mixing easier

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Rosemania 4020 Trail Ridge Drive Franklin TN 37067

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Nature's NOG

Quart - \$34.94 Gallon - \$99.95

while reducing the risk of spillage, the **EZ Flo Automatic Fertilizing System** is the product you need.

Don't forget to add organics to your soil. In early May I use **Mills Magic Mix** to give my roses the longer term effect of organic feeding. By August, it is time to put down another 2-3 cups per large rose bush and about one-half cup per miniature rose. Lightly scratch it into the soil and give the rose a good watering. Depending on your part of the country this should carry you through the rest of the season. In climates that are warmer for most of the year, you may do another application later in the year.

EZ-Flo

Automatic Fertilizing System

Now you can save time and money while enjoying great results with your fertilizing program. The E-Z Flo connects to your hose with an "E-Z Connection" that is included with each order. Simply fill your E-Z Flo tank with water soluble fertilizer, set your desired mixing ratio, and start fertilizing your roses, lawn or other garden plants. Available in two sizes. The 0.75 gallon tank holds up to 5 lbs of fertilizer and is the recommended size. The 3 gallon will hold up to 20 pounds. Starting now, there is no need to ever mix in watering cans or trash cans again!

**EZ-Flo 0.75 gallon -
\$62.00**

**EZ-Flo 3 gallon -
\$86.00**



Don't forget to continue your preventative spray program. You need to be keeping disease in check and harmful pests out of your garden. Be sure to water your roses well the day before spraying. Last month Robbie wrote a great article on controlling insects and mites. If you can't find your past issue of the *American Rose*, you can check out the article at www.rosemania.com. You can also download a copy of our **Recommended Spray Programs** while you are there.

Don't forget to apply **Clearex Salt Leaching Solution** to rid your beds of any salt buildup. The results of this product continue to be impressive. By cleansing the bed of any unwanted salts, your roses can more easily take up the nutrients they need. The

Clearex Salt Leaching Solution



**\$22.99 - Quart
\$39.99 - Gallon**

initial dose should be 1 Tablespoon per gallon with subsequent treatments of 1 teaspoon per gallon. I treated an older bed a few years ago and my roses responded wonderfully to the more "healthy" soil.

Don't forget to remove old spent blooms



Safety Equipment & Pruners

Dual Cartridge Respirator	\$35.99
Nitril Disp. Gloves;100/box (S,M,L,XL)	\$19.99
Goat Skin Gloves (S,M,L,XL)	\$15.99
Full Face respirator	\$152.00
Respirator Replacement Cartridges (2)	\$18.99
Splash-Proof Goggles	\$19.99
Tyvek Coveralls (M,L,XL,XXL - 1 pair)	\$9.25
West County Rose Gloves	\$32.95
Felco #2	\$49.99
Felco #6	\$47.99
Felco #8	\$49.99
Felco #9	\$49.99
Felco #12	\$57.00
Rain Gauge	\$6.00

from your rose plants. This encourages the plant to begin another bloom cycle. Use a quality pair of bypass pruners with a sharp blade. A clean cut reduces the damage to the cane on the plant. If you are cutting blooms to enjoy inside, a clean cut encourages uptake of water while in the vase. (More on enjoying cut flowers later). My recommendation is always the **Felco** line. They are a durable pruner with easy to replace blades. The Felco #2 is the most popular model; the Felco #6 is perfect for smaller hands, while the Felco #7 and #12 offer rotating handles to make pruning a bit easier.

Don't forget to protect the rosarian! Not only are **gloves, coverall, respirator and goggles important**, but hydration and sun protection for the rosarian are a must. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids before, during and after you work outside. Lack of water and overheating will creep up on you without warning. Wear sunscreen and a hat to protect your head – especially if the top of your head reflects the sun like mine does. That covers the basic "don't forgets". If you remember these items and give your roses the water they need during the summer, you should be able to enjoy and share your beautiful blooms with friends or as arrangements in your home – even during the summer months. Never cut roses in the garden without immediately placing them in water! I used to take just a bucket of water into the garden with me. Unfortunately, the roses would bounce and flop around and, too often, would fall out.

Along came the **Bloomsaver™** to save the day! The **Bloomsaver™** has three individual reservoirs for holding the cut blooms and a long "T" handle to easily carry them. Long stems will gently lean away from the Bloomsaver™ keeping space between stems and dramatically reducing the chance of tearing leaves or scratching the rosarian. This handy gadget is also a great way to carry blooms, even narrow vases, in the car!

Now its time to bring your roses into the

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Bloomsaver

Designed for the flower gardener to facilitate the gathering and proper conditioning of flowers. This handy tool enables the gardener to collect dozens of roses at leisure, while protecting them from wilting, crushing and bruising.

Now Only \$34.99



more surface for water to be received. This also prevents the stem from sitting flat on the bottom of the vase. By cutting them under water, you keep a droplet of water on the end of the stem as you move them from the water to the Chrysal filled vase.

If there are leaves and thorns that need removing, the tool of choice is the **Stem Stripper**. Its cylindrical shapes opens to allow an easy start to "cleaning" the stem. When closed and ready to use, it fits comfortably in your palm. Simply pull the stem stripper down the rose stem and watch the leaves and pointy thorns fall right off the cane. This stripping process makes it easier to fit rose stems in tall slender vases and helps keep your Chrysal solution cleaner and more effective.

I keep a container of Chrysal water prepared so as the roses drink up this helpful solution in the vase, I simply add more as needed. When giving roses away, I include either a packet of **Chrysal Clear Cut Flower Food** powder sachet or the new **RosePro liquid packet** designed especially for roses. This makes it easy for others to mix up a Chrysal

solution that will allow them to get more enjoyment from the roses.

That wraps it up for the hottest summer months. Be patient, stay the course and your garden will reach its peak beauty this fall.

Chrysal Preservatives

Clear Cut Flower Food (250ml)	\$6.99
Chrysal Clear Sachets (50 pkg)	\$14.00
Chrysal Clear Sachets (100 pkg)	\$22.00
Rose Pro Liquid Sachets (25 pkg)	\$16.00
Rose Pro Liquid Sachets (50 pkg)	\$26.00
Chrysal RVB Pro 1 (quart)	\$32.50
Chrysal Pro 2	\$65.00

house and put them in vases. Do you wonder how some florists get their roses to last a week? The answer is "proper hydration and feeding". **Chrysal Pro 2** is the product used by the pros and rosarians alike. This combination of **Chrysal Pro 1 (RVB)** and **Chrysal Clear Cut Flower Food** brings together the best features of hydration and "holding" with the feeding necessary to keep the colors in your blooms looking beautiful. The usage is 2 teaspoons per quart of water. A new handy pump can be ordered making it even easier to mix.

Before you put the roses into the vase, you should to re-cut the stems. You want to do this to eliminate the pocket of air that is naturally brought into the stem when the rose is cut. This air can lock out the stem's ability to drink water. I usually run about 4-6 inches of water in my kitchen sink. One at a time, I put the end of the stem under water and remove about 1 inch of cane. Make certain the water level is above the cut and make a clean 45 degree angle cut to allow

Partial Listing of Insecticides, Miticides & Fungicides.

Eagle 20EW (pint)	\$69.99
Banner Maxx (pint)	\$69.99
Honor Guard (pint; generic B. Maxx)	\$57.99
Compass (1 lb)	\$469.00
Heritage (4oz)	\$149.99
Mancozeb (pint)	\$24.99
Pentathlon DF (6 lb)	\$47.99
Pentathlon LF (2.5 Gallons)	\$124.99
Daconil Ultrex (5 lb)	\$89.95
Clearys 3336F (quart)	\$72.99
Stature SC (for Downey Mildew)	\$199.99
Conserve SC (Great for thrips!)	\$149.99
Merit (2 oz) (for aphids and J. Beetles)	\$59.99
Orthene 97 WP (.773 lb)	\$31.99
Talstar (quart)	\$79.99
Kontos (250 ml)	\$199.95
Shuttle SC (quart)	\$289.99
Shuttle SC (pint)	\$159.99
Avid (8oz)	\$109.00
Floramite SC (quart)	\$289.99
Forbid (8oz)	\$289.99
Hexygon (6oz)	\$195.00

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www.rosemania.com



7 gallon high density tank with graduation marks by the gallon; Extra tanks available and easily interchangeable; Sealed 12-volt lead-acid type rechargeable battery complete with battery charger included; Spotshot's polypropylene spray gun with lockable trigger; The standard version comes with a 30 foot hose and 24 inch wand. The **Special Rosemania Version** comes with an longer 30" wand and 50 feet of hose! An adjustable nozzle and a tee-jet flat spray nozzle are included in both models. Industrial-type 8" wheels with tires mounted on "no rust" high impact polypropylene wheels.

Standard Version - \$399.95

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**Free shipping
to the Lower
48 States!**



**Rosemania
Stem
Stripper**

Only \$15.00!

