



RUISLIP
CENTRAL
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY



All photographs shown here were taken at the 2014 RCHS Autumn Show by Rod PPengelly.

MARCH IN THE ROSE GARDEN

IT is at this time of the year, that I feel I should be in the garden most days doing something, however what should we actually be doing that benefits the garden and does not hinder it?

Is it too early to prune? Fork the lawn? Top Dress? Confusion.com!

I thought it would be a great time to ask *RCHS Autumn Show Rose Winner* Rod Pengelly to give us some of his extensive knowledge on 'The Fantastic English Rose'. So it is over to Rod. See you next month...

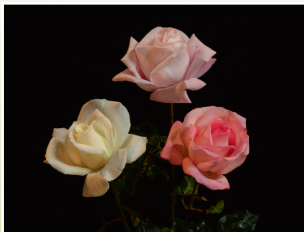
Warren

HELLO Gardening Enthusiasts, you still have time to plant Roses in pre-prepared beds, but only early this month as roses need time to put on root growth before hot and dry periods. November is the best time to plant a new Rose.

Hold off pruning just now, we can still get hard frosts which will damage newly pruned shoots. So, wait until early April to prune when the threat of severe cold weather is over.

I grow exhibition HT Roses, I prune them down to 2-4 buds from the ground, new bushes should also be pruned in this way. However, established bushes for the garden may be moderately pruned.

Thin, damaged or any broken branches, and any crossing over should be trimmed or cut out. Try to end up with a clear middle, as this helps air flow, then cut the strong stems by about half.



Floribunda Roses - Moderate pruning is the basis, however hard prune some old stems, which ensures a longer flowering period. ALL strong red stems from the base must be kept as they will produce the good flowers later in the year.

You cannot buy any plant, plonk it in the ground, then moan when it does not do well, new roses need at least two years of care and attention until they have a good root run. They need to be watered but not water logged, and good feeding helps. In late March/early April feed one handful of fish blood and bone or Q4, you need to do this when the ground is wet or water it in. Then mulch to 2" deep with two-year-old manure. Spraying will also keep the roses healthy.

VARIETIES TO TRY...

CLIMBERS

Dublin Bay - Red, constantly flowers.

Gertrude Jekyll - Keep three strongest shoots cut the rest out, one of the strongest smelling roses, Heavenly.

HTs

There are so many, however Barbra Streisand is beautifully scented. A little tip with HTs, if you want large flowers, remove the side buds as soon as you can, if you want smaller flowers, leave them on.

FLORIBUNDA ROSES

Pinch out centre bud, then the flowers that remain will open at the same time.

Good ones are...

Absolutely Fabulous - Gold.

Champagne Moment - Apricot/Cream.

Marc Bolan - Purple to bright Pink.

Doris Day - Yellow.

For more help on roses and horticulture please contact the lovely people at the Ruislip Central Horticultural Society on rchstalks@gmail.com

For all the 2016 events at the RCHS you can now see under 'Events' at <http://ruisliphorticultural.org.uk>

ADVANCE NOTICE

Our SPRING SHOW is at the Great Barn Ruislip at 1pm, on Saturday 2nd April 2016. Come and join us for our famous teas, cakes and more. See <http://ruisliphorticultural.org.uk> for details.