



BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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The Garden Party: Roses 101

Randy Lemmon is the host of the GardenLine radio program on Newsradio 740 KTRH.

ROSE BED PREPARATION

The key to growing roses of any kind is to give them a proper home. They need a planting site that gets at least six hours of sun a day and offers rich soil with good drainage. If you've got the sun but not the soil, you'll have to do a little amending. And here's where I begin to over-simplify things, much to the chagrin of rose devotees. No homemade rose mixes here.

Buy some professional rose soil. It comes by the bag or in bulk, and it's labeled "Rose Soil." This is normally a perfect mix of soil, sand and humus for a rose garden.

The next simple step is to make a raised bed with the rose soil. It is recommended that it stand wight to 10 inches tall, full of rose soil. Rose roots grow laterally and shallow, so making a raised bed of the right kind of soil is key. Another trick of the trade to help abate weeds and unwanted grass, is to lay four to eight sheets of newspaper on the ground where you make your raised bed.

ROSE CARE PRACTICES

Now let's care for them. And let's over-simplify this segment, too. Since I wanted to write this article about pruning, let's start there; then I will discuss the feeding, fungal controls and insect controls as well.

Pruning controls the size and shape of roses and keeps the modern varieties blooming repeatedly all summer long, as they flower on new growth. Well-established varieties of modern rose bushes such as hybrid teas, floribundas and grandifloras, should receive a major pruning each spring after the winter protection has been removed and just as the buds begin to swell. For us, that's usually about Valentine's Day. (Roses ... Valentine's Day ... it's a perfect correlation, if you ask me.)

All that's needed otherwise during the growing season is to remove and destroy any diseased foliage or canes, and to "dead-head" or remove the faded flowers, cutting their stems just above the first leaf with five leaflets.

Most old-fashioned and species roses, as well as the climbers that bloom only once a year, flower on wood from the previous year's growth. They are pruned right after flowering.

Annual heavy pruning is essential to ensure the prolific bloom and long life of a rose bush. There are two times a year when you prune more seriously, spring and fall. But pruning of roses is actually done year round. Every time you cut off old blooms and remove twiggy growth you are actually promoting new growth.

Explaining the concept of rose pruning without a live bush on which to demonstrate is difficult, but try to visualize the following steps.

The first step in the spring pruning of hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas and climbing roses is to remove any canes that are dead or just old and non-productive. These canes are usually gray in color and scaly. To prune hybrid tea and grandiflora roses, follow certain principles including:

- Prune high for more flowers earlier, or low for fewer, bigger flowers later
- Prune to remove weak and crisscrossing canes
- Remove growth an inch below a canker
- Cut damaged, dead or broken canes back to healthy growth
- Remove sucker growth as close as possible to main root.

Cut back canes and growth to a point where you have five or six healthy canes 12-18 inches long that, together, form a "vase-like" structure.

Floribundas are usually not pruned as severely as hybrid teas. Even so, be sure to cut any dead, broken, damaged or blotched branches back to where the pith, or center of the cane, is white and healthy looking. Next, remove weak, spindly canes, canes growing toward the center of the bush, the weaker of two canes that crisscross, canes that grow out then up, and suckers. Finally, trim all remaining canes back to one-half their former height.

Miniatures - In the spring, it is best to cut miniatures almost down to the ground (i.e., 2-3 inches). Moreover, if they are over three years old, it is a good idea to divide them by cutting the whole plant in

(Continued on Page 3)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

Emergency Situation	911
Constable Precinct 5	281 463-6666
Sheriff Emergency & Non	713 221-6000
Harris County Sheriff (Store Front).....	281 564-5990
Harris County Sheriff (sub-station)	281 463-2648
Poison Control.....	800 764-7661
Crime Stoppers	713 222-TIPS

EMERGENCY

AT&T (Repairs).....	800 246-8464
Center Point Energy (Electric).....	713-207-2222
Center Point Energy (Gas)	713 659-2111
Comcast (Cable)	713 462-9000
Mud #120 (Water).....	713 405-1750
Reliant (Electric)	713 207-2222
Street Light Repairs -need Pole#	713 207-2222
Trash (Texas Pride Disposal)	281 342-8178

PUBLIC SERVICES

Local U.S. Post Office	281 920-9337
<i>12655 Whittington Dr, Houston, TX 77077</i>	
Toll Road EZ Tag.....	281-875-EASY (3279)
Volunteer Fire Dept.....	281 498-1310
Steve Radack (<i>County Commissioner</i>).....	713 755-6306
Animal Control.....	281 999-3191
Dead Animal Pick-up (Precinct 5).....	713 439-6000
Dead Bird Report.....	713 440-3036
Graffiti Clean-up.....	281 463-6300
Mosquito Control (Health Dept.)	713 440-4800
Mow the Bayou.....	713 684-4000

SCHOOLS

Alief Independent School Dist.	281 498-8110
Alief Transportation (to report Bus).....	281 983-8400

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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WBCIAnewsletter@yahoo.com	
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The below dates are subject to change with or without notice. Please check the website for updates. www.ciaservices.com

Board Meeting and Management

C.I.A. SERVICES INC.
3000 Wilcrest Drive Suite #200 Houston, TX 77042
Phone: 713 981-9000
Hours: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
www.ciaservices.com
customercare@ciaservices.com

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING EVERY 2nd TUESDAY

7:00p - Executive Session
7:30p - Board Meeting
Butler’s Bridge Pool
3915 Summit Valley Dr.
Houston, TX 77082

(Continued from Cover)

half or more. Be sure to leave some roots on each division.

Old-fashioned (Antique) and shrubs - Remove any dead canes, and lightly trim the remainder of the bush, removing about a third of the growth. Mass blooming is the aim with these roses. Additional light grooming throughout the year is encouraged, since ever-blooming varieties flower on new wood. Varieties that bloom only once during the season should be pruned AFTER they have bloomed, since they bloom on old wood.

PEST- AND DISEASE-CONTROL

Many gardeners avoid planting roses because they've heard the plants suffer from dreaded pests and diseases. To some extent, that's true. But you can take steps to prevent problems before they ever start.

Pest problems can be controlled with routine applications of insecticidal soap, which kills most of the insects that attack roses, including aphids, leafhoppers and spider mites. You can also prevent attacks by many of these bugs by using a systemic insecticide (unless you're organic in your practices) or by feeding them a systemic rose food, which I'll discuss later.

Fungal diseases such as black spot, powdery mildew and rust can do serious damage to roses, but regular treatments with fungicides, beginning just as the buds begin to swell in early spring and continuing throughout the growing season, will prevent them. Many rosarians in Houston use over-the-counter fungicides like Funginex on a weekly basis. Others, like Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide and Alliette, need only to be applied every two weeks.

And there's always the homemade recipe: Mix one tablespoon of baking soda and 2½ tablespoons of highly refined horticultural oil in one gallon of water. Spray a little on lower leaves before covering the entire plant to make sure it doesn't burn the foliage. If it does, use half as much baking soda. That's it. Apply once a week for optimum control.

FEEDING

For simplified feeding, just remember this: roses are HEAVY FEEDERS! Don't use bloom-boosters or super-phosphates on roses. They actually do fine with balanced food.

Feeding is done once a month from March through September. Just read the label instructions for amounts. If you don't practice "organic" rose gardening, there is a product on the market known as Systemic Rose Food ... use it to feed the plants and prevent bugs in one step. And don't be surprised to find rose foods with a higher nitrogen (first number in the ratio) than what you think is necessary. Just remember that you need leaves to get blooms and the more nitrogen in the ratio, the better the plant's ability to produce green leaves.

ROSE TYPES

It's hard for me to imagine a garden without a least one rose. But which rose? The choices today can be mind-boggling. Nurseries and catalogs offer hybrid teas, polyanthas, floribundas, grandifloras, climbers, miniatures, tree roses and shrub roses. It's easy to be confused and wonder which are best for your garden. Here's a rundown that might help.

Hybrid Teas - These are the classic among all kinds of roses; they are

often called monthly or ever-blooming roses. They are the result of crossing two old-fashioned rose classes, the hybrid perpetual and the tea rose from China which gave the repeat-blooming trait.

Floribundas - The floribundas originated from crossing the hybrid tea with polyantha roses. They're compact plants that produce more flowers per stem and tend to bloom all summer long, which is why they are very popular now. There are very few polyanthas on the market today because floribundas seem to have more appeal.

Grandifloras - This is a relatively new classification which resulted from crosses between hybrid tea and floribunda varieties. Grandifloras are usually very vigorous plants. Queen Elizabeth is probably the most popular rose in this class.

Climbing and Pillar Roses - Many of the popular varieties of the classes previously described have climbing forms. But it's interesting to note that climbers don't actually "climb." They do, however, produce canes that reach 20 feet in length, and those can be attached to walls, fences, lattice and trellises.

Old Garden Roses - This is really more of a generalized grouping than a class of roses. Included are China, hybrid perpetual, tea, moss, damask, bourbon and moissette roses. Recent years have seen considerable interest in many of these plants. Part of their popularity is due to nostalgia and interest in historical plantings. Old-rose enthusiasts quickly point to the superior fragrance, hardiness, growth-habit and disease-resistance of some of the old varieties that may have been lost or weakened in the hybridization process of newer varieties.

Miniature Roses - Most of these plants are pint-sized versions of full-size plants that produce a profusion of flowers all summer long and do extremely well in containers. They grow no more than 16-36 inches high.

Visit: www.houstonrose.org You may also wish to attend the society's monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the Houston Garden Club in Hermann Park.

2016 Calendar of Events

April

1st	Friday - Pool Pass distribution
2nd	Saturday - Pool Pass distribution
3rd	Sunday - Pool Pass distribution
5th	Newsletter
12th	Board Meeting
15th	Tax Day
22nd	Earth Day
23rd	Passover (Start)
27th	Administrative Professionals
29th	Arbor Day
30th	Passover (Ends)

May

5th	Newsletter
10th	Board Meeting

West Bend CIA

Pool Opening Day

Saturday, May 28th

If you have not received your pool pass for 2016 you may pick them up at:

C.I.A. Services, 3000 Wilcrest Drive, Suite #200 Houston, TX 77042
(Between the Hours of 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM excluding Holidays.)

Memorial Holiday Pool Hours:

Saturday 11:00 – 8:00

Sunday 01:00 – 8:00

Monday 01:00 – 8:00

Regular Pool Hours:

• Monday & Tuesday CLOSED for Maintenance

• Wednesday - Friday 03:00 PM – 8:00 PM

• Saturday 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

• Sunday 01:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Pool Rules and Regulations are posted on the website: www.ciaservices.com

SPLASH DAY
SATURDAY, JUNE 4th
11:00 ~ 2:00 at the POOL
FOOD, FUN, GAMES & PRIZES

Plant Swap

Spring is here! When you are working in your yard or doing your spring house cleaning keep in mind, plants and plant related items that can be used to barter with at the Plant Swap.

See the Plant Swap website for suggested items. <http://plantswap.gmbac.com/trade-items/>

Plants that come up in areas that you don't want them to can be transplanted into a pot and cuttings can be put in water or potting soil to root.

No money changes hands, just plants and plant related items!

Sponsored by: Greater Mission Bend Area Council

George Bush Park on Saturday, June 4th, 9:00 a.m. ~ Noon

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QUARTERLY INSPECTION AREA OF FOCUS

West Bend Community Improvement Association

The following areas will receive a more comprehensive evaluation during the specified quarter. However, bi-weekly deed restriction inspections done by the auditor will continue to check the items below, in addition to all other areas throughout the year.

Homeowners are legally obligated to maintain their property in accordance with the West Bend Community Improvement Association governing documents.

December – February

• Sidewalk & Driveway repairs

• Power washing of sidewalk & driveway

March – May

• Gutter cleaning including house & street

• Removal of pine needles & leaves

June – August

• Mildew removal

• Power washing exterior home

• Painting

September – November

• Fence Repairs

• Tree Trimming

The Quarterly Inspection Area of focus is an attempt to decrease the number of first letter violation notices. It gives homeowners the opportunity to rectify any problems in a focus area before the quarter approaches.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Volunteers Needed for Community Chores as follows. . .

- 1) *Remove the old faded and damaged Neighborhood Watch signs
- 2) *Power-wash selected areas at the pool
- 3) *Remove the playground mulch
- 4) *Replace the tile in the Pool House
- 5) *Move some boxes & items to the storage shed
- 6) *Spring Clean the bathrooms at the pool
- 7) Yard of the Month Committee members needed (April – September)
- 8) SPLASH DAY VOLUNTERS needed on Saturday, June 4th.
- 9) DJ/PA needed for line item 8.

Please email manager, Gina Victor, at gina.victor@ciaservices.com by April 30th, with your contact information and the line item you are willing to help with. A Board Member will then provide you with the details in advance.

If you SEE SOMETHING then SAY SOMETHING. . .

1) Report streetlight outages 713 207-2222 (Need Pole#)

2) Report area water leaks 713 405-1750

3) Call stores to pick-up their shopping carts in and around our area

Walmart 281 561-0866

H.E.B 281 776-0143

Fiesta 281 568-4149

Your help is appreciated!

Electric Panel Update

Don't let your house be added to the 53,000 that the Electrical Safety Foundation International says are destroyed by electrical fires each year. Your house can last more than a hundred years. Over the years, rooms get added to and added on. We add more appliances which start to overload the system. Keeping your electrical system up to date ensures that it is equipped to meet your energy needs and protect your family and home. There are several questions to answer to see if your panel needs to be upgraded:

1. Is your panel full?
2. Are you adding a big appliance like a new refrigerator, or replacing a heat pump?
3. Does your breaker constantly trip?
4. Does your fuses blow constantly?
5. Does your lights flicker when your air conditioner or other large appliances kick on?
6. Do your light bulbs burn out quickly?
7. Are you adding an addition to your home?
8. Do you need more outlets?
9. Do you use several extension cords?

10. Are you adding a sauna or hot tub?
11. Do you need a GFCI installed in your kitchen or bathrooms?
12. Is your home owner's insurance making you upgrade your electrical system?

13. Do you need a 240v circuit?

14. Do you need a whole house surge protector?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, it may be a warning sign that it is time to upgrade or replace your electrical panel. Upgrading your electrical panel helps to ensure that your electrical system is equipped to meet your energy needs and protect your family and property. Your breaker box or panel should be inspected for loose wiring at least every 2 years. The electrical vibration on the terminals will loosen the wires making it a fire hazard. This is more prevalent with older systems. Getting an electrical inspection to check the operation of your electrical System can help prevent electrical emergencies before they occur. Electrician, Chip Vasquez, has offered a free service to answer any questions regarding your electrical needs. You may call or text your question to 713 894-1007.

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Honey Bee Swarms

Honey bees are beneficial by producing honey, wax and pollinating crops. With warmer temperatures, honey bees are becoming more active and may soon begin to swarm.

Honey bee swarms look like a large clump of bees clustered together. The swarm may stay in a location from a few hours to a week. Swarms are produced as a part of the colony's reproductive process. An established colony produces a new queen, causing the old queen and half the worker bees to leave the colony to search for a new nesting location. Swarming honey bees are usually gentle and unlikely to sting. Swarms are not protecting their home, food or offspring. Scout bees are sent out from the swarm to search for a nesting site. Colonies produce comb and honey and are defensive. Bees from a colony are more likely to sting as they are guarding their home, food and offspring.

Sometimes, honey bee colonies can be found in wall voids, chimneys, attics or sheds. If bees are in a wall void, DO NOT block their entrance; this makes them search for another way to exit and could lead bees into the structure. To keep bees from entering a home, seal any holes found in walls where pipes enter the home, cracks in window framing, knotholes, weep holes, or cracks between wood and brick junctures.

While many enjoy having honey bees around, some people are severely allergic to their venom. This, along with other situations, such as bees located near sensitive areas (such as playgrounds) may require removal or even extermination of the bees.

People should NOT try remove or exterminate bees on their own. Beekeepers and pest control companies have equipment to carry out these jobs in a safe manner. The city or county does not provide bee removal services.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - [Facebook.com/PeelInc](https://www.facebook.com/PeelInc).

DUE: April 30th

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

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initial)

Age: _____



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