

YANKEE DISTRICT
ANNUAL CONSULTING ROSARIAN REPORT
FOR THE 2015 GROWING SEASON

March 26, 2016

David R. Long, Yankee District CD Chair

Welcome back to the YD CR Annual Report, which hasn't been very 'annual' since the last report dated February 28, 2012 for the growing period of 2011. ARS changed the status of the CR Report from 'Required' to 'Suggested' by late 2012, so we all stopped completing a CR Report. By November 2015 with a new ARS Board being installed and a new ARS CR Chair taking the reins, the status has moved to 'Should' complete a CR Report organized by each District CR Chair. Thus, YD CRs completed a revised format of the 2012 Report and we will continue to change the format based on input and recommendations from any and all YD CRs, and possibly the National CR Chair, Don Myers.

I am very proud of YD CRs with the way all of you responded to submitting your report. Yankee had an 89% return of reports under a 'Should' status!! Thirty-two out (32) of thirty-six (36) CRs responded with their submission of a report!! There are currently thirty-six active CRs compared to 2012 when we had thirty-five (35) active CRs with thirty-four (34) submitting reports under the threat of being dropped if they did not file a report.

The purpose of submitting the CR Annual Report is several fold. First, the report is a cross reference for the CR Chair to make sure all CRs are up to date with any recertification that was necessary last year and those who will need recertification this year. Second, the reports also track any CR credit that our CRs are claiming for programs they attended for CR credit in case those credits weren't forwarded to the Chair in the past. Thirdly, the Reports are useful in determining a CRs qualification for the ARS Outstanding Rosarian certificate. Fourthly, the Reports share the experiences and knowledge of each CR to the rest of the group on chemicals used (or not used), new garden products, organics used (or not used), cultural practices, roses grown, attainable goals for the coming year, suggestions to make the CR program more effective and comments regarding the CR Emeritus program.

The reporters were: Candler, Cannistraro, Chute (2), Cunningham (2), Danehy, Dorschel, Ehrenreich (2), Forsythe, Fuss, Jung, Karikas, Lau, Leduc, Long, Martin, Martorelli, Mattia, Mendes, Mosher, Nickerson (2) Osborn (2), Paniccia, Redway, Retsema, Rogers, Toyn, Vanable.

Compared to the last CR Report in 2012 when we had thirty-five (35) active CRs, we now have thirty-six (36) active CRs – some have moved on while new CRs have stepped up and become involved in the CR program.

Repeating from the 2012 Report: INTERESTING that compared to the CR Annual Report of **2003** there were **fifty-eight (58)** CRs in the District with forty-four (44) reporting that they grow (8431) roses of which Mike Lowe grew (1300). **Times certainly have changed!** In the Annual Report of **2004** there were **seventy-seven (77)** CRs with forty-nine (49) respondents representing (38) gardens and growing (7854) bushes again with Mike Lowe growing (1500) roses.

Question #1: ‘List the societies where you are an active member.’ Seventeen (17) CRs are active in at least one society. Nine (9) CRs are active in at least two (2) societies and six (6) are active in three (3) societies.

Question #2: ‘Did you write any articles about rose horticulture in 2015.’ Sixteen (16) CRs wrote articles for their local society newsletter or district newsletter. Eleven (11) CRs did not write any articles in 2015. Two CRs wrote many articles for their website. One (1) wrote a special article for the NERS 75th Anniversary, one (1) writes a blog monthly and two (2) have written articles for ARS Magazine.

Question #3: ‘Would you be willing to share articles with other societies for inclusion in their publications?’ All those that wrote articles in 2015 said YES they would share their article with others if approved together with their editor.

Question #4A: How do you combat MIDGE?

- Many said to prune out tips & blind shoots and destroy. Spray with Bayer Complete.
- Many use Grub Control with Imidacloprid 3X in spring and summer. Also, soil drench with Liquid Bayer Complete insect control 2x summer – number of applications varies with each of the above with CR.
- Cover soil under bushes with fabric thus preventing midge from returning to the soil to lay eggs – interrupts life cycle
- One CR uses Rose Shield X2 - it worked.
- One CR NOTES: It is also said that midge is repelled by alliums and herbs with strong scents planted as companion plants.
- One CR has more trouble with THRIPS than midge and the thrips move from a meadow area into their gardens with the breeze. I now use blue solo cups sprayed inside and out with Pam. The thrips are drawn to the blue outsides and the midge seem to be attracted to the white insides. **TRY IT!**
- FOUR (4) CRs do not spray all. They live with the results.

Question #4B: Have you seen rose rosette in your garden or have other rosarians brought you a mysterious rose plant growth to you to identify as rose rosette?

- Twenty-eight (28) reported they have not seen rose rosette in their own garden.
- Four (4) indicated they have had rose rosette in their own garden or have seen it when brought to them by another rosarian.
- Most CRs agreed that the infected plant be removed, placed in a plastic bag and sent to the town dump. Also, remove any multiflora growing on the property.
- If you really want to try to save your plant, just cut off the affected area – bag it as above and send to dump. If another new growth cane shows rose rosette, remove the entire plant and send to dump.

Question #4C: What organic techniques, if any, are you using to care for rose plants? Do you share this knowledge with other rosarians?

- Many CRs answered: Use lots of homemade Compost w/Composted Manure topped with Degradable Mulch.
- One CR applies deluxe, gourmet, fabulous, weed-free, seaweed-based, high octane, home-made Narragansett Bay compost with Rosetone, an almost organic fertilizer. Seafood for roses.
- Many CRs fertilize with Rosetone & Neptune's Harvest.
- Many use Neem Oil to control pests.
- Some limit their spray program by stopping any spraying from June 1 onward.
- One CR practices good sanitation: prune out any dz, watering practice, bark mulch for water conservation and prevent fungal spores from splashing back onto rose leaves. Fertilizers (manures, alfalfa pellets, seaweed, fish extracts, composts, etc.) Pest and dz control using insecticidal soaps, hort. oil with lime sulfur, rubbing alcohol (iPA. 70%) kills worms aphids eggs; harder bodied pests are more resistant, but are disoriented and easier to kill.
- I also do my best to keep my roses pruned to allow air to circulate to avoid dampness and discourage fungus growth.
- Blue solo cups sprayed with Pam for midge and thrips. (See #4A answer above).
- My foundation is to feed the soil with quality compost and add organic fertilizer twice during the growing season. I select disease resistant varieties and do my best to prune out my shrubs to maintain good air flow.
- Lime Sulphur in the spring and fall on all my beds. I also use Epsom salts, alfalfa pellets and GreenCure.
- Compost pile of cuttings and leaves and commercial compost. Add a layer of compost each year. Keep the beds clean of dropped leaves and buds. Use organic fertilizers made of fish oil and seaweed. Adding perennial plants each year, encouraging beneficial insects into the garden. Use Neem oil when necessary.
- I give the rose a good shower under and above 1-3 times a week as necessary. Aphids are washed off. Grow cultivars that are resistant to disease. Beetles and worms are picked off by hand. Hardware cloth for vole and mole protection.
- I fertilize with Alfalfa pellets and Fish Emulsion. I do not spray my roses with either organic or inorganic sprays.

- Happy to report that every CR that answered **Question #4C** said they shared their information freely with anyone that would listen.

Question #4D: What rose talks have you given to your rose society and would you be willing to give such programs at other societies in the Yankee District?

- Only five (5) out of thirty-two reporting CRs have not given at least one public presentation. Many of the twenty-seven who have given a presentation have given multiple presentations including radio, flower shows, garden clubs, private homes, Master Gardener's mtgs., round table discussions and libraries.
- **OBSERVATION:** I'm glad to see nearly everyone is 'out front' with public presentations. Only one thing missing – MENTORING with a new rosarian or someone already growing roses and needs help in understanding one or more steps along the way. We all need to become more involved with mentoring our fellow rosarians.

Question #5: What, if any, pesticides did you use in your garden and your assessment of their effectiveness against the following: Most used in **RED**.

- INSECTS: Merit, **Bayer Complete**, Insecticidal soap, Neem, Collecting Jap beetles soapy water – All Effective.
- MIDGE: Merit, Grub X, **Bayer Complete**, All-In-One Rose Care Drench, Merit and B-cyfluthrin granules & Spray w/Complete Insect Killer.
- MILDEW-POWDERY: Mancozeb & Banner Max, Mancozeb & Compass (alternate with Banner Max), **Bayer Products (Complete, 3in1, Advanced Disease Control)**, All-In-One Rose Care Drench.
- MILDEW-DOWNY: **Bayer Products (see Powdery above)**, GreenCure, prune it off or wash it off, All-In-One Rose Care Drench, Aliette Drench.
- BLACKSPOT: Alternate Compass and Banner-Max w/Mancozeb, Honor Guard, Compass, Manzate, **Bayer Products (same as above)**, GreenCure, All-In-One Rose Care Drench.
- OTHER FUNGUS: **Bayer Advanced Disease Control**, Alternate Compass and Banner-Max w/Mancozeb, All-In-One Rose Care Drench.
- OTHER-SPECIFY: **Mites** – Avid; **Winter Moth Caterpillars** – Spinosad; **Pests control (slugs and aphids)** with companion planting of Alliums.

NOTE: Seven (7) reporting CRs **do not spray at all**. Five (5) CRs have a **LIMITED** spray program- meaning that they do not spray for two or more of the above categories.

Question #6: List any new garden products that helped you grow better roses and your assessment of their effectiveness.

- **Water absorbing**/releasing crystals for potted roses ("Soil Moist")
- **Captain Jack** – an effective, very low toxicity product that controls winter moth larvae if applied timely in early spring at egg-hatch.
- **Bayer Adv. Complete Insect** control grubs & midge.
- **Soil for new roses** - 1/3 Happy Frog, 1/3 Bumper Crop or compost, 1/3 original soil mixed w/peat or vermiculite, triple phosphate and 1 cup Superthrive.
- Used **new source of seaweed** on roses and orchids.
- **10-52-10** Fertilizer / **Dram** watering sprinkler / **Coil Hoses** – great.
- Used **fiber pots** for bare root roses and planted them in the ground with the pots - seemed to help contain the roots and faster growth so far.
- Growing Cuttings under lights -Powdery Mildew - used **Hydrogen Peroxide + H2O**; Spider mites - used **Safer** insect soap.
- Professional **rain gauge**; **Neptune's Harvest**; **Superthrive**
- Increased use of **Mancozeb**; **Honor Guard & Mancozeb** to 2 Tbp per gal.
- I would highly recommend using **fish emulsion and alfalfa pellets** as fertilizer. I believe that these products add many micronutrients to the roses that inorganic fertilizers don't. I have also noticed increased scent in the fragrant roses.

Question #7: List five new roses grown this year that you would recommend for other rosarians to grow. Number of votes in ().

- ❖ **TOP FIVE:** Mother of Pearl (Gr) (5)
Smokin' Hot (HT) (4)
You're the One (Min) (3)
Good as Gold (HT) (3)
Campfire (S) (3)

Question #8: List five roses you would recommend to a new rosarian. Number of votes in ().

- ❖ **TOP FIVE:** Julia Child (F) (13)
Knockout (S) (9)
Mother of Pearl (Gr) (6)
Super Hero (S) (6)
Cape Diamond (HKor) (5)
Earth Song (Gr) (5)

NOTE: I will include a separate attachment to the email sent with this CR Report that shows all the roses submitted for Questions #7, #8 & #9 for your review.

Question #9: List five or more favorite sustainable (easy-care) varieties with a brief description of each including both virtues and vices. Votes in ().

- ❖ **TOP FIVE: Julia Child (F)** (10) – Good disease resistance, lots of blooms, good repeat.
- Any Knockout (S)** (9) – Very disease resistance, boring to many.
- Cape Diamond (Hkor)** (7) – Very Hardy, good repeat bloom, no spray needed, needs room to grow, not a show rose.
- Mother of Pearl (Gr)** (7) – Good disease resistance, beautiful blooms, large size blooms, hardy.
- Super Hero (S)** (7) – Hardy, nice form, true red color, excellent repeat blooming.

Question #10: Suggestions on how to make the CR Program more effective and challenging.

- Have an informal CR meeting integrated into the YD Convention each year. There should be time for CRs to sit around and talk about roses. It seems that was the original purpose of the Convention.
- A CR should be required to be active in his local society and attend at least 50% of the society's meetings. Also, a CR should be required to write at least 1 article per year for the local society's newsletter.
- If a CR does not meet the CR requirements then their status as CR should be terminated.
- I believe too much emphasis is put on chemicals and spraying roses. To get with the times, rosarians need to know about the sustainable roses, and sustainable rose growing.
- It would be more effective if we actually get calls from people with rose problems (I only had one call last year from a stranger in NH who had questions on winter protection for his new roses).
- Give programs to garden clubs and Master Gardeners.
- Might be helpful to the societies to compile a list of talks CRs are willing to present.
- Give time for CR Moments - short presentations on growing roses at almost every appropriate meeting.
- Have an annual CR Rendezvous somewhere just to talk roses, informal, lots of booze. That's the best way to spread good ideas (bad ones too, I guess).
- Everyone should either write articles on their experiences or give presentations to garden clubs and other local organizations.
- Assign a CR at the meetings for those who want to ask questions. It seems that only a few are captured and held for long discussions.
- The assignee should visit the garden of the new Rosarian, if so desired and not too far a distance to travel.

- I would like a current yearly publication for all Yankee District members concerning relevant new information on – diseases, pesticides, etc.
- Work with nearby neighbors to grow roses and then teach them planting / pruning techniques.
- Filling out paperwork like this is a thing of the past. Everyone is online today – easier to watch a video & answer questions for CEU Credits.
- Everyone should send an email of their garden successes and failures.
- I would like more garden visits.
- Have a Q&A session after each society monthly meeting with two to four CRs up front answering questions from those gathered.

Question #11: If you feel that being an active C.R. is too demanding and stressful, would you consider a change of status to Emeritus? Please state your reason why or why not.

- Although several CRs reported that they felt the paper work was somewhat stressful – No One has opted to change their status to Emeritus.
- No. I would do more, it would help if people asked.

Question #12: If you were responsible for organizing this annual report form, what questions would you solicit such that the answers would be helpful to our rose growing hobby?

- What is one new item/point that you learned in the past year with respect to better rose growing?
- My only problem is answering all questions on new roses. Many of us have limited garden space and cannot grow all the 'latest and greatest'. I grow mostly OGRs and am not interested in the latest trends.
- I think the questions pertinent to problems/solutions are adequate. Rendering descriptions of recommended roses (question #9) is redundant, as the information can easily be obtained online by anyone who requires more detail. Instead of requesting a specific number of roses (questions 7, 8 & 9) I would prefer to name one significant one. A compilation of everyone's favorite recommendation would reveal cross endorsement.
- Name five Easy Care Climbers.
- I would ask: What are you doing or saying to people to make them more interested in rose growing?
- What are your best choices for companion plants having watering, fertilizing and sunlight requirements similar to roses?
- Add videos to our district web site and let members view, rate and share.
- What additional programs/activities would you like to see at our RS mtgs. to help our membership thrive?
- For the Master Rosarian, or long serving CR, what practices have met the test of time?

- The importance of documentation & suggestions on how to make it effective.
 - Pros & cons of rose companion plants.
 - I would have the CR's report on specific types of roses - i.e. miniature, miniflora, hybrid tea, etc. You can get at least an idea of what is low spray/no spray from some of the classes of roses that are not as sustainable as others.
- I would also like to see areas on fragrance - that is one of the main reasons that people grow roses. Cross-referencing the classes with fragrance, rosarians can get a better idea of the types of roses they like to grow that are fragrant.