

# JUNE'S GARDEN

Question: What varieties of roses grow best along the coast? The hybrid tea roses I brought with me from my Portland home and planted at my new home in Gearhart have not done well. After a windstorm all the new growth turned brown. It looked like they had been burned.

Answer: Coastal weather is not kind to many varieties of roses. Constant damp, salt-laden winds off the ocean can cause problems of turning leaves and flower buds brown, as if they have been burned, as you described. Three foliage diseases can bother roses: mildew, rust, and black spot. Here along the North coast, where summer rainfall is normal, black spot thrives. This year in the first part of April we had a warm spell, causing many plants to produce new growth. This was followed by a severe wind storm, rain, cold nights and hail which caused many of my plants damage. I live only 175 feet from the ocean front and all the new growth of plants in the path of the storm turned brown. Some of my newly-planted shrubs even lost all their leaves. Around the last of May new growth appeared on the new shrubs, and hopefully, all will survive. Many varieties of roses and other plants do well here, however. If you want to grow roses, the following suggestions from the experts might be helpful.

Rita Frailey (Frailey's Landscape, Cannon Beach, OR) has had success with two different climbing roses. Dublin Bay (red flower), which grows to about 10', was introduced in Ireland in 1975. Dr. W. van Fleet (pale pink flower), introduced in the USA in 1910, grows to 12 to 15'. Both are available from:

Pickering Nurseries, Inc.  
670 Kingston Road  
Pickering, On. L1V 1A6  
Canada (Catalog is \$3.00)

Beth Holland (Holland's Flowers) has propagated cuttings from many different rose bushes that have successfully grown in gardens on the Northwest coast for years. Last year I wrote about one of these roses that grows in my yard, called Dorothy Perkins. It's a rambler rose that covers the roof of a single-story garage. The flower is a small double pink color and blooms all summer. Beth now has these plants available:

Holland's Flowers  
P.O. Box 132  
Cannon Beach, OR 97110  
Phone 1-503-436-2574

Her favorite nursery for roses is:  
Heirloom Old Garden Roses  
25062 N.E. Riverside Drive  
St. Paul, OR 97137

Mary Lee Saulsbury (Raintree Nursery) suggested Town and Country Border Landscape shrub roses. These roses come in shades of white, pink, red and yellow blossoms. They are hardy, disease-resistant, and bloom throughout the summer, growing to about 3' to 4'. Available at:

Raintree Nursery  
101 Highway north of Cannon Beach Junction  
Seaside, OR 97138  
Phone 1-503-738-6980

Joe Balden, (Landscape for the City of Cannon Beach) planted Meidiland bush roses on city property. A favorite of this variety is a brilliant red-colored flower called "Sevillana" that blooms all summer and in the fall is covered with rich scarlet fruit (rose hips). Pest and disease-resistant, it grows to about 3-1/2' to 5'. This rose has even survived in the city's public parking lot where the fumes from hundreds of cars could cause problems for growing many plants. A friend of mine planted several around her home which is about 100' from the shoreline and all summer "Sevillana" is covered with brilliant red flowers.

Last fall, a magazine called "Gardens West", a Vancouver, B.C. publication, did an article about Rosa Rugosa roses. Many catalogs list them simply as "Beach Roses". Rugosas are the hardest of all. Their virtues are:

- most are disease-resistant
- easy care and hardy
- some are highly fragrant
- drought-tolerant, once established
- withstand wind and salt air
- repeat blooms throughout the growing season
- most varieties set rose hips for winter's beauty

The two troublesome features of most Rugosas are:

- many have exceedingly thorny stems and this makes it difficult to weed around
- also, many send out runners, but this can be a plus if you have a large area to landscape

Research the Rugosa before you plant. These roses are available in many nurseries including a few I've mentioned in this article.

In my own garden I continue to pamper the few hybrids I chose because of their beauty and fragrance, but possibly it's not going to be a winning battle. I spend hours washing off aphids, picking off leaves that show black spot, mulching, fertilizing and watering. The hybrids I chose are:

- Tropicana (well-known for black spot)
- Double Delight
- David Austins (English Elegance) (Abraham Darby)

All of the above are very fragrant.  
My climbers are:

## WILDLIFE ON THE EDGE

June 1996

### A Soliloquy of Slugs

Our most despised local character is possibly the lowly Slug, a spinoff of the snail, and apparently not so tasty. Slugs are universally maligned and maltreated, said to serve no useful purpose on this earth (their best purpose, admitted by few, is as scapegoat for poor gardening skills.) They are the bane of lettuce farmers, disgust inducing to girdles, and fear-invoking to the very shaky.

Yet slugs lead simple lives; they go very quietly about their business, doing what we all, even man, feel we have a right to do - Eat and copulate, to send the wisdom of leafless ages on to the next generations. For food, they prefer, as true gourmards, the young and tender bits of plants, and spend all lovely wet days searching out good places to eat. Dry days are passed relaxing under leaves and logs, digesting.

On appropriate occasions, slugs partake in the mysterious entanglement known as mating. Being of a hermaphroditic persuasion, slugs have the best of both worlds, as long as each faces the correct way, and feels certain not to be disturbed.

*Ariolimax columbianus*  
*Arion hortensis*  
*Prophysaon andersoni*

This northwest is home to a number of important slugs, nearly all brought here - kicking and screaming from the Old World. Europe has *Arion* eaters of bright orange; yours are dark brown with reddish edges or of a grey blackness. *A. hortensis* is toby-like with soft greys and brownish-yellow. *P. andersoni* is like a lemon meringue pie. And *Ariolimax columbianus*, the Great Banana Slug, is a legendary 4" freckled yellow.

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- Sunny June (from Roses of Yesterday & Today, 801 Brown's Valley Road, Watsonville, CA 95076)
- Alchemist (from Pickering Nurseries)

If I were to start from scratch, I would do more research to find roses that have fewer problems. It's really not kind to plants, nor smart for the pocketbook, to try to buck the inclement coastal weather, as there are many varieties of roses and other plants that do thrive here on the coast.

An interesting publication is the Pacific Northwest Gardener, which has a calendar of events and other news and information pertaining just to the Northwest. It can be picked up free at most garden shops, or you may subscribe for 12 months for only \$12.00. Write to Pacific Northwest Gardener, P.O. Box 19638, Portland, OR 97280.

I'd like to hear from you. Please send any comments or questions on coastal gardening to June's Garden, P.O. Box 74, Cannon Beach, OR 97110.

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