

# Discover The Pleasure Of Roses

**LOU ANN GOOD**

Lancaster Farming Staff  
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) —  
No other flower generates as much excitement as a rose. It's fragrance and beauty appeals to people of all ages. It's the flower that gardeners raise in many different varieties.

Unfortunately, not only do roses have thorns but also some obstacles in cultivating them.

The Lebanon County Extension Office recently held a workshop on how to handle those obstacles in order to produce the perfect rose. Ginger Pryor, part-time horticulturist for Penn State Extension, and Guy Forry, rose specialist, taught participants how to design, plant, maintain, and prune roses.

Bed designs depend upon time and energy required to maintain it and the space available, Forry said.

He showed slides of the many types of roses available from thousands of varieties. Regardless of the variety chosen, Forry stressed the importance of buying healthy vigorous plants. When purchasing roots or container-grown roses, look for the label (AARS) All American Rose Selection. Roses are also graded according to quality. The top quality is graded #1. In descending order are #1½ and #2. Look for these grades when purchasing bare root, container grown, and pre-packaged plants.

Roses need the following conditions to thrive:

- Light — five to six hours of direct sunlight. Morning sun is essential.
- Air — helps dew and rain dry quickly, which reduces fungus growth. Too much wind can destroy plants.
- Drainage — poor drainage causes death to roses.
- Soil — should be loamy.



Rose bushes should be planted where air circulation can dry off the morning dew quickly in order to prevent disease.

Improve soil with organic matter.

- Space to expand — don't plant near other plants or under eaves of house.
- Access — plant where you can see the rose everyday and you will take better care of it and enjoy it more.

When planting, dig hole

15-18-inches deep and mix organic matter in soil. Roses may be grown in containers if planted at least 14-inches deep and 18-inches wide. Must be fed and watered frequently. Outdoor roses need to be watered at least one-inch of water each week.

#### Pest Control

Several pests feed on rose buds and leaves. These include rose midges, beetles, spider mites, aphids, thrips, and leaf hoppers. It is imperative to spray underneath the leaves of the plant in the morning as soon as the dew dries.

Prevent pests by doing the following:

- buy quality plants
- choose disease resistant plants
- water carefully
- destroy diseased parts
- be watchful and remove diseased parts or insects immediately.
- spray carefully

Do not use insecticide sprays for rose petals that are used for eating, drying, or potpourri.

#### Pruning

In order to promote rebloom, flowers should be removed as soon as they are no longer attractive.

Pruning must be part of any rose grower's routine. Proper pruning contributes to outstanding roses. County extension offices have

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A delicate rose remains a favorite among flower lovers.



After the workshop, Guy Forry, who has practical experience in rose gardening answers individual questions.



Ginger Pryor  
Horticultural agent

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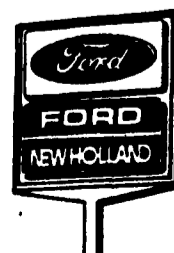
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