

THE BEGINNING ROSARIAN

June Rose Care
By: Diva D. Delight



Wasn't the first flush of blooming roses gorgeous in May? Now that's why you want to grow magnificent roses. My name is Diva [which means Goddess by the way]. My last name is Double Delight®. I am red and white with red edges as you can see in my photo. I have a very large blooms and a wonderfully citrus spicy fragrance. I am frequently awarded "The Most Fragrant Rose" in the Nashville Grand Prix. I am also used a lot in designs in rose shows and am one of Lori Emery's favorite roses. Oops, I digress. She asked me to write this article for her because she has been so busy; her son Ryan just graduated from David Lipscomb High School and will be going to Arkansas State University this fall. As you might imagine, she is Delighted! [Sorry, I just couldn't help myself.]

There are 3 essential points that Lori wants me to tell you to concentrate on in June. Roses are a lovely addition to any garden, as you know. First of all, she is delighted that you are reading this newsletter and have roses! You will not be disappointed.

1. Roses are no different than any other plant in your garden. All I need is food, water and sunshine. Chances are you used a long acting fertilizer on me in April and I'm already getting my 6 hours of sun. All you have to do now is make sure I get plenty of water this month because June can be very hot and dry. Put a rain gauge close to me. If I don't get an inch of water a week, then water me. Now how hard is that? Just a little love from you and I will bloom all summer long and well into autumn. If you want a totally maintenance free garden, fill it with rocks and artificial roses. Lori actually read an article in a newspaper last year about a women who was so frustrated because the deer ate all her flowers, so she planted artificial flowers, (maybe she didn't want to invest in an electric fence). But that wouldn't be any fun and certainly not fragrant. If you are going to be jetting around the country this month, then you may want to hire someone to come and check on us or have a watering system on a timer. At one time, Lori used a soaker

hose to water us. But she really likes to come out on Saturday morning and give us a nice refreshing shower and a good long drink of water. This gives her a chance to inspect the underside of my leaves that can frequently hide bugs, which I hate! It is also a very relaxing time for her to listen to the birds and insects in the yard.

2. Insects—keep them off me! Speaking of bugs, Japanese Beetles [JB] will be here any day now. PLEASE don't; let them eat me! Don't waste your time and money on sprays or powders, they only kill the JB they come in contact with. If you have plenty of time, you can hand pick them off of us and throw them into hot soapy water and they will drown. Don't squish them. I know it is very tempting, but all that does is release a sex scent and guess what? all their friends will come to your garden. In general, JB traps usually attract more beetles than they catch, another waste of money. If you don't have a lot of time, just cut my blooms off until the JB leave, if you can stand not to see me bloom for 6 weeks. The JB is probably the biggest pest for me in June. If you see damage from other insects this month, try to figure out what the insect is and then use a spray that is effective against that insect. I have heard that most rosarians don't spray unless they see an insect problem. This is to prevent the accidental death of beneficial insects.

3. Take care of yourself so you can take care of me. The last thing Lori wants you to do is take care of yourself. I know how addicting my cousins and I can be to you humans. You think you are just going to take a quick peek at us to see how we are doing. Then you decide to remove some spent blooms, (which encourages us to bloom more, by the way), then you decide to cut some of our blooms to take to work or to your neighbors. Well, heck, might as well spray while you're at it. Before you know it, you have been outside for hours. No hat, no sunscreen, short sleeve shirt, shorts, flip flops, no protective equipment (used when spraying). What, no protective equipment? Never! Not even once or twice. Especially if you are going to be growing roses for a long time, because we are so rewarding and fun to be around. So she wants you to be around to take care of

us. In addition to protecting yourself, how is your balance these days? Lori wants you to take this little test. Stand in the kitchen in front of a counter, (close enough for you to touch it if you need to). Close your eyes and bend at the knee, lifting your leg off the ground. Count for how many seconds you can balance without toppling over. If you fall over immediately, you have the balance of a 60 yr. old, 3.7 seconds a 50 yr. old, 7.2 seconds a 40 yr. old, 15 seconds a 30 yr. old and more than 22 seconds a 20 yr. old. How old is your balance? Lori got this balance information from a book she is reading called *Fitness after 40: How to stay strong at any age*, by Vonda Wright MD Amazon 2009. After age 65, one in three people will fall down while doing their daily activities, (including gardening). Dr. Wright encourages people to work on their balance daily. In addition to the balance exercise, she recommends yoga, Tai chi and pilates to help your balance. You won't be able to take very good care of your roses if you fall and break a leg or a hip. So take Dr. Wright's advice and work on your balance daily.

Ok, let's sum this up so you can go play with your roses. Food and water are essential. JB is probably the most devastating insect EVER. The easiest thing to do is cut back those of us that the JB seem to crave and attack the most. Luckily, they don't eat all roses in Lori's garden, only the ones that strike their fancy. Lastly, take care of yourself. Plan to work in your garden just as you plan to exercise or to go to an appointment. You wouldn't go for a 30 minute walk in cowboy boots, you would wear walking shoes. Be sure you are dressed appropriately to work in your garden. Use sunscreen, wear a hat, long sleeved shirt and long pants and respirator when spraying.

I know Lori is happy I was able to write this article for her. I hope you have lots of roses and enjoy them as much as Lori enjoys us. Don't forget to share your roses with friends, family, coworkers, and anyone else you meet along the way.

Have a Delightful June!!