

Hi All,

October, 2022

With all hope the hottest days of 2022 will soon be behind us. This summer has presented situations that we all deal with. Among them are heat, insects, and water restrictions. Thrips have reared their ugly and tiny heads. The first photo is of the destruction thrips generate. The photo below with the orange blob is of the worst infestation of spider mites that this gardener has witnessed. It was on tomatoes growing in Santa Monica. Combatants were used on both insects to bring the garden back to being one that my clients and I enjoy.

Thrips



Spider Mites



I'm certainly looking forward to the coming rose shows. My way of preparing for shows and exhibitions is to conduct a staggered pruning. Pruning a few bushes a week at my home and my clients, in a rotation, certainly helps in a year round display of my favorite flower. There are several types of pruning during the course of the year. The main pruning in the Fall and Winter, finger prune, rotation prune, staggered pruning, and of course shovel pruning. The Honolulu Rose Society mentioned several of these types of pruning. A staggered prune means pruning 1/2 of the bush and then in a few weeks the other 1/2 of the bush.

Another big issue this summer is the availability of water. I attended a meeting of the San Fernando Valley Rose Society on September 10th. A representative of the L.A.D.W.P., Victor Garcia, gave an enlightening presentation. One interesting point caught my attention. The DWP no longer offers rebates for artificial lawns. Reasons being are that the artificial lawn creates a heat island which bakes the soil beneath. Many of these lawns are too hot to walk on with bare feet: pets beware. What cleans artificial grass? It is possible to destroy bacteria left behind by the substances that birds, rude cats and dogs deposit, liquids like drinks, etc. As in some sport stadiums an ultra violet light is used to sterilize the grass. UV light doesn't remove the source that nourishes the bacteria that has been growing on the materials. Also, depending on the composition of these artificial lawns, chemicals are leached into ground water when there is rain. My opinion is that one drought tolerant shade tree with mulched soil beneath is 'my' preference.



Fall Flowers



The DWP allows watering two times, eight minutes per station equaling sixteen minutes a week. For the last several years my garden has done very well by being watered three times a week for four minutes per station. These last years my garden has been using 25 percent less water than the current requirement. My guess is that gardeners have a different skill set than individuals who sit behind a desk.

It's always sound gardening to check and see what nourishes the garden. This means checking the sprinkler system, replenishing mulch, checking for diseases and insects.

What season of the year is on the horizon? The majority of L.A. County is on the edge of a combined Fall Spring. The North end of L.A. County has snowy mountains. In those areas it's Fall preparing for Winter. September 19th was the first appearance of spring flowers and bulbs seen in the photos below. I'm planting these 'spring' flowers now at clients homes on the coast or homes that have an ocean influence. I do love the colors and fragrances of Spring flowers and bulbs. Now is the time to purchase bulbs for blooms later in this year and next. There are about 1200 varieties of daffodils. The weather report is for temperatures to be at or around 100 degrees in the coming week. What the temperatures will be after this coming heat spell is anyone's guess.

I do think that Fall is here. Migratory birds have started to arrive, new growth is emerging on the roses and hinting at an abundant Fall bloom cycle, there seem to be fewer mosquitoes (yea), camellias have begun to set buds . September is the month that I feed roses, citrus and avocados, seasonal vegetables, and seasonal flowers. Always read and follow package instructions when using any product.

It's that time of year the American Rose Society is evaluating roses by having members submit their opinions to Roses In Review.

“D the G” (David the Gardener)

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