
Home

Who We Are

President's Message

Meetings

Annual Rose Show

Membership

D the G

Activity Photo Galleries

Members' Gardens

American Rose Society (offsite)

Site Map

D the G

Re: Water

Enough with discussing the lack of available water, let's use the water that we must throw away! Also, let's use the found and unexpected sources of water. It is true that Southern California is experiencing drought like conditions. It's very true that the rainfall in the area of Los Angeles is fickle ranging from about 3 ½ inches to about 40 inches over the last 130 years. Have a look at the [L.A. Times rainfall chart](#) - it's my source. Let's get to this, five years ago I was honored to be the keynote speaker at California Landscape Contractors Association Dinner. The surprise was when I held up the article in the Times that read that the City of L.A. was considering legalizing the use of grey water. The room erupted into spontaneous laughter. The funny part of the laughter and the sad part of the situation is that grey water is still not legal. I'm a licensed contractor and could lose my license by installing an illegal system. I have never installed one and I do not have that system at my home. I would like to be able to use water from the shower on ornamentals. Our shampoos are bio-degradable. An acquaintance of mine has installed a grey water system. The water is being used on ornamental landscape shrubs, flowers for cutting, wild flowers, trees, and ground covers. It is necessary to filter the water and to install a delivery network. Save shower water for a plant friend.

My dear wife is from San Francisco. The temperature on a summers day in that city hovers between bone chilling, cold, and damp; definitely not beach weather. When my wife moved to the San Fernando Valley, it was necessary to install whole house air conditioning or face extreme displeasure. Another benefit, and a by product, of the cooler air was the realization that the condensation line was generating about 3 – 5 gallons of water a day. More gallons per day when tropical weather systems come in from the south; less during a Santa Ana wind. The air conditioner is on the roof. The water was dripping next to the house near the base of a fully grown and drought tolerant Ceanothus Ray Hartman. It was necessary to save the tree from drowning. The water is captured by using a tank and a funnel. A moveable hose at the base of the tank shifts from area to area. It's not difficult to install a separate grid of pipes that the hose attaches to.



Abraham Darby Roses

Remember when the City of L.A. had the watering restriction of using sprinklers 15 minutes twice per week. Let me suggest that it would be more effective to water for 5 minutes three times per week. It would be necessary to mulch deeply and to stop using spray irrigation. Setting up the watering system takes a little time. Enjoying the garden will take up even more time, and delightfully so.

The roses are looking great all over the city and coast. I'm going to begin feeding at the beginning of March this year. If there is little rain, there may be fewer fungus on

Rose Observation

I witnessed Sunset
carefully tucking
Rose away,

Preparing Sunrise to
paint yet another
day--,

Placing Rose's beauty
on display.

-- Russell A. Baum

the roses and in the garden this year. Less rain also means that it is feasible to expect a worse fire season. It could be especially bad at the end of summer when the dry winds hit. Be ready and prepared if you live in a brush area.

This year I divided one of my client's large rose garden in half. One side was pruned earlier and the other side was pruned later. The purpose being to extend the peak bloom of the year so that the lady of the house could have an extended period of roses for cutting.

Many exhibitors of roses will prune their roses several weeks in advance of a rose show so that the roses will be coming into their peak of bloom. My clients know that I can be called on to prune for roses for an event. This year I pruned my business counselor's "St. Patrick" roses at the beginning of November so that there would be a good display during the holidays and for New Years.



St. Patrick's rose, pruned early November,
photo from late December, 2013



St. Patrick's rose, January 2014 photo

Be ready for the SFVRS Rose Show that is coming on April 12th. One of the best ways to learn about roses is to volunteer to be a clerk or runner at the show. You will be working with the rose show judges. Clerks and runners are not permitted to speak unless spoken to by a judge. It is a great opportunity to listen to the judges discuss the finer points of a rose, and to learn what to look for.

The warm to hot temperatures have caused plants like lettuce and dill to bolt; go to seed. My peach tree has bloomed and has set fruit about 2-3 weeks earlier than last year. Besides water, temperature is another major factor in the health of the garden. Keep feeding seasonal vegetables, flowers, salad greens, and other seasonal edibles. Give a thought to the coming warm season. Keep the garden well mulched, check your sprinkler system, and take frequent walks in your garden.

Happy Gardening,

D the G
2-21-14
[Dave's Greenscapes](http://sfvroses.org/dtheg.html)