

[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 - - July, 2016

Hello Fellow Gardeners,



Welcome to the "good old summer time," or as I have often said "got mulch." This is a very good time to replenish the mulch in your garden. Mulching and sub surface watering of the garden are the best ways that I know to save water in the garden. There are six fair sized Italian cypress trees planted in my yard that generate a wonderful, crumbly, organic, acidic and free mulch. The cypress are planted in a line that points due North. By observing the path of the sun over the course of a year, I learned where the sun rises and sets year round. The Summer Solstice was on June 21st. There is still time to sight the sun with a compass or a feature in your garden. You may have a shrub or tree whose leaves would make a nice mulch. Composting some of the leaves is another good way to assure having a high quality planting mix.

This is the time of year to: check your sprinklers, check the mulch, look for harmful insects, and look at your plants for signs of problems. Also check to see if it's time for an application of food or minerals. Most importantly, stop and smell the roses.

[D the G Archives](#)

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Rose Shows this Fall. Whether you will be exhibiting or visiting you will be able to see and experience the joy of the ephemeral beauty of a rose. Rose Shows are a pure form of an exhibit of art. If you're going to exhibit or if you're having guests arrive for a party, it may be time to prune your roses. Exhibitors will prune about 50 days before a show to attempt to force the roses into a bloom cycle. Last year, I pruned my business counsellors roses so that in December, when family was visiting from Toronto, Canada, the roses would be in bloom. The St. Patrick was in a glorious bloom cycle for the holidays. St. Patrick opens more slowly in cooler weather. There were flowers for the garden and for the house into January. A photo is posted.



Stay tuned for notes on visits to the gardens of Dr. Tommy Cairn's, who is a past president of the American Rose Society, and to Robert & Donna Martins' garden; both gardens are very different spaces and both were fantastic! Robert is going to be the incoming president, in 2018, of the American Rose Society.

Roses Feeding the Soul

The setting sun on a hill
sprinkled with roses,
Paints a relief of
intricate poses.
It is a haven of beauty
in which to feed
the soul.

It is a richness worth
much more than
precious gold.

--Russell A. Baum



Do you have an herb or vegetable garden section in your garden? My grandmother had said that when you grow it at home, you know that it's clean. I haven't heard of a recall on home grown tomatoes or organic rose petals. However, some store bought products like organic Rose Petal preserves, made from the petals of Damask Roses, and Rose Petal Ice Cream are quite a treat. This is a different year than many others. Fewer mosquitos are another result of us having little rain. This doesn't mean that there are fewer spiders or other insects and critters. All are seeking

water. If your home and garden have water, you will be visited by various bugs and beasties. At my home in Canoga Park, I have never seen a rattlesnake or bobcat. I have seen a coyote by the intersection of DeSoto and Saticoy and close to Roscoe and Topanga. Appropriate precautions against these critters should be taken for children and pets no matter where you live. A concern at my home are Black Widow spiders. I always check the under rims of containers. It is a rarity for me to see evidence of a mouse, etc. Our neighborhood has outdoor cats. Some visit my yard for a drink out of the pool and to see if there are any big bugs or beastie available for a meal. I handle problem areas in the garden with bacterial combatants, soaps, and herbal combatants. A spot spray on an as needed basis has taken care of any problems in me and my clients' gardens.

Happy Gardening,
D the G
hiptalk@sfvroses.org

