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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

D the G - - October-November, 2014

THE FALL BLOOM IS HERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Get the hand pruners, vases, and cameras ready! As a gardener, I delight in the passing of the warm season temperatures and look forward to being around the pool next year.

Everyone that has applied a goodly layer of 'mulch,' good going. Mulching is extremely beneficial. There are a number of good articles and books on the subject. My sprinkler system runs four minutes, three times per week. My sprinkler system had been set to run for two minutes on Program A followed one half hour later by two minutes on Program B. The garden looks pretty good. As of October 19th, my sprinklers run two days per week. I'm looking forward to being able to turn off the sprinklers and let nature handle it. The sprinklers at my home are of my design and work well for the types of plants grown there. There are many different ways of delivering water; it is best to use the approach that fits the watering needs of your garden.

Roses can be planted at any time of year in warmer portions of L.A. County. On Highway 5, the town of Gorman is within L.A. County and is minutes from ski resorts. I do not recommend using a pick axe to get through ice to plant anything. There are a number of roses that thrive in snowy mountains that are well worth a visit. Gorman also grows lovely peonies, tulips, and lilacs. That's the environment in Gorman. The San Fernando Valley has a completely different growing environment. Besides roses, it is now time to plant lettuces, cilantro, dill, chard, peas, pansies, Iceland poppies, snapdragons, cyclamen, linaria, stock, etc.

Planting is easy, do what the plant needs. Prepare the soil, check the water, use the right type and amount of fertilizer, and most importantly choose the right type of plant for the environment. A little bit of experimentation goes a long way. I would prefer to learn from the mistakes of others. I'll admit to making my fair share.

THE FALL ROSE SHOWS HAVE BEGUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! My wife and I have become Horticulture Judges. We are in the apprentice phase of our judgeships. Our first show to judge was today at the Orange County Rose Show held at Rogers Garden in Corona Del Mar. The Orange County Rose Society couldn't have chosen a better venue. Rogers Garden is one of the premier garden centers in Southern California. Many thanks to the organizers of the Orange County Rose Show. The event was very well run and did run smoothly. It's always nice being able to interact with attentive and pleasant people.

The schooling and the examination to become a Horticulture Judge is a bit like waiting in line for a rollercoaster. Judging a rose show is a very serious undertaking. However, it was like riding a great coaster or reading a great book for the first time. No two roses are alike in quality. Each one represents a new challenge for this designer's eye. I've worked at many positions at rose shows. My favorite position had been being a clerk. A clerk may not speak unless spoken to. Best of all, a clerk can listen to knowledgeable individuals.

Being a judge is quite different. Discussing and debating the different entries opened a new vista in the world of roses. I strongly suggest that everyone volunteer at a rose show. Listening to knowledgeable individuals is a great way to learn more about the art of the rose and to have a great time.

Happy Gardening,
D the G
Dave's Greenscapes