

## President's Message 5/08/23

Hi All,

Without a doubt, roses are the world's most popular flower. Also, in 1986 the USA adopted the rose as the National Floral Emblem of the United States. Roses deserve this honor.

Roses are multifaceted with several ways of enjoyment. Commercially roses are worth billions. 30 million rose bushes are sold in just the USA. Roses are the basis for many fine and expensive perfumes. There are several foods harvested from roses. I've enjoyed rose petal preserves, rose ice cream, rose hip tea, rose pastries, etc, and they were all good. Several years when visiting the L.A. Zoo one of the handlers remarked that chimpanzees love roses. Of course, I returned a few weeks with a big bouquet of organically grown roses. Wow, the chimps inhaled the fragrances, ate the flowers, leaves and stems, prickles and all. Without a doubt rose have a wider appeal than just to you and me.

One aspect of being in a rose garden that stands out strongly is the reality of Rose Garden Therapy. Even one minute spent among roses enjoying their colors, forms, and fragrances is a tonic in itself.

The winter prune is behind us. The rains have contributed to this year's glorious bloom cycle. The main bloom cycle in 2022 was about 3 or so weeks earlier than this year. Rain also brings the potential for insects and critters. My preference is to be ahead of the game by giving the garden a preemptive treatment for diseases, aphids and then the summer bugs like spider mites, thrips, etc. Of course, watering systems should be checked, feeding handled, mulch checked, and space made for a rose or two.

Now that the cool season tasks are handled, my wife and I agree that there are three good choices for looking at and being in the rose garden:

1. Enjoy the bloom.

2. Pick bouquets. We pick for our home and to give away. This year we've picked about 25 bouquets. One bouquet that was a special hit was at the public library on a day that stories were being read aloud to kids and their parents. The bouquet was fairly large and had beautiful colors, forms and fragrances. The roses went in several directions after the event; the vase came home empty. I know several adults that have a pleasant memory of roses from their childhoods. Many people, young and older, may not often have the opportunity to be in front of a bouquet of beauties.

3. Deadhead. In our garden, and in some of my clients gardens, rose hips are allowed to develop on once bloomers and other bushes late in the year for their decorative qualities and their good taste.

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The rainfall season of 2022 and 2023 ranks among the wetter years. There are quite a number of pluses and minuses. On the plus side, the rains have provided a respite from the drought conditions that will probably return. But rains leach salts, etc, from the soil.

The stems on my and my client's roses seem to be longer. The buds appear to be a bit larger than in 2022. The growth is a bit more vigorous than last year.

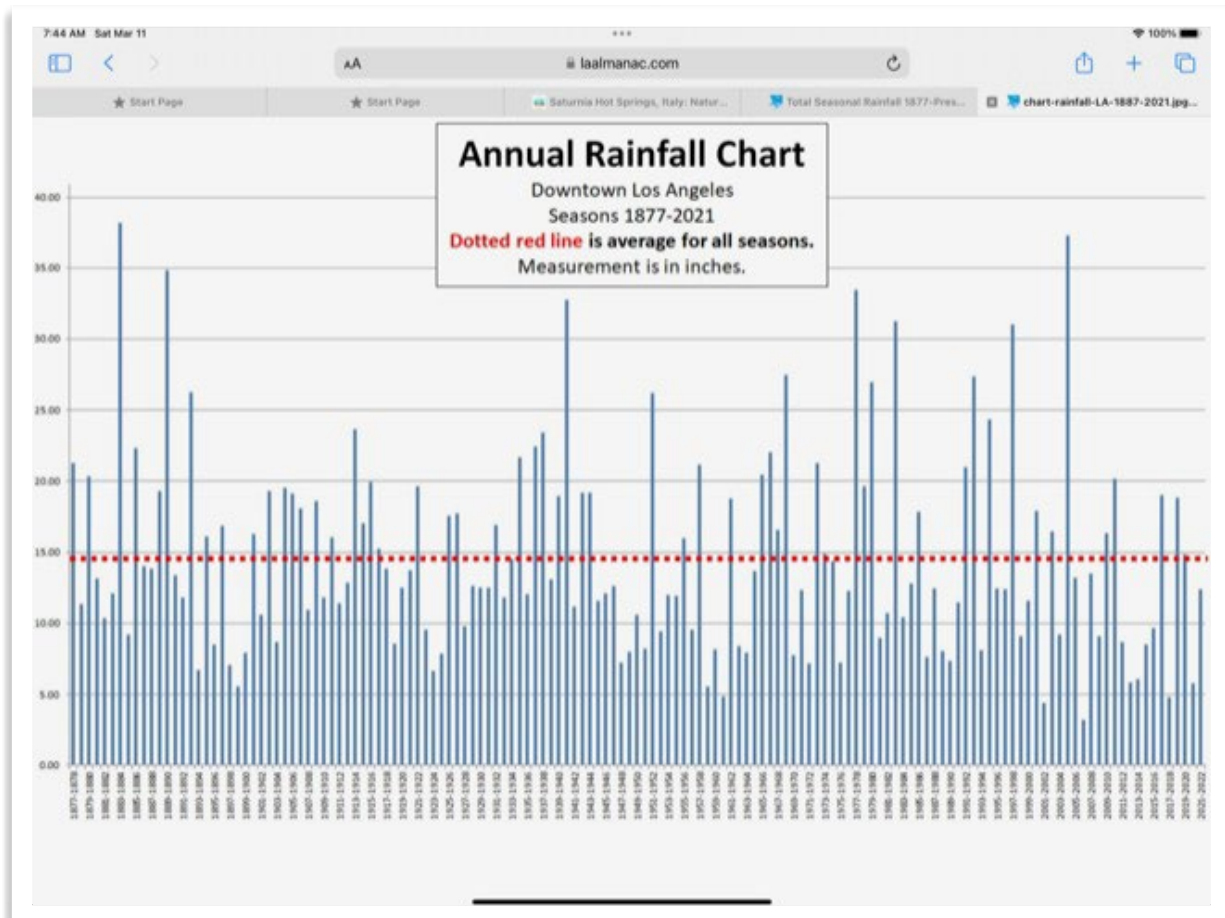
The gardens I care for are fed before a rainstorm with a granular food that's easily dissolved by water. The results have been spectacular in two ways!

1. The beautiful blooms with varied forms; fantastic colors, and fragrances.
2. Leaf colors run from light green to deep reddish bronze.

The visual textures range from matte finishes to a high gloss. In addition to the blooms, the leaves are another consideration in a landscape design. Landscape light, moonlight and a light breeze causes glossy leaves to shimmer in a night time garden.

My best to you all

David L. Bassani  
2023 President



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