



From Auction Table to Show Table


Everything you need to know about
growing roses in under 10 minutes

Selecting Exhibition Roses

Showing Good Roses

By Robert B. Martin, Jr.

A Complete Exhibitor's Guide



How to Grow and Show
Trophy Winning Roses



New Horizon Roses 2025
REVIEW OF AMERICA'S
NEWEST EXHIBITION ROSES



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National Editor

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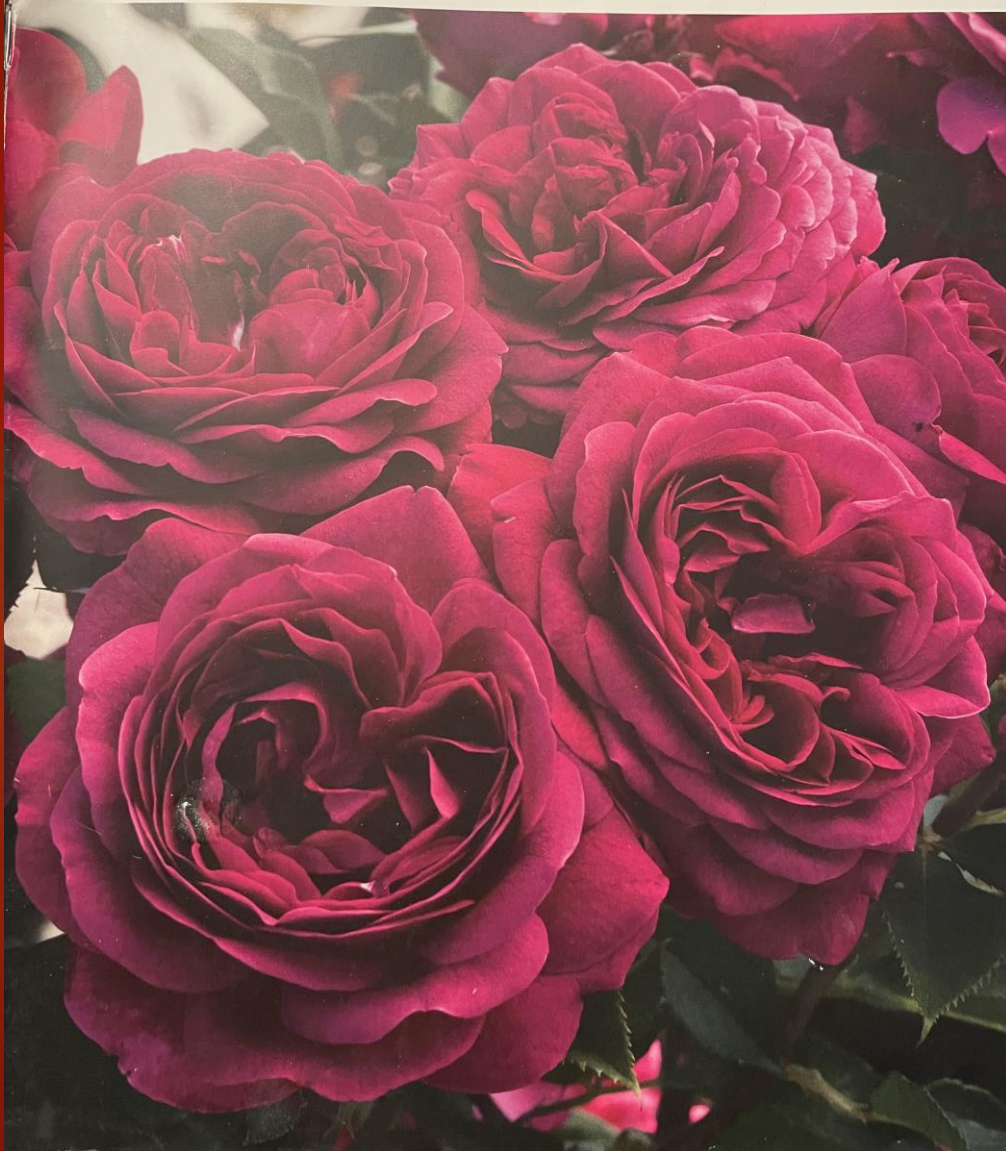
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Showing Good Roses

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LET THEM SHOW!

WHEN THE ARS EXHIBITION COMMITTEE was created, one of its top priorities was to increase the accessibility, frequency, and size of rose shows. One of the proposals the committee has discussed is allowing judges to enter rose shows and compete in all classes. Historically, judges have generally not been allowed to compete in all classes due to concerns about fairness. These concerns, however, are outweighed by the many benefits that would flow from allowing judges to compete in all classes.

First and foremost, it would increase the number of roses entered in a show. At our local show in June 2022, for example, we had 205 roses with eight judges. If each judge had brought 10 roses, that would have increased the total by almost 40 percent! Second, allowing judges to compete would help them to continue honing their skills and to appreciate the difficulty of delivering a good rose to the show. Third, it is getting harder and harder to find judges and many times top exhibitors don't want to judge local shows because they don't want to give up the opportunity to compete. Finally, it is fun to exhibit and compete!

When the Exhibition Committee discussed this proposal, we discovered that many rose societies and districts have come up with some creative ways to allow judges to compete. We wanted to share some of these options with you.

Choose Your Own Adventure

One option is to have the judges pick the classes they want to compete in ahead of time and then not allow them to judge those classes. This option can take one of two formats. In the first format, judges pick whether they want to compete in the large

classes (hybrid teas, climbers, shrubs, old garden roses, etc.) or the small classes (minis, minifloras, polyanthas, etc.). In the second format, judges choose the specific classes they want to compete in. The first format makes it easier for the chair of judges to coordinate the judge schedule while the second option provides more flexibility for the competing judges.

Step Back and Smell the Roses

Another option is to have the judges enter whatever classes they want without selecting them ahead of time and then ask them to step back whenever one of their roses is up to be judged. This option makes it easy for the chair of judges to coordinate the judging schedule and provides flexibility for the competing judges but it can put more pressure on the other judges when a judge's rose is up to be judged.

Rocky Mountain High

The Rocky Mountain District Show offers a unique option. In that show, judges first identify all the blue-ribbon roses and then they all go back and vote for first, second and third or Queen, King and Princess using a weighted system that awards 10 points for first, seven points for second, and five points for third. Because there were 12 judges and all of the judges judged all of the classes, any one vote became a small percentage of the total vote. Allowing judges to enter added 147 blooms to the show representing 42 percent of the total with 82 blue ribbons representing 50 percent of the total. They surveyed the judges after the show and 86 percent of the judges felt that they judged their roses fairly and 14





Caring for your roses until you can plant

Hydrate them

- Put your roses in water
- I've kept roses in water for up to 2 months
- Change water weekly



Pot them up

- prune out spindly growth, broken canes & roots, & anything above the top bud
- Keep in warm basement under grow lights



Planting

- ▶ Select a sunny location—at least 6 hrs
- ▶ Make sure there is good drainage
- ▶ Dig a hole at least 2' in dia, 16-18" deep
- ▶ Bud union 2" below ground-grafted roses
- ▶ Mix soil w/ 2 shovels manure, 2 shovels peat moss, 1 cup Lime, 1 cup superphosphate, 2 cups Rose-Tone
- ▶ Make a water well
- ▶ Cover with mulch
- ▶ I space my Hybrid Teas 3' apart
- ▶ Water daily for the 1st week
- ▶ Roses can be planted anytime ground isn't frozen





Pruning

- ▶ Prune in Spring when Forsythia bloom. Prune H.T.s 7 weeks before the rose show
- ▶ Trim HT back to 18"
- ▶ Gr 4-5', Fl 3'-4'
- ▶ Prune Shrubs and Climbers minimally
- ▶ Cut 1/4" above outward-facing bud eye. Check pith inside cane. Should be cream color. If brown cut lower
- ▶ Thin out crossing branches & twiggy growth
- ▶ Strip off all foliage & clean up all debris. Remove from garden
- ▶ Never put rose trimmings or leaves in compost pile



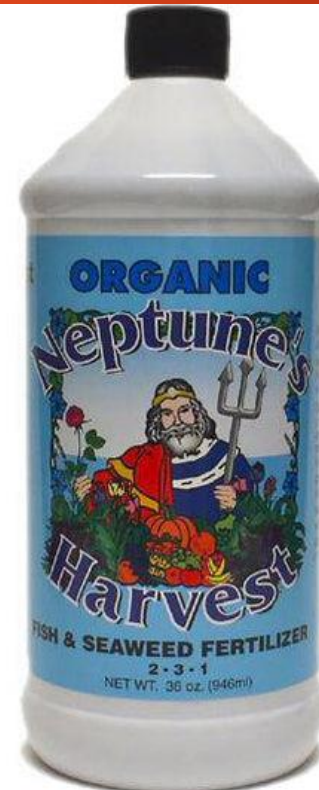
Spraying

- ▶ Start spraying weekly when leaves 1st appear in April
- ▶ I alternate Heritage, Honor Guard and Manzate
- ▶ Many organic products available
- ▶ Use insecticides only when needed. I use Merit (Imidacloprid)
- ▶ Spinosad for Winter Moth Caterpillars
- ▶ Continue spraying through October



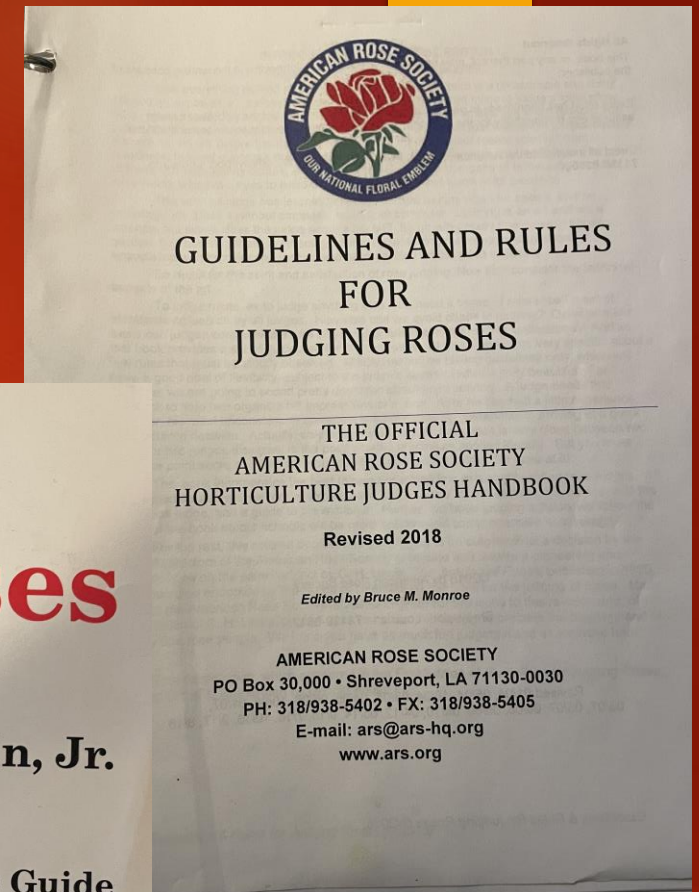
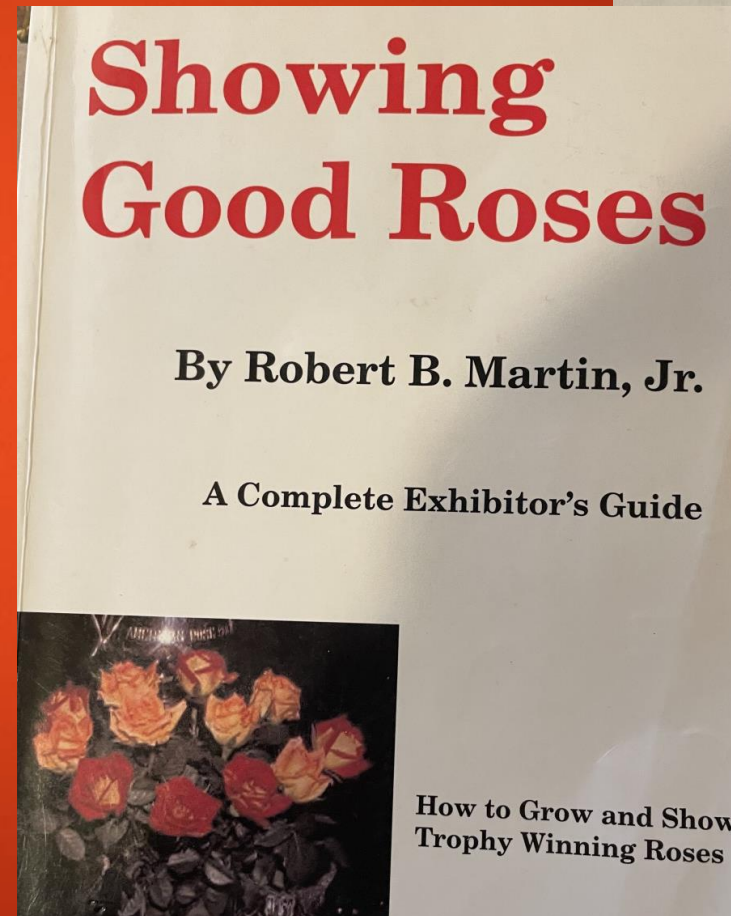
Fertilizing

- ▶ I Feed my roses with Rose-tone monthly April, May June and September
- ▶ Sprinkle 1 cup/bush around rose and water in
- ▶ I use Neptune's Harvest Fish & Seaweed every other week as a foliar feed



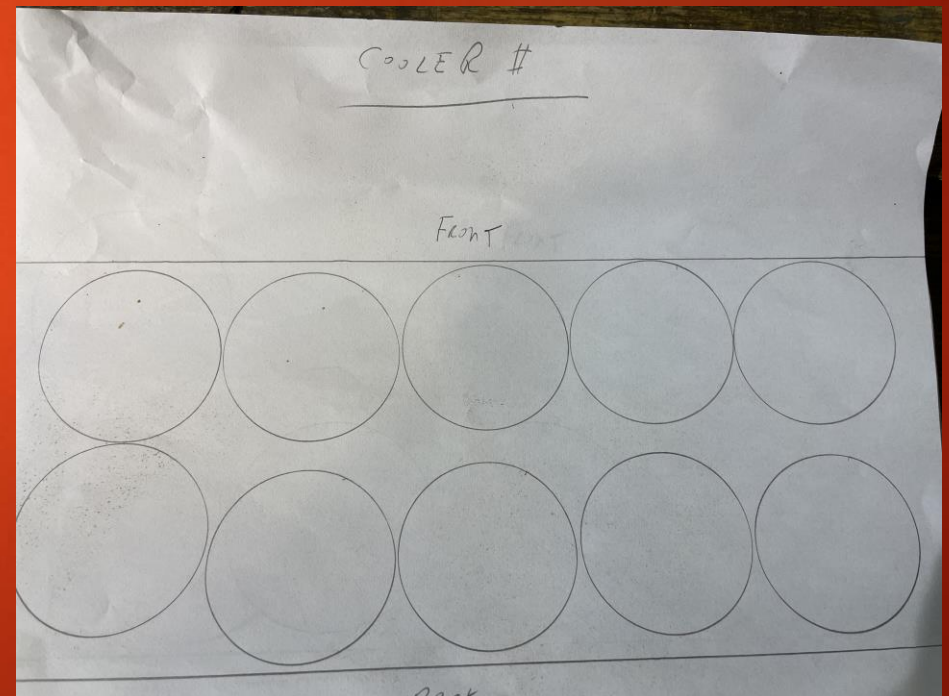
Disbudding

- ▶ Disbud side buds on Hybrid Teas and center buds on sprays a few weeks before a show
- ▶ Read about this in 'Guidelines and Rules for Judging Roses' and in 'Showing Good Roses'



Cutting for the show

- ▶ We cut for the show the evening before
- ▶ We place them in cups of water and note the roses on a map
- ▶ We keep them in our cool basement



Prepping

- Get there early to find a place to work and get enough vases
- Ask for help from seasoned exhibitors
- Bring a tool box
- Clerk and learn from the judges



Winning

Makes all your
hard work worth it



Relax and enjoy
your summer

