



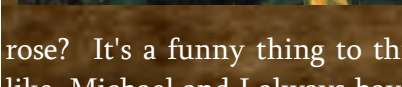
June 2011

The Rose

*What's in a name? That which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet.*

- William Shakespeare

Roses...one of my favorite flowering shrubs. When roses are blooming, can you think of a more glorious time in the garden? The way roses make me feel always brings to mind times of peace and memories. I say memories because the rose is one of the first flowers that a child likes to bury their nose in and inhale. In my own garden, I prefer old English roses. I realize that they do not hold up for long as a cut flower, but the beauty of a dozen or more antique roses cut and put into a beautiful container is beyond description, not to mention the fragrance!



Old English roses have a reputation as being the most fragrant of all rose categories. My favorite variety of all is 'Evelyn' by David Austin. To stroll through the garden and discover my 'Evelyns' in bloom makes my head swoon; I have to stop and gasp. I have my husband, Michael, look at the shape and form of this rose as it has hundreds of petals. We also take great delight in trying to identify the scent. Does it smell like lemons or cloves or the essence of pure rose? It's a funny thing to think about our personal perceptions of what Evelyn smells like. Michael and I always have different opinions on this, but in the garden world there are no wrong answers; it is always purely subjective. That's why I love to garden, for the pure joy of the simplest things. I am proud to tell all of our faithful readers that we are honored to have been selected to be a David Austin Premier Partner. This means that we have had to meet certain criteria to qualify for this recognition. We will have a fully-branded product that has been selected to be the best of the David Austin fragrant roses, chosen to suit our local climate. We are very excited about this new venture and look forward to hearing what you think!

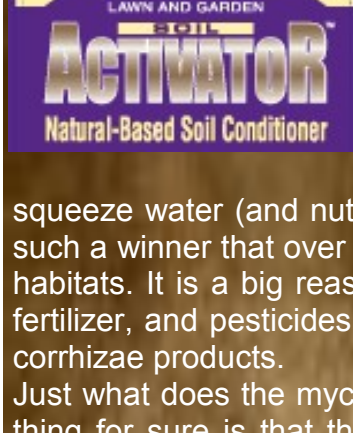


Take Joy, ~M



What is Mycorrhizae Anyway?

Last month we discussed primary nutrients and how they work within the plant kingdom. We mentioned the availability of chemical and organic nutrients. Organic fertilizers are experiencing the fastest gain in popularity. One thing in common with many of our organically formulated plant foods is the addition of mycorrhizae, hence our topic for this month.



A favorite research topic for this past decade has been the symbiosis between a plant root and the beneficial fungus called mycorrhizae. Mycorrhizae is the name of a widespread symbiotic (mutually beneficial) root relationship. The fungus helps the plant extract nutrients from the soil, and the plant repays the "kindness" with sugars produced by photosynthesis.

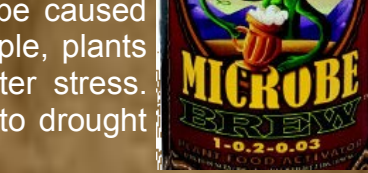
The plant/mycorrhizae team is perhaps nature's most successful long-term relationship. Mycorrhizae expand plant roots from 100-1000 fold and can amplify nutrient and water extraction from rock itself! Who says you can't squeeze water (and nutrients!) from a rock—mycorrhizae can! The relationship is such a winner that over 90% of the world's plants form mycorrhizae in their native habitats. It is a big reason plants thrive in their native habitats without irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticides. Now you can benefit from the relationship by using mycorrhizae products.

Just what does the mycorrhizae symbiosis do for the plant? One thing for sure is that the mycorrhizae plants are far better than non-mycorrhizal plants at mining nutrients from the soil. The obvious result of better nutrition is better plant growth and improved yields.

This "growth response" is only the most obvious benefit. Other benefits, while appearing unrelated to nutrition, may be caused by the improvement in phosphorus uptake. For example, plants with plenty of phosphorus are more resistant to water stress. Thus, mycorrhizal plants have much better tolerance to drought conditions.

Many plant species are highly dependent on mycorrhizae and thus have been difficult to work with in soilless and artificial growing media. This is primarily due to the lack of beneficial soil organisms in the sterile growing media. By adding these beneficial organisms through the use of mycorrhizae, you will make all plant species easier to grow and improve rooting and growth rate. Mycorrhizae actively promote healthier roots and also speeds the plants growth rate. Perhaps as important as any benefit is mycorrhizae's ability to, especially for the soil in our area, improve any plant's tolerance to salts. Now, Get Growing!

~M

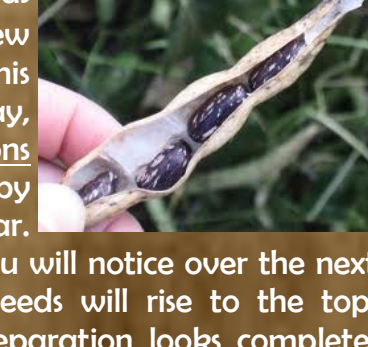


~M

(part 2 of...) Saving Seeds - THE BASICS

So, now you have chosen the right kind of seeds, tended them with the utmost care, enjoyed them produce wonderfully delicious fruit, and have begun to gather seeds as they are ready. What now? Well, now it's time to learn about how to properly extract, dry, and store your seeds!

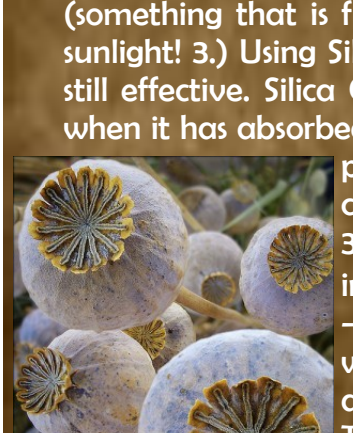
1. **Seed Extraction:** Let's be honest; extracting seeds can be a pain (all that stringy pulp!), but with a few tried and true tips you will breeze right through this step! All seeds cannot be extracted in the same way, so listen up! For tomatoes, peppers, squash, melons and cucumbers, you can easily extract the seeds by plopping the seeds (pulp and all) into a glass jar. Add 1/4 cup water and leave it in a cool place. You will notice over the next few days that the pulp and good-for-nothing seeds will rise to the top, leaving only good seeds at the bottom. When separation looks complete, spoon the floaters out, discard, and spread good seeds out on a paper towel to dry. Since some squash and pumpkin seeds are larger, it is easiest to just wash away pulp and spread them out to dry (usually 5-6 days for large seeds, 3-4 days for smaller). For peas, beans, soybeans, and lima beans, remove their seeds gently from the pod. Lettuce, Sunflowers, dill, and the like can be extracted from chaff by the water method mentioned above. Easy as that!



2. **Drying Seeds:** This is possibly the most important step in seed saving. If your seeds are left even a fraction of a percent too moist, the quality of your seed takes a nose dive. We don't want that—so here are a few easy ways to accomplish drying your seeds for no worries! 1.) Spread your seeds out on paper towels and allow to dry for a week, changing the towels often. 2.) For a quicker drying time, spread your seeds out on screens or cookie sheets (something that is flat) and set outside for a day or two, but not in direct sunlight! 3.) Using Silica Gel is not the preferred way of drying seeds, but it is still effective. Silica Gel is a drying agent, and most is treated to turn color when it has absorbed moisture. Enclose your seeds in a tight container (equal parts gel to seeds) and wait until you see the color change!

3. **Storing seeds:** When your seeds are completely dry, immediately move them to proper containers for storage — airtight containers for all seeds, except beans and peas, which store better in a brown paper sack. Place them in a cool, dark, dry place for best storage!

There you go! Pretty easy when all is said and done! It gets easier and less of a process once you are more and more familiar with the steps. I promise. Now, it's time to start planning where you are going to plant all those seeds you saved!



~L

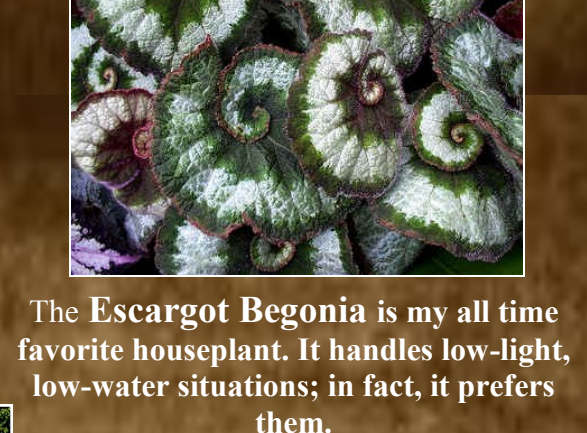
From the Outside In

I have always wanted a 'garden room'...a place where you are protected from heat and humidity, wind and rain, snow and ice...a place that makes you feel like you are still out in the garden, enjoying the things of nature. Gardening is therapeutic and shouldn't be restricted to the outdoors! Garden rooms or greenhouses have been a staple in many homes throughout the years. When in England, I noticed that almost every house had some sort of garden room, even a greenhouse attached directly to the house. I sure wish that was a building standard in the United States! I am most positive it would help to make us a healthier nation!

Even if you lack a proper garden room or the houseplant 'green thumb', as many say, there are incredible low-maintenance options you can add all over your home that will bring as much pleasure as a flower blooming out in your garden! Think of palms and schefflera (low water users), peace lilies and begonias (low light abiders), African violets and gardenias (beautiful bloomers), bonsai (wonderful texture and form), rosemary and citrus (fragrance like you wouldn't believe), and a vast array of cactus & succulents (the easiest to care for that will do great in your brighter, warmer spots).

The following are a couple of my favorites:

The **Birdsnest Fern** is a strappy-leaved, wonderfully easy plant to take care of!



The **Escargot Begonia** is my all time favorite houseplant. It handles low-light, low-water situations; in fact, it prefers them.



So, what space do you currently have that could be a garden sanctuary when the weather doesn't cooperate? I currently lack a 'garden room', but I can make every room feel more green by adding houseplants and terrariums. Maybe you like to have a break in the hot summer months or a cold winter months, but I wouldn't be able to abide for long without something green to turn my attention to.

~L

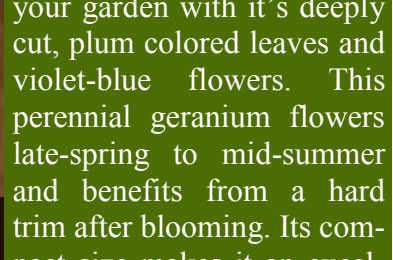
ANDREWS Seed Co.

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Reminders!

1. Deadhead like crazy! This will prolong your plant's bloom season!
2. Weed, Weed, Weed! Don't let your weeds go to seed!
3. Keep new plantings well watered.
4. Fertilize your container plantings once a week.
5. Fertilize your grass (our personal favorite is Dr. Earth's organic lawn fertilizer with many benefit nutrients and mycorrhizae).
6. Continue with fruit tree spray as needed until the end of the month.
7. Keep a close eye out for insects and disease. There are many wonderful products to keep both of these under control!
8. Attend our June Seminar, **Living Fences**, on the 18th at 10am!

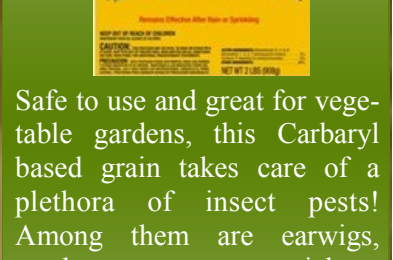
Plant Spotlight



PERENNIAL GERANIUM  
pratense  
**'MIDNIGHT REITER'**

It is a unique specimen for your garden with it's deeply cut, plum colored leaves and violet-blue flowers. This perennial geranium flowers late-spring to mid-summer and benefits from a hard trim after blooming. Its compact size makes it an excellent pick for containers, borders, or rock gardens. Its beautiful 1'x1' clumps can be divided every 3-4 years and prefers full sun to part shade.

CORRY'S INSECT KILLER



Safe to use and great for vegetable gardens, this Carbaryl based grain takes care of a plethora of insect pests! Among them are earwigs, sowbugs, cutworms, crickets, grasshoppers, ants, armyworms, millipedes, pillbugs, slugs, and snails! It even remains effective after rain fall or sprinkling! It seems like we are always dealing with one or more of the above listed pests—not for long with Corry's Insect Killer!

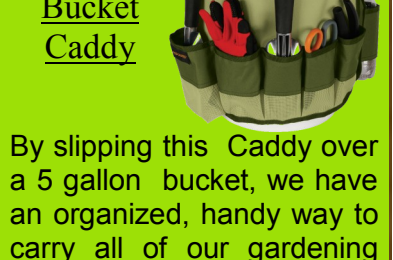
Quotables

THE PERFECT SUMMER DAY IS WHEN THE SUN IS SHINING, THE BREEZE IS BLOWING, THE BIRDS ARE SINGING, AND THE LAWNMOWER IS BROKEN.

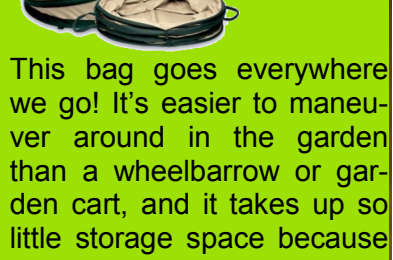
~James Dent

Handy Dandies!

We like tools that make our jobs easier! Who doesn't?! Here are a few of our trusty companions in the nursery and in our own yards.



By slipping this Caddy over a 5 gallon bucket, we have an organized, handy way to carry all of our gardening essentials around! It also helps us keep our gardening tools in tip-top condition and has a lifetime warranty!



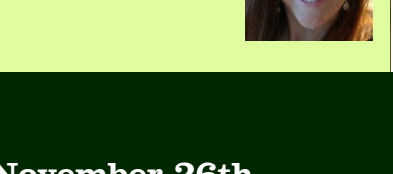
This bag goes everywhere we go! It's easier to maneuver around in the garden than a wheelbarrow or garden cart, and it takes up so little storage space because of its collapsible nature! The bags are made of heavy gauge vinyl and vinyl coated polyester (perhaps that is why they come with a lifetime warranty)! It's padded handles are also a plus, making it more comfortable to haul around—simply the best debris bag out there!



'Grab it. Dump it. Done.'

The number one complaint of garden work is a sore back. We get it. It can be tough work. Gator Grabber are your new arms and hands. With adjustable handles, making it easy for a person of any height, and big paddle like grabbers, you can pick up any pile of debris easily and pain free!

Written by:



2011 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

June 18th  
Living Fences

September 17th  
Creating with Fall Bulbs

November 26th  
Garlands, Wreaths and more!

August 13th  
Victory Gardens for Fall

October 22nd  
Winter Birding

\*ALL SEMINARS BEGIN AT 10AM & ARE FREE TO ATTEND