THE GARDEN PATH

ROSE TIPS FOR THE MONTH
By: Heidi Moore, Kerr Lake Master Gardener

MAINTENANCE

It is most important to check your roses frequently for signs of disease, pest damage and stress due to high temperatures. Sunburn is not uncommon this time of year. It is very important to keep your plants well hydrated by supplying ample amounts of water by either overhead or individually watering each plant with a hose to supply necessary quantities of water to keep your plants strong. Fungicide spraying every 8-10 days is also very essential during these hot humid days. Fungi, including black spot, botrytis and powdery mildew, will establish themselves if not kept at bay by routine spraying. Check for insect damage and spray only if harmful insects are evident. The past couple of years have not seen the same infestation of the Japanese beetle as in prior years. Hopefully this year will also be a good one. If you need to apply a pesticide, be sure to read all labels carefully and apply according to directions. Routine maintenance should help the plants remain strong and produce beautiful roses for all to enjoy this season.

ROSE VARIETY: CLIMBING ROSES

Climbing roses originated by crossing species roses with several other cultivars. Many climber varieties derived from species roses that grow in the wild and old garden roses with long, arching canes. Some descended from shrub roses, while others from ramblers. Some climber varieties have large, hybrid tea type blooms, while others bloom in small clusters. Many climbers are sports, or mutations of bush roses, thus in books and catalogs you will see reference to climbing hybrid teas, climbing grandifloras, climbing floribundas, climbing miniatures, and others. While no rose is a true climber, having no means of gripping or attaching itself to a support, this rose sends out long shoots or canes which can be trained over fences, arbors or trellises. Because of the wide genetic background, climbers have quite a variation of characteristics. Most varieties have only one bloom cycle, but there are some varieties that bloom continuously.

RAMBLER ROSES

Ramblers were one of the forerunners of today’s climbers, which have largely succeeded ramblers because of their more compact shape and larger flowers. Ramblers are very large, rampant, hardy plants with pliable canes that generally bloom only once, in early summer. Although many varieties still survive in some locations throughout the state, most have disappeared from catalogs and nurseries.

ROSE TERMS

Rose Bloom Balling: Balling is triggered by cool, damp conditions, often in a partially shady site, where water-saturated petals fail to dry out before being scorched by the sun. The mushy plant tissue dries to form a stiff straightjacket around the petals, preventing the flower from opening. An invisible soft, slimy layer of mycelium then fuses the petals together. The problem is most acute on roses with a multitude of thin petals.

Dieback: When tips, shoots or canes die, due to disease or damage.

Deadheading: Removing spent blooms to encourage new growth and flower production.

Disbudding: Removing excess buds to encourage few, but larger, flower blooms. This
practice is done by exhibitors to encourage winning roses for competitions.

**Rootstock:** The understock or base of the plant onto which the variety of rose is grafted. Some common rootstocks are Dr. Huey, Multiflora, and Rosa Canina.

**Self-sowing:** Plants that propagate themselves by dropping seeds to produce new plants the next year.

**Species Roses:** These are roses that grow in the wild and have not been cultivated.

---

**PLANT OF THE MONTH**

**American Bells Clematis**

*By: Marty Finkel, Kerr Lake Master Gardener*

The charming flowers in this North American group of clematis species are bell- or urn-shaped, and they contain nectar which attracts both hummingbirds and butterflies. Some species are *C. reticulata*, *C. texensis*, *C. crispa*, *C. viorna*, *C. ochroleuca*, *C. glaucophylla*, and *C. socialis*. The only true red found in Clematis is *C. texensis*. Quite a few of these species are native in North Carolina. They pose no pruning dilemma since they die to the ground in winter.

They have no wilt problems, some are fragrant, a few are small enough to make good trough plants, and they all have attractive seed heads. About half the species are small, non-climbing herbaceous plants while the rest are vines. A good many bloom all summer.

A good web site for an overview of this group is [www.clematisviorna.info/index.html](http://www.clematisviorna.info/index.html).

---

**GARDEN TO DO**

*By: Carl Schafer, Kerr Lake Master Gardener*

If rain does not fall, you need to provide one inch of water per week to keep the garden growing well. Use of mulch will help conserve moisture. Use of soaker hoses or drip irrigation will keep foliage dry and help reduce disease.

Continue your spray program on fruits, if needed. Observe the time period required between the last spray and harvest. Read the label.

As crops mature, compost or till in plant material that is not diseased. Diseased material should be discarded in the trash.

There is still time for a last planting of many warm season vegetables. These include beans, corn, cucumbers, okra, squash, and tomatoes. Select early maturing varieties and provide water, if needed. Note that “Days to Maturity” in the fall will be as much as 14 days longer due to the shorter day length and cooler nights. Note that if you want pumpkins for Halloween or winter squash maturing in late fall for winter storage, they should be planted in early July.

If you are considering a fall garden, see the July 2007 issue of this newsletter, or pick up a copy of HIL 8001, *Growing a Fall Vegetable Garden*, or on the net see: [www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-8001.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-8001.html). Note some of the cool season crops can be set out or seeded in July. If you have the space, you may want to try planting some lettuce, spinach, and other greens earlier than the listed dates and provide some shade and extra water.

If you have extra space in your garden, consider planting a cover crop. Get a copy of HIL 37, *Summer Cover Crops*, or on the net see: [www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/pdf/hil-37.pdf](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/pdf/hil-37.pdf).

For lawns, follow maintenance calendar for your type of grass. See NCSU TurfFiles for appropriate calendar if needed.

Check “Organic Production” for many useful/interesting topics on the NCORGANIC web site: [www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/programs/ncorganic/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/programs/ncorganic/).
HERB OF THE MONTH
By: Ladybug aka Edna Gaston, Kerr Lake Master Gardener

Coriandrum sativum -
Coriander (seeds), Cilantro (leaves)

Height: 12 – 18”
Flowers: July to August, white to reddish flowers
Propagation: Seeds – difficult to transplant so direct sowing is recommended
Growing conditions: Full sun, well-drained, moderately rich soil
Cultivation: Tender annual
Uses: Seeds have a very disagreeable smell until they ripen and take on their spicy aroma. Seeds are used to flavor many foods such as seafood, poultry or lamb plus being a good addition to bread, cakes, pastries, stews, pickles and even wines. The plant supposedly increases the appetite and at one time was considered an aphrodisiac. Very frequently, the herb is listed in recipes from the Orient, Middle East, and Latin America. Cilantro has a flavor similar to sage and is best used fresh or preserved by freezing as it does not dry well. Seeds tend to ripen unevenly and shatter from the plant when mature. Leaves and seeds should be stored separately. Even the roots can be eaten with a flavor similar to the leaves, but with a slightly nutty kick.

History: Coriander / Cilantro is native to the eastern Mediterranean and southern Europe. There are records of growing this herb for over 3,000 years. Egyptian records show it as an important part of the burial ceremony. Its medicinal uses can be traced to the Greeks and Romans.

Additional Information:


July in North Carolina is hot, hot, hot, so take it easy in the garden doing only what is necessary in the coolest part of the day.

- Fertilize Bermudagrass.
- Cut back impatiens and other leggy annuals to encourage side growth and more blooms.
- Continue to deadhead blooms.
- Insecticidal soap works well on many insects, and is very low in toxicity.
- Begin making semi-hardwood cuttings from azalea, camellia and hydrangea. Root in peat mixture, place in shade and keep moist.
- Roses should be sprayed every 7-10 days with fungicide.
- Harvest vegetables often.
- Fertilize figs. Keep them well watered and mulched.
- Enjoy your garden and relax.

INTERESTING TID-BITS
By: Marty Finkel, Kerr Lake Master Gardener

To keep the garden looking fresh in the coming months, plant seeds now of cosmos, marigolds, Mexican sunflower, sunflowers, zinnias, and cleome.

The deer-resistant plant list reappears – peonies, certain marigolds, yarrow, bleeding heart, hellebores, English lavender, weigela,
most ferns, daffodils, most ornamental grasses, Caryopteris, most herbs, and in general plants with poisonous compounds, fuzzy or aromatic leaves, and tough, spiny, or bristly textures. From Ruth Clausen’s book 50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants, excerpted for an article in the June 25 issue of The News and Observer newspaper.

A prairie native that is heat and drought tolerant is the flax flower, Talinum caycinum, 12” tall and wide, succulent leaves, and bright pink flowers all summer. It’s a good self-sower. The Granville Gardeners will have these available at the September 10 plant sale.

Agapanthus, or lily-of-the-nile tips: provide excellent drainage for their fleshy roots. They require ample moisture. Top-dress with manure in the spring and give bi-weekly feeding during summer bloom time. They will begin flowering abundantly in their second year. The strap leaves of some are beautifully variegated. Breeders are now interested in bigger flower heads and double flowers.

Rooting tips from experts (e.g. “The American Horticultural Society Plant Propagation”): 6” to 7” cuttings root faster and better than smaller ones; liquid or powdered rooting hormones often work best when mixed into the soil than when cuttings are dipped into them; willow water (made by steeping chopped willow branches in hot water) is a very potent rooter; dipping cuttings in an anti-transpirant keeps them turgid as effectively as misting (which leaches nutrients from the leaves). These last 3 tidbits are from The Avant Gardener, Vol. 43, No. 7, May 2011.