

## Tips on spraying roses

By Dean Murakami

(Taken from the Tinseltown Rose Society)

### Fertilizing Tips

Never feed a dry plant. If a plant is dry, water, wait a day (the plant has to absorb water), and then feed according to package directions.

Never feed a hot plant. Wait until the temperature drops below 85°. It is better not to feed than to damage with improper fertilization.

### Maintenance

Feeding starts three weeks after first feeding in April [Ed.: and continues through August in CNY.] If you have a lot of roses, a siphon mixer comes in real handy. To a five gallon bucket, we put a quart of fertilizer concentrate and add water to make five gallons of pre-mix, which (with a 1:16 hose-siphon) will make 80 gallons of fertilizer, about enough to feed 160 five-gallon can-sized roses. Of course, you could use almost any commercial rose food, according to package directions. Consult with any experienced nurseryman for alternatives.

### Pest Control Basics

Commercial pesticides are sometimes the only option to control a pest problem quickly and efficiently. The most effective use involves prevention, usually in the form of a regular treatment program. Another pest control program option is to monitor your roses closely, identify your pests, and control these rose pests as quickly as possible.

### Spraying Tips (Do's and Don'ts, Mostly Don'ts)

- 1) Never spray a dry plant. If a plant is dry (wider moisture stress), water first, wait a day (for the plant to have time to absorb the water) & then spray.
- 2) Never spray when temperatures are expected to exceed 85° within 24 hours.
- 3) Don't spray when rain is expected within 24 hours.
- 4) Don't spray when it's windy—spray when the air is calm to prevent drift.
- 5) After applying liquid fertilizers, always water in thoroughly after application.
- 6) When applying insecticides, fungicides, and liquid fertilizers, spray until the plant is wet and just begins to drip. Try to thoroughly spray the affected plants, including the undersides of the leaves.
- 7) When applying weed killers, apply in the morning after the dew has dried. The weed killer won't be diluted, and the weeds will absorb more. Be especially careful using herbicides [weed killers] around roses.
- 8) Read the entire label, including its directions and precautions. Use all chemicals only as directed. Always refer to the label on the product container before using, even if you've used the product before.
- 9) Clean your sprayer after each use, [and keep a separate one only for weed killers.]