



## INDIAN ROSE FEDERATION

### MONTHLY ELECTRONIC - NEWSLETTER – VOLUME – 5 / 6.



#### Presidents Page

Dear Members,

As we enter 2015, my wishes to you all for a very Happy and bright New Year, I have completed two years of my tenure as President and move forward in the third and final year and will be meeting you all at the next Convention of 2016.

Since the New Year starts we should adopt some resolutions for this year pertaining to IRF, first and foremost comes to my mind is the revival of inactive Rose Societies, role of rose societies in IRF and members participation. Rose Societies which are totally inactive are the Karnataka Rose Society, Baroda Horticulture Society, U. P. Rose Society and the Nilgiris Rose Society, I request the local members to come forward with proposals and their problems, I assure you we will form a team and help you to revive them.

Second on the list is the role of Rose Societies, it is high time that the Rose Societies now should work in a more professional manner, foremost is induction of young blood, keeping one show in a year is not helping the Societies to grow, we should incorporate more programmes and joining hands with local Government bodies, at IRF level too I will put up a proposal to have more programmes like a seminar and one Convention in each calendar year.

Third is the breeders of our nation who have been toiling hard, to bring out new strains and colors, competing with the International breeders, but not provided a strong platform and that too without any monetary returns, we have to form a team to look seriously into

this matter and take up with the Central Government. At the recent concluded Governing Council Meeting held at Nagpur, a resolution was put up by Arshad Bhiwandiwala in lieu of issuing a registration certificate to Indian breeders for their varieties, a lot of deliberation took place and finally it was decided that the breeders will be issued a certificate of registration from IRF, the technical committee formed will be responsible for this task, the same information will be passed to the American Rose Society for online registration. This step will definitely ease the breeders hard work and will provide a platform to them.

One more important issue that comes to my mind is the ID card, since I took over I had been contemplating, that IRF members should have some ID, I request you one and all to please send your 2 photos along with your address and contact details, to the Secretary, I would like to complete this task before the end of this year. This will also help us in putting up the data on our website, where we are updating with more information.

The Governing Council meeting and subsequent Annual General Meeting was well attended and went off very well, I thank all the members for their participation and their love for roses, I thank all the members of the Vidharbha Rose Society for felicitating me, the kind words spoken by the gathering left me speechless and emotional, but I assure you all, that I am a member of your family and will always be there with you, grand arrangements were made by Mr. Sanjay Dahiwade, Mrs. Sanyogita Dhanwatey, Mr. Balchandra Kopulwar and the Vidharbha Rose Society, my sincere thanks to them, we had the opportunity of witnessing the show organized by the PWD department, Government of Maharashtra and later on a visit to the farm house of Mr. Manzoor Hasan an avid rose grower of Nagpur, it was a delight to see loads of huge roses, swaying on the plants with the evening breeze and the next day a visit to the Raj Bhavan of Nagpur, the official residence of the Governor of Maharashtra, a beautiful laid out garden with 1500 rose plants was admirable, we spent almost three hours going around the garden. A lot of comments are coming to me from foreign participant at the World Regional Conference. I now feel that we should start making preparation for the World Convention, with your love and support.

Thanks a lot, with expectations of ideas coming from you all.

Ahmed Alam Khan

## EDITORIAL.



Oh hello there my rose family members, wishing you all a belated New Year, it is blooming time and all of you must have been busy with all the rose shows going in your area, enjoying your gardens with all those beauties emitting out the fragrance, swaying and dancing with wind, this is the time to enjoy roses in the gardens, whether big or small, in the balcony or terrace and the lucky one in the grounds. I apologise for the delays last month bulletin was delayed, since after the Hyderabad Conference I was indisposed for some days and could not attend office, this month once gain I am to blame, as was too busy with my daughter's visit and subsequent preparation of our rose show. January and February bulletins have been clubbed together.

This month I will not be putting up the World Regional Conference report by Ashok Ghosh as he is in hospital since last month with a knee surgery, introduction of breeder is also on hold as I have not received the data required from all the three gentlemen, I had requested, this causes lapses, but I think they will be forwarding the information I require.

A good signal is the advent of the young rose growers, who are slowly and steadily entering into rose growing as a hobby, it is a healthy sign for rose societies and they should go out of the way to enroll more of this young brigade, which I feel is the need of the hour, rose growing is now advancing with newer techniques, soil less culture is now a rage with the new and the old grower too eager to join the brigade of this culture, a lot of sincere efforts are required from the grower, as it involves a lot of dedication and time, practically a daily chore and one has to have both of them, I was very much amused to see the delegates from India and abroad, when entering the exhibition hall, the sight of those potted roses displayed by Sanjoy Mukherjee, bewildered the viewers, with countless numbers asking me the price and I had to courteously tell them that they were priceless.

Regards

Arshad Bhiwandiwala.

## ROSE ETERNAL

The Regional Convention of WFRS – Hyderabad, India – 2014.

A report by Suresh Pingale.

The Regional Convention of the Word Federation of Rose Societies hosted by the Indian Rose Federation under the able, leadership of its President Ahmed Alam Khan was aptly called " Rose Eternal " It was held in Hyderabad, India, from 29<sup>th</sup> Nov to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 2014. The venue for the convention was the Hyderabad International Convention Centre – India's first purpose – built and state of the art convention facility. During the South African Convention, Mr. Khan, while trying to get the convention to India from WFRS, had promised to give all delegates an incredible Indian experience, with rose gardens, traditional hospitality and ambience, speakers, entertainment and sight - seeing programmes. While giving his final remarks at the valedictory function on the concluding day, Mr. Steve Jones, the WFRS, President, thanked Ahmed, our President, and said "This man promised that we will have a grand convention". He has stood by his words, everything was first class, we had wonderful times, the lectures were exceptional and the food was outstanding. This is the largest world convention we have ever had."

True to the words of Mr. Steve Jones, this convention was truly the largest ever held anywhere. It was attended by about 75 foreign delegates and a large number of Indian delegates. The foreign delegates were from the U.S., England, Germany, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Uruguay, China, Japan, Malaysia, Italy, Singapore, Australia, Belgium and Pakistan. From amongst the Indian delegates, the largest contingent was from Maharashtra, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal, Karnataka etc.

The opening ceremony of the Rose show and also the convention, specially arranged for the occasion, was held on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2014 at 15.00 hrs. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana, Mr. K. Chandrashekhar Rao was to have been the Chief Guest. Since he was indisposed, at the last minute, it was inaugurated at the auspicious hands of the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Telengana, Mr. Md. Mehmoond Ali. He was escorted by Mr. N. Narsimha Reddy, Home Minister and Dr. P. Mahender Reddy, Transport Minister. Mr. Steve Jones, the President of the World Federation of Rose Societies. Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan and Mr. Vijay Kant, the President and Secretary respectively, of the Indian Rose Federation and Dr. P. S. Rao, the President of the Hyderabad Rose Society, were also present on the dais. The Deputy Chief Minister, while appreciating the efforts of the organizers of the show and the convention,

promised every assistance from the State Government. Mr. Steve Jones, President, WFRS, thanked Ahmed Alam Khan for organizing the convention on such a large scale. President IRF gave details of the preparation and meticulous executions of all aspects of the convention. He also hoped that the delegates were happy with all the programmes.

During this event the Indian Rose Annual, 2015 was also released. This was edited by Mr. M. S. Viraraghavan and Girija Viraraghavan with a special emphasis on 'New light on the old world of roses' and 'Towards the creation of a Pan - Asia consciousness of the Rose'. In view of the objective of the theme, relevant informative articles were included from rose scientists – both from abroad and India. A special mention that must be made about this volume is that it was printed on glossy paper and superbly bound in a very attractive way, on par with international standards. I am sure that all delegates will keep this book for ever as a memento to perpetuate the sweet memory of this convention.

The Rose show organized during the convention was a big attraction for rosarians and laymen. Competitions were held in numerous classes and categories of roses. Rosarians from all over India participated and won prizes in many classes. The "Char - Minar" – the Hallmark of the Hyderabad city – created using more than 80,000 rose flowers by the organizers was appreciated by all. It was so charming and artistically composed that no visitor would leave without taking photographs in front of it. I was informed that one Mr. Aziz, a local florist from Hyderabad had created this extraordinary spectacle. Another section, which also was a major attraction of the show was the fabulous flower arrangements created by expert Ikebana artists headed by Ms. Rekha Reddy, Ms. Minakshi Devi and their colleagues.

The judges' team under the supervision of Mr. Arshad Bhiwandiwala meticulously judged the roses for competition. They announced the results and distributed the prizes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Major winners were as follows:

King of the show – Variety : Blue Ocean by Ashish More

Queen of the show – Variety : Signature by Ashish More

Prince of the show - Variety : Zorina by Sanjay Mukherjee

Princess of the show – Variety : Calpoly by Ashish More

The most outstanding part of this convention was the discussions, paper readings and

speeches by eminent rosarians, scientists and researchers. This was spread over 12 sessions during three days. Their papers were of an exceptionally high standard, showing the in depth study and painstaking efforts that had gone into its preparation. Dr. William McNamara from the USA spoke, in absentia, on 'Collecting Rose Species in Asia and their conservation in Quarry Hill' while Prof. Wang Guoliang, from China, read a paper on 'Miraculous Old Roses in India and China'. Dr. Mehmooda Hashmi from Pakistan spoke brilliantly on 'Roses in Pakistan and Indian sub – continent. Dr. Dadlani, Dr. T. Janakiram, Girija and M. S. Viraraghavan, all from India, gave very insightful information about Indian Rose world including all aspects, such as old Indian rose species, Indian bred roses, Hybridizers, rose research in India and the commercial aspect of the rose industry. A special mention must be made of a paper by Mr. Behcet Ciragan, Switzerland who spoke on 'Tulips, Traders and Roses'. His study is so deeply researched and lucidly written that it must be read in full. (The full text of his paper appears in the Indian Rose Annual, 2015.) He very brilliantly brought out the passage of species Rosa centifolia and Rosa damascena from 5<sup>th</sup> Century to 1550 up to today, giving exhaustive proofs for this research. Dr. Yuki Mikanagi, Japan, gave information on 'Natural Habitats of wild Roses in Japan and their conservation', while Mr. Tuan Ching, Singapore explained the difficulties in growing roses in Singapore and how they have overcome them. Ms. Helga Brichet, Italy, spoke on 'Italian Rose Hunters in the East'. Girija and Viraraghavan – through their paper "Born in the forest, reborn in the garden" brought about their arduous quest of two rose species Rosa clinophylla and Rosa gigantea. After painstaking efforts, how they managed to produce their progenies – Narendra and Vishnupriya makes for very fascinating reading.

On the occasion of this convention, rose gardens around were redesigned and also new gardens planned and executed. The state authority (Horticulture Dept) manages Public Garden, GHMC manages Indira Park, and HMDA manages Sanjeervaiah Park. All three gardens were immaculately dressed up for this important occasion. Newer varieties of HTs, Floribundas, and mini roses were in full bloom and in the pink of health without any blemish of disease or pest. Systematic paths wide enough for visitors to walk freely and enjoy each beds, and they were kept clean and neat. Proper and correct name tags served the purpose for serious and studious rose lovers, especially the Sanjeervaiah Park rose garden which was very attractive and included a large number of rose varieties in full bloom.

On the last day, we visited three rose gardens created by our President Ahmed Alam

Khan, near Vikarabad, about 70 km away from Hyderabad. The first one that we visited included all Indian bred roses, neatly planted and labeled. Several new and old varieties were in perfect conditions and in full bloom. Foreign delegates were delighted to see many good quality roses planted on a spread of about an acre of land. The beauty of this garden was enhanced by the large green lawns, flowering annuals and tall elegant palm trees planted along paths and borders. The second and main garden was a sight to behold. A very large garden, more than 7 acres in area, very systematically planned with HTs on one side and profuse flowering floribundas planted in groups to increase its colour impact was a sight to cherish for a life time. Other rose varieties like Hybrid Perpetual, Miniatures, Polyantha, All American Rose selection, Talk series, English roses, wild roses, Chinese roses, Standard roses, Climbers, etc were also planted. In fact some rosarians from Japan and China termed it as 'Heaven' and 'Paradise'. This extraordinary exuberance and riot of colors was captured by all in their cameras to show to their friends back home. This garden was provided with bright lights so that its beauty could be enjoyed during night. The third garden was around large manicured lawns. Large flowering roses adorned this place to enhance the ambience of the area. The Valedictory Function where Mr. Steve Jones expressed his satisfaction about the convention was arranged here. The President of the IRF also spoke thanking his colleagues profusely and also expressing his happiness for the large number of delegates. After this formal function there was a very interesting entertainment programme followed by dinner.

This fabulously organized dinner was attended by all delegates, family, friends colleagues, etc numbering more than 2,000 persons. The food spread consisted of more than 100 different dishes both non - vegetarian and vegetarian mainly based on Mughalai / Avadhi, Kashmiri, Rajasthani Chaat, Chinese and Hyderabadi cuisines. Ten different kinds of Indian sweets satisfied the palates of all.

While summing up this somewhat long narration, I must make a mention of the people who worked tirelessly with all their might, energy and resources for about a year to make this event such a success. Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan dreamt of this event, visualized its concept and executed it to its successful culmination. My heartiest congratulations to him. He was very ably assisted in implementing it by his very efficient secretary, Mr. Vijay Kant. He took on the onerous responsibility of looking after the preparations for the convention, supervision of the gardens and also solving the innumerable problems of the delegates. Hats off to Vijay Kant !! The person who was in charge of welcome, social duties, cordial

reception and hospitality was the first lady of the event, the very charming, graceful & smiling wife of our President, Mrs. Uzma Ahmed Alam Khan ! I am sure everyone appreciated her presence and greetings all along. A very special person who played the very important role of promoting and inspiring rose movement in general and this convention in particular is honorable Nawab Shah Alam Khan – ex President of the IRF. Despite his delicate health, he was present throughout the four days of events. His appearance and presence created an aura of confidence and instilled an energy of creativity in making this event a world class success. He is the embodiment and essence of what we call Hyderabadi tehzeeb (culture) and mehman navazi (hospitality).

We all salute thee, NAWAB SAHAB!!

#### Winter Show of The Pune Rose Society

The winter show of the Pune Rose Society was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. This was the 95<sup>th</sup> Rose Show of the Society, moving gradually to complete its 100<sup>th</sup>, Winter time is the season of roses, even when the temperatures are 10, one can find them swaying in their gardens, the long wait of the grower reaches its zenith and it is during this season he boast's of his collection and garden, the hall at Tilak Smarak Mandir was filled with roses of high and excellent quality, the tables were jam - packed with roses of all colors, standing erectly and getting admiration from the viewers, putting the Judges in a daze and making it difficult to select the best, it was a two day festival for the citizens of Pune, giving them solace and peace, from their daily routines, on this occasion Mr. Pundalik Nimhan released two new varieties, Vishwa Vijay an Orange blend and God's Particle a Red bloom, both are very beautiful and attractive varieties bearing huge flowers, a gardeners delight. The winners according to the judges decisions were :-

King of the show - Jadis - Ashish More

Queen of the show – Veterans Honor – Pundlik Nnimhan

Prince of the show – Luten - Ashish More

Princess of the show - Dream Glow - Ashish More

Maximum Aggregate - Ashish More

Maximum Aggregate in both show - Ganesh Shirke

Best Terrace garden - Ganesh Shirke.

Below are the images from Pune Show





## M. P. Rose Society Show at Bhopal.

The three day, 34<sup>th</sup> All India Rose Show, of M. P. Rose Society Bhopal, was held at Bhopal from 9<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015 to 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2015.

The Rose show started on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2015, when Pot entries were received from morning 9.00 AM to 3.00 PM. Special arrangements of trucks along with helpers were made by the society to bring the Pots from the residences of the competitors and the Pots were also sent back by these trucks on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2015. More than 500 pots were received in Government and Individual Sections.

From 4.00 PM. The Judging was done by Senior Rosarians of M. P. Rose Society, Bhopal. A large number of visitors visited the garden to have a look at the Roses of these Pots. On 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2015, Cut flowers were received from various participants from Bhopal and other cities. Around 5,700 flowers were received, which were beautifully displayed in Bottles. The receipts of entries were from 8.30 AM to 12.00 Noon. Judging was done by senior Rosarians of M. P. Rose Society and Rosarians from other cities too. To have the judging impartial like last year only a code number was put on each bottle. This was appreciated by all participants. The judges chose the King, Queen, Prince, Princess, Best Red, White, Yellow, Apricot, Striped, Indian, Bicolour & Scented Flowers out of all the Winners.

At 5.30 in the evening the Show was inaugurated by Mr. Alok Sanjar, Member of Parliament, Bhopal. He was very happy to see the Flowers. After inauguration the M. P. also distributed Trophies and Prizes for Winners of Garden Competitions.

After Prize distribution a local orchestra presented melodies Songs for the visitors. On 11<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2015 the Show was open for the Public from morning 9.00 AM and the visitors, being Sunday made full use and a record number of around one lakh people visited the show. In the evening at 4.30 PM the Minister for Finance Govt. of M.P. Mr. Jayant Malaiya distributed Trophies to the various Winners a large Number of Cultivators were also awarded Trophies and Certificates. In both the days total 45 Trophies were distributed by M. P. Rose Society and 45 Trophies were distributed by Horticulture Dept. to Various Winners.

## Glimpses of Bhopal Show





Rose released at the PWD, Government of Maharashtra, Show at Nagpur, this pure white rose has been named after "Indra Sable" Late wife of Dr. Arvind Sable, bred by none other than, the renowned breeder Dr. N. V. Shastri of Nagpur, it has beaten White Christmas, as we could witness at the show and later at Tijare's Farm.

## The Magic of Liquid Feeding

The outstanding American Rosarian Bob Martin observes : "Roses reward you in proportion to your efforts" – and how true it is ! In the rose show the blooms are the expression of these efforts. Sweetness fighting hard to get free, to float around and intoxicate the viewers with their beauty. But.. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century people seem to be in great hurry all the while. Fast food, fast travel, fast life. Nobody seems to have patience and perseverance. But nature does not agree with all this. It takes its own time to grow, to develop. A rosarian knows that it takes a definite period of time for a sprout to develop and a certain amount of time to open the bud. Presumably 21 days to develop the new shoot and 21 days for the bud to open at the appropriate stage for the hybrid teas for the winter show. In monsoon, it can be early by seven days – also depending upon the particular variety. During the growth period he has to apply fertilizers which will strengthen the tender shoot and will help the plant grow to form a big and bold bud, resulting into a beautiful bloom. (Early 'disbudding' of H.T.s is taken for granted.) The slow release fertilizers or granular fertilizers take their own time to release NPK. For example: 'Suphala'. But the rosarian in a hurry wants quick fire results so that the rose plant is nourished with the basic ingredients from pruning time to the exhibition show date. This particular period is very precious for the rosarian as he watches the sprout with great curiosity and gets anxious by adding loads of nutrients to hasten the plant grow, leading to a healthy stem, attractive and lush green foliage and, of course, the all - pervading influence of an outstanding bloom. One of the safest and most effective ways to achieve this is by giving liquid feeding to your rose plants. When you are running short of time and the date of the rose show is not far away, the rosarians can safely fall back upon the dependable and effective method of liquid feeding. Liquid feeding means soluble nutrients and micro - nutrients are to be dissolved in adequate quantity of water and given in reasonable quantity to every plant to cater to the needs of growing bushes after irrigation. Without prior irrigation one should never think of applying the liquid feeding to the plants, otherwise the consequences can be disastrous.

Shri V. S. Padhye in his book, 'Roses for pleasure and profit' has given a golden rule that one gram of chemical fertilizer per plant every day fulfils the need of a rose plant. Instead of giving heaps of chemical fertilizers in powder form, it would be ideal and appropriate to give a minute but regular dose of fertilizer to the plant so that the plant is under constant nourishment. We always hear the maxim, 'Frequent and light feeding is the best'. Instead of giving one gram of fertilizer to each plant daily in powder form, the same proportion

can be given in diluted form for easy assimilation, to suit the convenience. After you prune your roses, the plant is deprived of the food material since you cut number of branches for exhibition. It takes time for the plant to recover and gather its original vigour. At this point of time, the role of NPK begins. In an over – enthusiastic mood to accelerate the growth of plants, the rosarian is tempted to feed the plant with heavy doses of chemical fertilizers; one is likely to do more damage than without it. You must have copious amount of powdered cow dung manure , augmented by some more organic manure / material ( like compost or groundnut cake or neem cake etc.) so as to 'digest ' the chemical strength of fertilizers. You can mix either 'Suphala' or 'Toprose' or any 'Rose Mix' @ 1 gm. / lit per plant. ('Suphala' or "DAP" is not completely soluble in water and the residue may be utilized next day for making the solution, otherwise it may prove to be a 'Strong dose').

You may give urea at the same proportion i.e. @ 1 gm. / lit or a branded product having urea and Potassium Nitrate combination. In that case, it may be advisable to give Super Phosphate (single) well in advance (in powder form) after you give the initial dose of bone meal - a month before pruning and thus the circle of NPK is complete. When the small buds appear at the top of a shoot, a combined dose of Potassium Nitrate and Super Phosphate may be absolutely necessary for gaining colour and size of the bloom. You can make your own liquid feeding by adding one 'Ghamela' of fresh cow dung in 20 to 40 litres of water and mix well. You could add two fistful of Super Phosphate and one fistful of Potassium Nitrate with good results. Allow it to settle for 3 to 4 days. Take the top liquid, add into a bucket full of water to make it a pale straw colour and give one litre to each plant after watering.

People hesitate to give urea, but if given in the recommended dose @ 1gm / litre per plant after pruning (when nitrogen is badly required) it will result in good growth of foliage. But the proportion should be observed scrupulously. (Statutory warning! It is dangerous to exceed the dose of urea as it would harm the plant and the gardener may have to suffer disastrous consequences!) Again, as mentioned earlier, the golden rule of giving liquid feeding @ 1gm / L per plant per day should be followed after watering the plants with light irrigation. Heavy watering may drain out the nutrients that follow. Giving liquid feeding of NPK may be practiced daily up to six weeks after you have pruned your rose bushes – till a few days before the show date. Even if you find the daily application cumbersome, you may stick to the liquid feeding without, of course, increasing the dose.

There is another secret formula that I came across while going through the old 'Rose News' evolved by Prof. I. A. Shetty. I cannot resist the temptation of giving this formula to

my 'budding' rosarian friends to obtain big roses for exhibition:

"Take a plastic or steel drum, fill it up with water up to 3 / 4<sup>th</sup> and add fresh cow dung, any oil cake or fish meal. If cow dung or fish meal is not available, only oil cake will serve the purpose. Stir the mixture every day. After about a week, dilute this mixture to get the tea colour and give one litre to each pot.

In addition to liquid feeding manure, three weeks prior to the show, give to each pot 2 grams of Potassium Nitrate per plant per week and this should be repeated for two more weeks. Six weeks prior to the show, give the following as a "Booster Dose". Dilute in 10 litres of water, 10 grams each of Di - Ammonium Phosphate, Di - Potassium Phosphate and urea and give one litre to each pot.

This might look complicated in the beginning, but once you are used to it, you get yourself accustomed to it. "

In pursuit of obtaining quality blooms for exhibition which includes tough competition, any liquid feeding given regularly to the plants works like magic. If the liquid contains chemical fertilizers never forget to water the plants some hours before the application, otherwise it will turn like a boom rang ! Do it as per specification and enjoy the magic of "Liquid Feeding" !

Arun Waranashiwar

#### Tips from the experts

January and February are the best month for roses in Nagpur and Vidarbha. Of course this year the winter has been a bit too severe in Nagpur and roses in some gardens have suffered. Organic manuring and chemical fertigation has already been done in December and we do not recommend it until the end of January. Of course liquid and foliar feeding can be done. Seasoned exhibitors probably always do that. Regular spraying has to be strictly adhered to. Powdery mildew may make its appearance and has to be promptly dealt with ( Folicur , Nu Star , Karathene, Sulfur ). Thrips and mites are always there ! January is a month of rose shows. IRF rose show and convention usually take place in this month although not this year. But there are local shows. Exhibitors are a busy lot this month, counting their prizes and judges, judging endlessly.

Dr. N. V. Shastri from Nagpur.

Hi friends. Wish you a great new year. It is too cold in Delhi. We need to protect our roses from white mildew, it's common in winter here. Do spray systematic fungicide. Mustard cake is best in winter. Wet it for three days with DAP and drench it after mixing water (very thin solution). Repeat it after every 15 days. It is good time to plant roses here. Don't think more if your roses are not getting good growth, as in winter the growth rate is very slow. So prepare your roses for next month. Now it's time to start proper feeding of roses. After a strong winter, roses are again reviving themselves. In winter they are in like dormant phase. Now a day's night temperatures are low in comparison to day, so it is perfect time to get good rose flowers. Start NPK twice in a week and magnesium sulphate 4gms once in a week. Don't forget to spray the systematic insecticide and fungicide on an interval of 10 days. Mustard cake is very useful with DAP. All the best.

Rahul Kumar from New Delhi.

In our Mumbai region January and February is quite cold with average day temp 25 degree centigrade and night 15 degree centigrade, climate is very favorable for roses, frequent and regular feeding of N:P:K in small quantity is very helpful for sprouting of healthy shoots, pruning plays very important role hence I prefer regular weekly light pruning i.e. removal of zig zag weak stems, dead, dried flowers, and removal of small weak stems which have already bloomed and topmost weak crowded bunches of stems, all this will encourage new basal and shoots. Take preventive sprays for Thrips and mites at regular intervals. Happy rose growing 2015.

Ashish More from Mumbai

January and February is the flowering season but with a slow pace, roses having more petals tend to ball, where as with less petals unfurl in a perfect way and size, but beware of thrips the enemy, regular spraying is a must, or else you will have a hard time to control the damage, along with it is the fear of mildew, use Score for it and Exodus for thrips, so take care as this is the time when shows are held and your participation is important to win prizes, when it becomes too cold the root system is affected, use very less water and give a dose of Redomill Gold 2 gms, per 5 litres of water, drench the pot to get rid of fungus attack and make your root system strong

Ganesh Shirke from Pune

