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DOWN TO EARTH

How to Make Your Roses Stop Traffic

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The roses around the J. C. Roberts home at 480 Yarmouth road always slow down drivers. So let's take some tips from Mrs. Roberts, who is president of the Detroit Garden center and a member of the American Rose society.

Select a location for your rose garden that gets at least six hours of sun, preferably in the morning. Good drainage is very important. The location should be protected from strong winds, and a safe distance from large trees and

shrubs as their roots will rob the adjacent soil.

PREPARE the rose bed at least two feet deep, removing objectionable soil. At the bottom of a rose bed it is a good idea to place a layer of rocks and the sod upside down which you have removed for the rose bed. Well rotted manure is an asset, mixed with the soil, using about eight bushels to 100 square feet. Well rotted manure is an asset, mixed with the soil, using about eight bushels to 100 square feet. Well rotted manure is an asset, mixed with the soil, using about eight bushels to 100 square feet.



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hole with soil, keeping the bed one inch below the surface. It is best to mound the earth around the stems to keep them from drying out, and remove only when well established.

DO NOT FEED roses the first year. Apply the fertilizer the second year when the growth in the spring is four inches long, when the roses come into their first bloom in the spring, and six weeks later. Do not feed after Sept. 1. This would encourage soft growth which would be affected by the cold weather which follows. For plant food use 4 pounds per 100 square feet of 5-10-5 or 4-12-4.

Blackspot is the most widespread and devastating of all rose diseases. The timeliness with which the spray or dust is applied to combat it is important. The fungicide must be on the foliage to kill the fungus before it penetrates the leaf. Because blackspot spores can germinate when foliage is wet, spray or dust it applied to the upper and lower sides of the leaves must be covered. Pick all leaves that show signs of the disease and pick up any leaves which might fall to the ground. In the spring

and fall use a lime-sulphur spray.

PRUNING: In the spring, prune the canes to a height of from ten to eighteen inches and cut just above an outside bud. Trim out all crossing canes and dead wood. Winter care: Mound soil around the stems from eight to ten inches. When the ground is frozen, add a covering of marsh hay or evergreen branches. Do not use leaves. Do not uncover until all danger of freezing weather is past.

SOMETIMES the foliage plants we nurture all year long pay an unexpected dividend. Fred Perry of Lathrup boulevard got such a surprise. Perry has a "corn" plant, dracaena goldiana. Not corn at all, this plant has a woody trunk and leaves much like those of a farmer's corn. Dracaena is extensively used for modern decor. When Perry returned from a vacation in the south he found his corn plant ready to produce a flower. It was a spike 24 inches in height with white flowers and a heavy perfume. This is a very rare achievement, and your editor was delighted to hear about it.

Officers Named by WNFCA

WALNUT LAKE — The month of May is proving a busy one for members Walnut Lake branch of the WNFCA. On May 5, Mrs. Henry Sahlin opened her Comfort drive home for the regular meeting and installation of officers. Mrs. Parker Rockwell will continue another year as president, with Mrs. Donald Irwin serving as vice president. Mrs. Otto Winkelmann, treasurer; Mrs. Howard Peacock, corresponding secretary and Mrs. A. A. Wilbur, recording secretary. Committee chairmen appointed were Mrs. Julian Offenstein, Mrs. Charles I. Greene, Mrs. Kenneth Bishop, Mrs. Floyd Vine and Mrs. Robert White. Others were Mrs. Otto Trzos, Mrs. Wayne McCane, Mrs. Henry Sahlin and Mrs. Donald Irwin. A plant sale, offering shrubs, perennials and annuals will be held May 16 and 17 in front of the Walnut Lake food market. On May 19 members will form a car pool for an all-day trip to Hidden Valley lake a Michigan State university project, near Tipton.

Garden Lighting Theme of Meeting

WEST BEVERLY — The West is to be a potluck luncheon. The Beverly garden club will meet May 15 at the home of Mrs. Alan D. Brundage, 32883 Bingham lane. It Garden Lighting," with slides.

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