

## **Talking Roses 2014**

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*Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul.*

Luther Burbank

### **In the Rose Garden with Ludwig:**

The intermittent rain we experienced didn't quite fill the dams, but it certainly made the roses sprout. Actually, the roses have flowered non-stop since early October; much more so than I remember. Judging by the many buds making an appearance, the flowering will carry on and we can expect a super show over the Christmas period. Images

Deciding about new varieties in early October is often misleading, because the real qualities still have to emerge. Only after the second flush does it become clear whether a variety has "got it" or not. Walking amongst these roses remains an activity of the utmost excitement for me and indeed I can't stay away from them. In this vein, I noticed this anecdote/quote from Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor and formentor of West Germany in the ROSENBOGEN of the German Rose Society " Die Rose ist etwas so Schoenes, dass auch der wahnsinnigste Zuechter sie nicht verderben kann." Translated it says "The Rose is of such Beauty, that even the craziest breeder cannot mar it." The trial varieties depicted are not named and are not available as plants – yet. Images

Our Dahlias and Fuchsias performed well for the past special weekend and they too will continue flowering. Images.

Obviously there will be lots to see and talk about on the Walk and Talk on the 16<sup>th</sup> December. image

### **The Rose House**

We revisited Vivienne Black's magnificent rose garden as part of this year's Rose Bus Tour in Joburg and it was once again a firm favourite with our many participants.

Since the first visit in 2012, Vivienne has massively extended the garden, adding many new beds and of course the new roses in 2012 have now grown into splendid specimens;

Here is Vivienne's story, in her own words, about her love affair with roses:

"I fell head over heels in love with roses when I went on a rose tour organised by Ludwig's to Italy and Bulgaria about five years ago. In Bulgaria we went into the fields where the Damascene roses were growing. We were allowed to pick the rose petals and smell the roses taken straight from the enormous wild rose bushes. This experience of smelling the lemon essence of the Damascene roses has stayed with me to this day! I was hooked!

We experienced the loading of four tons of rose petals into vats, which will produce, one kilo of pure rose oil. This was the start of a journey which would take me to many more countries to experience roses; the trial gardens of Monza, to Cavriglia, Carla Fineschi rose

gardens, where a large number of roses are wild roses which have been collected from all over the world, and to Ireland and soon to India, then France for the World Rose Convention and Beijing.

The love of the rose is in my spirit and is with me always, in everything that I do in my home and garden. It has connected me with friends and people all over the world, and it has reared its head in so many ways in my life in the past five years.

And so this is how my garden was transformed from an ordinary garden with a few Iceberg roses growing up my driveway to one filled with 4000 rose bushes.

There are 156 difference types of roses in the garden including Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, Climber, Panarosa, Spire, and ground cover roses. The colour scheme that appeals most to me is cream, white, pink, mauve and purple, and in some areas oranges and yellows. All these roses are bought at Ludwig's Roses, where I also purchase everything I need to spray and feed the roses. All the Ludwig's staff are a great help when deciding what roses to choose.

I love roses but prefer mixed beds. I enjoy planting as many different plants as possible around my roses, such as Foxgloves, Delphinium's, Cleomes, Erigeron, Scabious, Salvia, Lambs Ear, Borage, Spinach and Parsley.

Well what I am planning next or what I would like to do? It is a rose garden planted with all the different types of David Austin Roses. As these roses don't like our South African sun, I will have to put on my rose hat and give this one some thought!

My teams of dedicated workers at The Rose House are Patrick, Amiao, Nelson, Maria and Gloria, who have all been involved to produce the beautiful garden that we love.

I will continue in my life to work with people and try and inspire as many people to find the magic that "the rose "can bring to their lives."

### **Step by Step Rose Care for December:**

The good rains experienced in many parts of our country over the past months have meant that watering the roses is not so very critical. In gardens where the roses may not normally have received enough water through irrigation the soaking rain allowed the roots to draw up water from a wider area. However, by no means does it mean one can stop irrigation. More leaves and more flowers require more water to be taken up by the roots.

So far I have not seen any evidence of Black Spot on our own roses or those in parks and gardens I passed. I suppose they all sprayed with Chronos. It certainly is important to keep up preventative spraying, especially so for gardeners who will be away on holiday for a while.

The beetles seem to be the one nasty problem at present. This season it is not the CMR and Fruit beetle but the brown beetle that chews off blooms just as viciously. They are active in the fragrant blooms, but only among our trial roses where no spraying with pesticides is done. Therefore, solve any beetle invasion by adding Kemprin or Garden Ripcord to the spray cocktail until the beetle season is over. Image

Fertilising in summer is incredibly important for continued flowering and the well-being of the bushes.

I recently wrote in my column, "I promise you a rose garden' for the ROSA newsletter that a customer gave me a paperback book issued in 1946, entitled 'Rose Growing in South Africa'

by “The Vicar”. On the whole I agree with most aspects written up in this book. But not as to what he considered as spring and autumn flowering varieties such as ‘President Hoover’, ‘Talisman’, ‘Crimson Glory’, ‘Picture’, ‘Shot Silk’, ‘Dame Edith Helen’, ‘Mrs. Sam McGredy’. Many are still growing in our “museum” and they are flowering non-stop from October to May. Their growth is boosted with fertilizer every month. This really is an important aspect for summer rose care.

Last month I wrote about an article in the “The American Rose” about how members residing in Arizona, eventually overcame the myth that roses will not grow and flower during very hot climatic stretches and need to go into semi dormancy. They experimented by fertilising and obviously watering their roses and reaped lovely blooms during the hot summers.

With temperatures rising, I must emphasise again the importance of fertiliser in combination with available water to encourage new growth and leaves. The leaves encourage new root development, a rapid sap flow is ensured to keep the plant cool and especially when the nights are cool the roses flourish and flower in summer’s heat.

### **New roses officially launched: Relais and Chateau & Rhona Lya**

#### **Rose of the Month: NONA**

‘Nona’ was created in honour of a loving mom and an inspirational business woman by her doting family. The ‘Nona’ rose is a great combination between floribunda and hybrid tea. The floriferousness is achieved by an abundance of long lasting individual blooms on straight, strong and well balanced stems.

Layers of firm petals unfold from a medium sized, shapely bud developing into an attractive rosette shaped bloom. The thick, firm petals ensure a neat and fresh appearance for an astounding long period. Picked for home arrangements these attractive blooms exude a pleasant scent.

‘Nona’ is vigorous and maintains a neat bush between hip and chest height and is clothed with medium green, tough foliage.

It has inherited from ‘Iceberg’ the ability to grow and re-sprout from older woody branches.

#### **News from our Rose Centres:**

**Ludwig’s Rose Farm** north of Pretoria on the N1 motorway:

Join me for our annual holiday, ‘Walk and talk’ among the roses on the public holiday, Tuesday December 16 from 09h30. Don’t forget to bring a hat and wear comfortable walking shoes. There is no charge.

Don’t forget to diarise our Summer Rose Care demonstrations on January 3 and 11 at 10h 30.

**Ludwig’s SOLEIL Cut Roses** in Lynnwood Road, Pretoria:

I will be giving the Summer Rose Care demo on 11 January at 14h00.

**Ludwig's Roses EGOLI** in Glenferness, JHB:

I will be giving the Summer Rose care demo on January 4 and 10 at 10h30

**Ludwig's Roses Winelands** near Stellenbosch:

I will be giving the Summer Rose care demos on Saturday January 17 and Sunday January 18 at 10h30.

**Ludwig's Roses Cape Town (Chart Farm)**

Visit our new rose centre at the lovely Chart Farm at Constantia where I will give a demo on Saturday January 17 at 14h00.

**Ludwig's STAR Roses** in Hillcrest, KZN:

We are fully stocked. Our rose name signage is coming soon :)

Wishing you and your family a peaceful festive season and a very happy start to the new year!

Rose greetings

Ludwig Taschner

Ludwig's Roses

P.O. Box 28165

Sunnyside

Pretoria, Gauteng 0132

South Africa

This email was sent to: