

Use common sense with pesticides

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Environmental Biologist

Home gardeners can protect plants against pests using the many types of pesticides available. Today we have many pesticides, each one packaged in a variety of ways. For the home gardener, these are formulated in several ways. These include liquids to be diluted with water and sprayed onto the foliage of plants to protect them from insects and diseases, or applied to the soil for control of pests in the soil.

The homeowner can also purchase dust formulations in shaker cans, ready-to-apply or in packages to be emptied

into your own duster for application. Granular formulations are also available, sometimes mixed with fertilizer, for control of soil and lawn insects, diseases and weeds.

On each package will be found a label that specifies how the product should be used and what pests it will control. **This label is important.** It is your guide to successful use of the product. Follow the instructions carefully and use the product only as the label directs.

Insecticides are products to kill the insects. Carbaryl (Sevin), methoxychlor, pyrethrum and rotenone are good to control most beetles and leaf-eating

caterpillars, while malathion is good to control aphids and some other insects.

Insecticides should be used only if a lot of insects are feeding on your plants. Don't bother with the sprayer for a few bugs. If only a few are present on a few plants, it is much easier to pick them off by hand or shake them from the plant and destroy them.

Fungicides are products to prevent diseases in plants. Maneb, mancozeb, captan and ferbam are some of those used commonly by the home gardener for general disease control, and sulfur is especially good for mildew on plants.

When using fungicides, be guided by past exper-

ience. If you have been having disease problems in the garden, treat those plants where the problem has occurred. Foliar diseases on roses are usually present and will make them unattractive and not productive. With many flowers and garden crops, however, fungicides are not necessary.

Herbicides are used to control weeds; 2,4-D, mecoprop and dicamba are a few of those available for control of broad-leaved weeds, while others are needed to control crabgrass. Herbicides properly used will play a major role in keeping your lawn neat and attractive.

Herbicides are intended to kill plants and one must be very careful

not to accidentally apply these when they will damage sensitive crops. Always use a different sprayer for applying herbicides from the one used for insecticides and fungicides. Label your herbicide sprayer to make sure it is used only for weed spraying.

In Ontario, highly toxic pesticides can be purchased only by agriculturalists and licensed pesticide applicators. Those available to the home gardener are quite safe and will not injure children or pets, provided common sense is used.

Remember all pesticides are poisonous. Inet out of the reach of small children. Do not apply pesticides on windy

days, most of what you apply will end up in your neighbor's yard. Apply when the air is reasonably calm and make applications so the air movement carries the spray away from the applicator. Do not have children or pets with you when applying pesticides and make sure measuring containers and spray mixtures are not left where children may get them.

When you have finished the job, empty your sprayer in a safe place and return it to your storage. Do not purchase more than one year's supply of any pesticide, and when the container is empty, dispose of it in your regular garbage pickup.

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Roses: Cascades of bloom

By Dick Barrett

Horticultural Science
Many of today's gardeners, eager for quick results from their efforts, overlook one of the more valuable plants that fits the homegrounds landscape—the climbing rose.

Climbers are different. They seldom make a showing the first season after planting. A scant few blooms may appear, but most of the plant's energies are directed to producing one or more long, sturdy, flowerless canes.

Second season results are more rewarding. The leafy but sterile canes of the first season's growth suddenly branch profusely, sending forth a shower of blossoms. Third and subsequent growing seasons bring cascades of blooms to brighten the yard and fill table vases to overflowing.

Patience and attention to particular needs are essential in the successful culturing of climbing roses. Rewards more than justify the gardener's efforts.

Climbers differ in habit of growth from the more familiar bush types. They are not really climbing plants at all, but consist of long arching canes, often six to fifteen feet in length, requiring

some means of support.

If left in their natural state, unsupported, the heavy canes will soon bend under their own weight and sprawl along the ground. Hence, for display, canes are us-

ually trained across a trellis, tied to a post, or allowed to trail along a fence.

Modern climbers are not confined to a limited color range or season of blooms as early types

were. Today's climbers comprise a wide variety of types, arranged into three distinct classes: large-flowered climbers (including the pillar roses, ramblers), climbing versions of hybrid tea

roses, floribundas, grandifloras, polyanthas and miniatures.

The large-flowered class includes the majority of climbing types. They bear two to six inch blossoms in loose clusters on long, arching canes. Most large-flowered climbers are the hybrid offspring of naturally occurring wild climbing roses, found in various parts of the world.

Like their ancestors, they have strong, resilient canes, possess excellent resistance to disease and cold weather and bloom profusely. Some blossom heavily early in the season, producing few flowers later. Others bloom heavily twice—in spring and fall—and also produce scattered, intermittent blossoms.

Pillar roses, a special sub-class of the large-flowered type, are distinguished by sturdy, upright stems and are generally of shorter stature. Growing to a height of five to ten feet on stiff canes, the pillar roses envelop the post or narrow trellis used to support them.

The ramblers, another class of climbing roses, are rarely seen today, except on large estates and in old country gardens. Their decline in popularity can be at-

tributed to the introduction of improved large-flowered types and climbing versions of the newer hybrid bush roses. These factors, coupled with a variety of less desirable traits, including rampant growth, susceptibility to mildew, infrequent flowering and the annual need for heavy pruning, have caused the ramblers to fade into obscurity.

Climbing versions of popular bush types of roses, especially hybrid tea, polyantha and floribunda types, have replaced ramblers. Their continuous flowering, disease resistance, wide range of flower sizes and colors and more tidy, compact habit of growth, suit them to the modern homesite.

As a class, their only drawback to Canadian gardeners is their slightly reduced cold resistance. However, if they are given proper winter protection, they will flourish even in our northerly climatic zones. The type and amount of winter protection will vary with the locality.

In mild areas, near the north shore of Lake Erie and through the Niagara Peninsula, it may be sufficient to lean evergreen boughs against the canes, or to wrap them with waterproof paper or burlap.



Chuck Copeland, owner of Copeland Lumber on Main St., invites you in to look over the company's large stock of home improvement and gardening supplies. Copeland Lumber has a four-page home improvement section inside this special section.