

# This is the week to plant your fall bulbs

Fall rains have finally relieved the severe drought in our gardens, but don't forget to check foundation plantings. The soil under overhangs can stay amazingly dry!

If you haven't planted your fall bulbs yet, try to get it done this week.

Late plantings should be covered with mulch to prevent the soil from freezing until the roots have a chance to develop.

Last week I travelled to Virginia to attend a conference sponsored by *Horticulture* magazine. One of the speakers was Rob Procter and I purchased his recently-released book, "Naturalizing Bulbs."

I highly recommend it — not only is it full of information, but there's a chuckle on every page. Rob's sense of humour has given us a gardening book that is fun to read.

Now, let's discuss several insects which find roses irresistible.

Several kinds of aphids (tiny pear-shaped insects which may be green, pink, black, gray or woolly white) usually congregate on the stem tips and buds.

Their feeding damages leaves and buds. English

books refer to them as greenfly. Sliding gloved fingers along the stem tips will destroy much of the colony.

Spraying the plants vigorously with water every two to three days will dislodge many of them. Some people plant garlic or marigolds among their roses to act as a deterrent. The best aphid eater is the larval form of the ladybug.

During hot dry weather if leaves become stippled with yellow and there are webs between the leaves and stems, spider mites are the problem.

Note that these almost invisible insects are not spiders. Spiders are the gardener's best friend, as they destroy many harmful insects. Try dislodging spider mites by spraying with water.

Sucking insects — aphids, mites, whitefly, mealybugs and scale — secrete a sugary, sticky honeydew on which can grow a black fungus called sooty mold. This can be washed off with soapy water.

My biggest problem is the sawfly larvae — they can defoliate a rose bush in front of you! These tiny green caterpillar-like creatures are so well camouflaged that they are easily missed.



## Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

Damage may occur throughout the summer because different species feed at different times. Wear gloves when handpicking, as they can cause skin irritation. If you have a bad infestation gently knock your rosebushes with a broom everyday — this dislodges the larvae and they become food for toads

and ground birds.

Nothing is more frustrating than to see plump buds suddenly wilt and die! This may be the work of several culprits — the white larvae of the rose midge, the 1/4 inch roseleaf beetle which is red with a black beak or the rose curculio which is 1/8 inch and shiny green-blue.

If flower buds fail to open and have brown edges, the problem may be thrips which are light brown, slender and move quickly.

The best defense against insects is

regular inspection. If hand-picking or knocking them off isn't effective, try spraying with insecticidal soap.

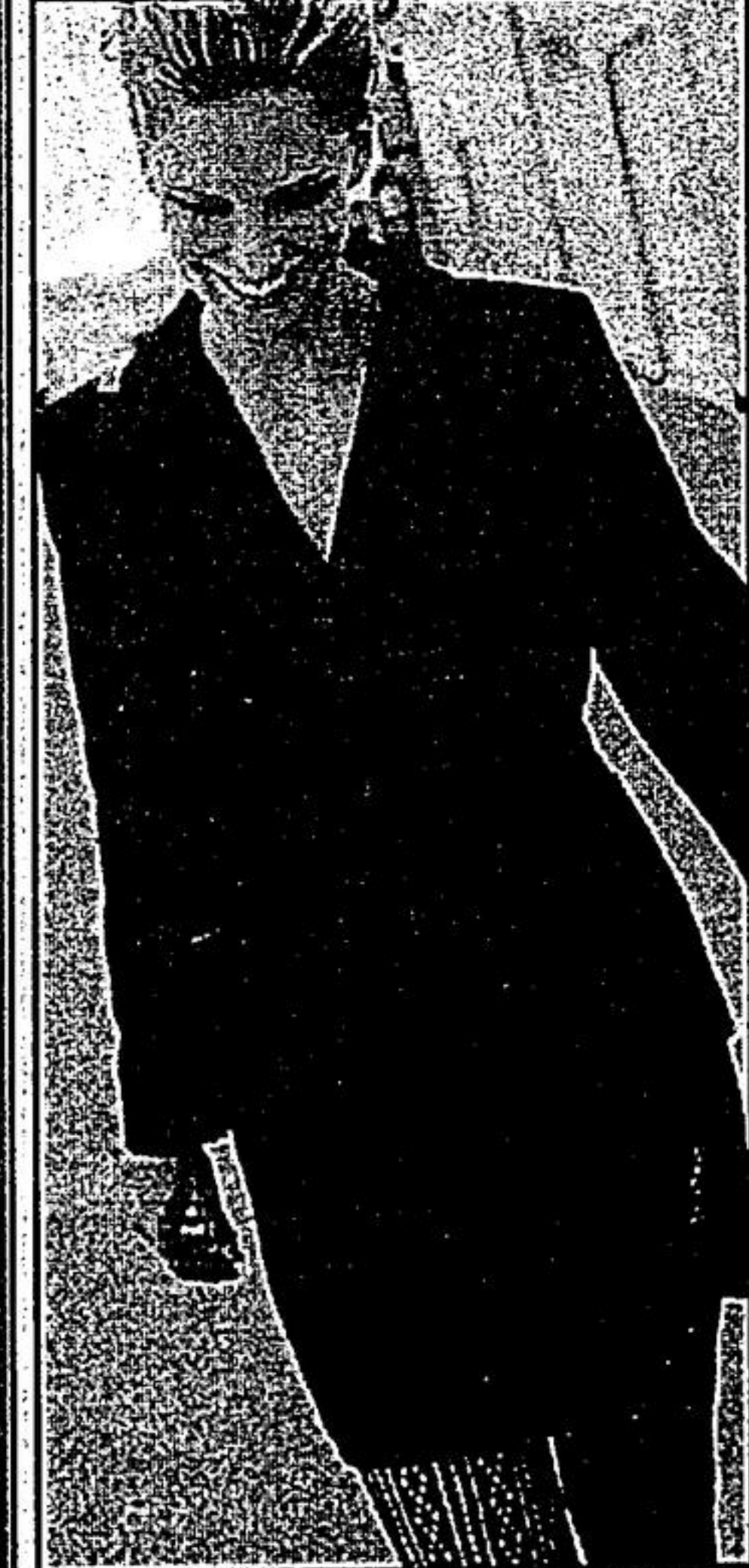
As a last resort spray with pyrethrin or rotenone — both natural insecticides made from plants. When using insecticides always spray three times at 4-7 day intervals. Remember the aim is to control not eradicate.

Send questions or comments to: Marjorie Mason Hogue, c/o Uxbridge Tribune, 88 Brock Rd. W., Uxbridge, ON L9P 1R4.

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SAT. NOV. 8<sup>th</sup>



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## An Important Notice to York Region Voters

The York Region Board of Education wishes to confirm that all polling stations at York Region public schools will be fully operational for the November 10, 1997 Municipal Election. This includes advance polls for the Town of Newmarket.

We have been assured that the provincial strike, should it continue, will not impede your ability to vote.

Bill Crothers  
Chair of the Board

Bill Hogarth  
Director of Education