

2007 AWARD OF MERIT WINNER
PROPER TIMING MEANS MORE ROSE BLOOMS
FOR THE SEPTEMBER ROSE SHOW

By Bill Reynolds

Roses bloom in cycles. Under controlled conditions such as in a greenhouse, roses can be stimulated to rebloom at six week intervals. For those of us who grow our roses outside, the time between bloom and rebloom will vary depending on our weather conditions. It has also been determined that the petal count on a variety will help to determine the recycle time between blooms. So, a rose like 'Dainty Bess' is going to bloom again more quickly than, say, the more heavily petaled 'Gemini' or 'Black Magic'.

For our September 29th Rose Show, it will be very important to time your pruning/deadheading so that you will have the most blooms available to choose from in your garden. A Rose Show without very many roses would be like a car race without very many race cars - **VERY BORING!**

Rose growers can learn the time it takes for roses to rebloom in our summer climate and also the variations in times between different varieties. You could be experimenting now with your own roses to determine the intervals between bloom and rebloom on different varieties. Simply deadhead a rose bush and write down the date you are doing so. Then, wait until it blooms and subtract the two dates for the amount of days (weeks) it took the bush to recycle itself.

We must also be aware that if we do more than just deadhead our roses (meaning some more serious cutbacks/pruning) it could take as much as an extra week or two to rebloom.

I plan to deadhead my roses in the following manner this year for the September Rose Show. From the show date of September 29th I am counting back seven weeks. I will actually be deadheading three different weeks or about a third of a bush each time. That means I will do the first deadheading during the week of August 5th to August 11th, the second deadheading sweep will take place from August 12th to August 18th and the final sweep where I will deadhead everything that is left will take place from August 19th to August 25th.

I am hoping that the above schedule will give me the greatest chance of having the largest number of blooms (all at different stages of opening) available for the Fall Show! I suggest you create a deadheading plan of your own or adapt mine to your own unique situation. And remember - there are never any guarantees as Mother Nature always seems to have plans of her own!