

The Richmond Rose Garden



Volunteer's Guide

If you are interested in volunteering to work in the garden, please call the Wayne County Foundation at (765) 962-1638.

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Thank you for volunteering to care for the Richmond Rose Garden! Your time and energy will help preserve one of the most beautiful places in Richmond, Indiana!

History

The Rose Garden was opened to the public in 1987 after three years of planning. It was inspired by the Zweibrucken Garden in Germany and brought to life by a group of dedicated citizens who wished to showcase Richmond's rose history. Their efforts resulted in this splendid garden that is now designated as an All America Display Garden by the All-America Rose Selection Board (AARS). Today, the Richmond Rose Garden is lovingly maintained by volunteers and is financed by contributions and memorial gifts.

Adopt a Plot

When you volunteer to help at the Richmond Rose Garden, you will have the opportunity to work side-by-side with other volunteers who love to share their knowledge and rose-tending skills. Later, you may choose to be responsible for your own plot where you can experience the enormous satisfaction of watching the roses in your bed flourish under your care.

Rose Garden Board Meetings

The Richmond Rose Garden Board of Directors meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at noon at the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. All volunteers are invited and encouraged to attend these one-hour meetings. The Board reviews upcoming events, like weddings and tours in the garden, as well as schedules for fertilizing, mulching, planting, and spraying.

Skills and Tools Needed

People of all levels of gardening skills, from beginner to master gardeners, are welcome to work in the garden. You'll need simple tools:

- Sharp pruning shears
- Good gardening gloves, preferably leather to protect against thorns
- Garden spade
- Small bucket for collecting weeds and spent blooms
- Broom for clean-up of the walks around your plot

How to Care for Your Plot

Caring for the Rose Garden is a year-round activity. The following is a summary of the work that is typically done during the season.

Early Spring

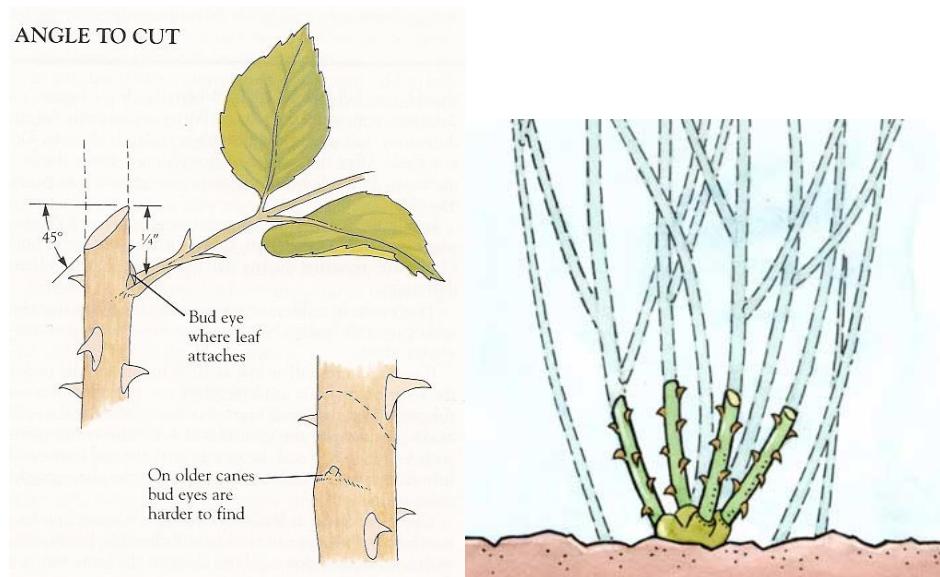
This is the time of year to “wake up” the garden. The Board designates a clean-up day, usually sometime in April depending on the status of the Spring weather. You can come any time, but on clean-up day you know you will be joined by other volunteers who can offer advice and answer questions. You will perform three major tasks:

- Gently pull back the mulch from the base of the rose plant so as not to damage new shoots. A paint stick works well.
- Remove weeds
- Prune the rose bushes of old, dead canes



TIP - How do you “prune” roses?

- Cut at a 45-degree angle about 1/4 inch above outward-facing bud. The cut should slant away from the bud. This allows rainwater to run off the cut surface rather than pooling and creating an incubator for fungal diseases.
- Entirely remove all dead or dying canes. These can be identified as canes that are shriveled, dark brown, or black.
- Remove crossing and rubbing canes, and open up the center of the plant for good air circulation.



Spring

After the chance of frost has passed, fertilize the rose bushes. Fertilizer is furnished by the Board and is usually stored under the bench in the arbor. The fertilizer should be scattered in a ring about 10" from the trunk and scratched lightly into the soil. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 cup of dry fertilizer for each plant, more for a bush rose.



Usually around May 15, the garden comes to life with annuals that are delivered by the Richmond Park Department. The Board designates a day to plant annuals around the perimeter of the beds. They should be uniformly spaced about eight inches apart, or about every other brick.

Summer

This is the most beautiful time in the garden, especially when all the rose bushes are in their first blooms of the season! During this time of year, you'll be working independently in the garden to maintain the health of your roses. There are three ongoing activities you'll be performing:

- Weed control. Weeds are most easily removed following a light summer rain when the ground is moist. Careful use of Round-Up is recommended for stubborn thistle weeds.
- Fertilizing. Continue to apply fertilizer about every six weeks during the peak blooming months, but not after mid-August.
- Deadheading. Roses are deadheaded in order to prompt the bush into producing yet more blooms. The blooms should be deadheaded just as the petals are about to fall or shortly thereafter.



TIP - What is "deadheading"?

Once a rose has bloomed, it should be removed, and the term applied to this procedure is called "deadheading". One should use pruning shears that are sharp in order to avoid tearing the cane as opposed to cutting it. Cuts should also be made at a 45-degree angle and about 1/4" above a leaf set. Leaf clusters on roses either come 3, 5 or 7 leaves to a

set. The first deadheading of the season will likely be made just above a 3-leaf set. Future deadheadings will usually take place just above a 5-leaf set, usually because you'll find many more 5-leaf sets than 3 or 7.



Fall

Continue to control weeds, but discontinue deadheading in late September to prepare the rose plants for their upcoming dormant time.

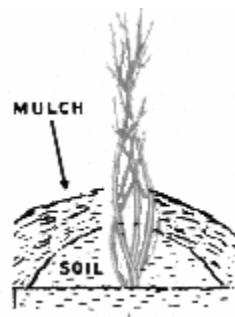
Late Fall

At this time there will have been a “hard” or “killing” frost. It’s now safe to “put the garden to bed.” Again, the Board will determine a “clean-up” day for the following activities:

- Remove dead annuals.
- Mulch the rose bushes to prevent winter damage to the base of the plant. Mulch will be provided by the Richmond Park Department.



TIP - Mulch should be mounded around the tender crown of the rose.



Winter

Enjoy a special luncheon for all volunteers the first Tuesday of December! Regular board meetings resume in February.

Other Information:

- All plots in the Rose Garden are serviced by a central irrigation system. Volunteers must assure that the hoses in your plot are above the mulch and are positioned around the roses. The irrigation system is on a timer and will automatically water your plot. If you see any breaks or leaks in the system, please contact a Board member.
- The Parks department sprays the roses for us to prevent black spot and Japanese Beetle damage. Please make sure you know which day of the week this will occur so you can avoid working in the garden then.
- Please deposit all your garden waste in the “Rosy Rollers” located in the garden. The rollers can be emptied behind the shed near the visitor parking lot.
- All “clean-up” or “work” days designated by the Board are usually scheduled on Fridays or Saturdays.
- The Richmond Rose Garden is privileged to have Star bricks in the walks surrounding the rose plots. These bricks have a rich heritage in Richmond and have been in the sidewalks of some of Richmond’s historic neighborhoods for almost 100 years. The South walkway of the garden has been designated as a tribute walkway. Here you will find personalized bricks that have been purchased by donors in honor of someone special.

All volunteers in the garden take special pride in assuring this walkway stays clean and clear of weeds in tribute to those who are honored by the bricks.



Thank you for joining the Richmond Rose Garden Volunteers!