



# *The Northeast Rose Gardener*

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

*By  
Angelina & Mike Chute*

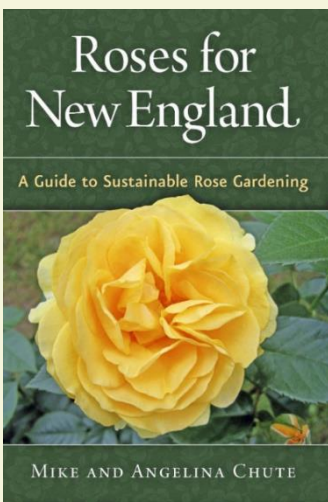
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*The Northeast Rose Gardener is a quarterly e-newsletter written and edited by Mike and Angelina Chute and focuses on basic rose horticulture. Each issue will contain seasonal advice as well as tips and personal anecdotes from our over two decades of rose gardening in the Northeast.*

In this Issue of the  
Northeast Rose Gardener

you'll find:

- A Rose's Journey: •
- From Pollination
- to Planting
- Grades of Roses •



***Everything you need  
to know about  
growing roses is in  
our book!***

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## **Fall 2023**

No sooner does one gardening season end and the next begins.

For us, that means a busy lecture series that begins in January and culminates in September when we will present our newest program, “The Brownells: American Rose Pioneers,” at the 2024 American Rose Society National Convention. The program will debut on March 19 in Little Compton, RI (hosted by the Little Compton Historical Society) which is an appropriate venue since the Brownells hybridized and sold their “Sub Zero” roses throughout the United States from Little Compton.

Meanwhile, rose catalogs are showing up online and in mail boxes, introducing the latest and greatest new rose varieties to great fanfare. While these roses are promoted as “new,” they are the winners of a rigorous selection process that had spanned ten years. In this issue of *The Northeast Rose Gardener*, we explain how new roses are created and follow their journey from pollination to local nurseries. We will also explain how the American Association of Nurserymen grades roses.

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**A Rose's Journey:  
From Pollination to Planting in  
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**Rose Bed in Mike and Angelina's Garden**

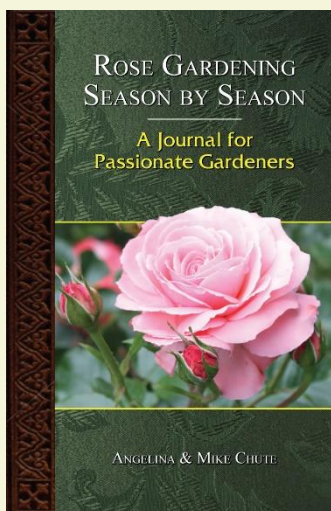
For commercial growers in the United States, it takes 10 years from the date of pollination to official introduction in local nurseries. How does this process start?

It begins with a dream of what an ideal rose should be. Each hybridizer has one or more primary objectives and will spend their entire career searching for that one perfect rose. While each breeder has various objectives, disease resistance/winter hardiness is paramount, followed by color novelty, floriferousness and growth habit. Fragrance is a major plus. Thousands of crosses are made in the first year in every breeding program, each carefully planned as to what each parent can contribute. However, no matter how much genetic science is employed, each resulting seedling is a complete mystery until it blooms. Four years of harsh testing follows; any whiff of early disease or abnormality of any kind and a seedling is culled. Field testing continues, followed by 2 years of multiplying enough stock to go to market. What started out as a 100,000 or more germinated seedlings in year one results in three or maybe four new introductions by year ten.

## The Rose Journal

We are available to present rose programs to groups in person and through Zoom. If your organization needs a speaker, even at the last minute, let us know. Contact [mike at rosesolutions](mailto:mike@rosesolutions.net) for more details..

If you like to keep a garden journal, you'll love our ***Rose Gardening Season by Season: A Journal for Passionate Gardeners***



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**Rose Fields in California**

In late November, the bushes are harvested, graded and packed into bundles of 10 and then stored in enormous refrigerated rooms until the first of the year. In January, nurseries in the deep south start receiving their roses and shipping continues northward as the weather warms. Retail outlets in the northeast take delivery of their rose shipments in late April.



**Rose Fields Ready for Harvest**

Local nurseries in our area look for their rose deliveries a few weeks before Mother's Day, their busiest weekend of the season. These will be containerized plants that were potted up by the grower prior to delivery and are ready for sale. Shoppers can see these growing plants after they have left dormancy and evaluate stems, buds, foliage and blooms. We often shop at a garden center in our area that not only sells retail but wholesale as well. Roses are displayed in bins by varieties and provides us with wide choices.

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## **From the Rose Journal**

"After Christmas, collect a few discarded Christmas trees, lop off the boughs and criss-cross them at the base of some roses. This recycling provides additional winter cover plus adds interest to the now frosty landscape."

## **Suggestions or Comments?**

Let us know if you have any topics you would like to see in future issues of *The Northeast Rose Gardener*. Send us any suggestions, questions, or comments. We'd love to hear from you.

Send an email to:

[Rosesolutions](mailto:Rosesolutions)

## **Did you know we offer Consultation Services?**

We provide on-site consultations and



**Rose Bins at Local Garden Center**

Roses can also be bought through mail order sources. Here the plants are shipped as dormant, bare root roses – no soil on their roots. Mail order roses provide additional choices beyond local nurseries, including hard-to-find varieties, and are shipped just in time for planting. Be sure to order early, pre-Christmas is not too soon, for best choice.



**Container Roses in Chute's Garden**

While we, like roses, need a period of dormancy at the end of the season, it doesn't take much to get our gardeners juices flowing once the new year arrives.

## **Grades of Roses**

specific  
recommendations on rose  
selection, planting and  
maintaining your rose  
garden. For more  
information, visit  
[RoseSolutions.net](http://RoseSolutions.net)



### Grade #1 Rose

After harvesting, grafted roses are graded on a set of standards based on size and quality established by the American Association of Nurserymen. Look for the grade on the label, in the catalog, or ask at the garden center or when placing an order.

**Number 1** is the highest grade in the industry. It •  
has three or more canes growing from the bud  
union, each having a diameter at least as thick as  
a pencil - thicker is better. The length of the canes  
should be fifteen to eighteen inches although  
length is not critical.

**Number 1½** is the same as number 1, but with •  
only two canes, and represents good value when  
sold at a discount.

**Number 2** is a cull and not recommended. •

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**Next Issue:** Look for our Winter 2024 issue of *The  
Northeast Rose Gardener* in February 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,  
Mike and Angelina Chute

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