



The Northeast Rose Gardener

A Quarterly Newsletter

*By
Angelina & Mike Chute*

www.rosesolutions.net

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.

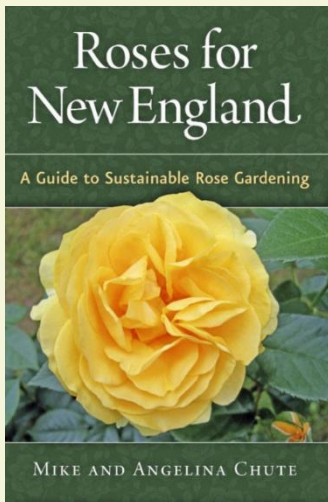
In this Issue of the
Northeast Rose Gardener
you'll find:

- Unwelcome •
- Guests in the Rose
Garden
- Rose Rosette •
- Disease
- Spotted Lantern •
- Fly

Summer 2026

The rose budding season just ended. I propagated mostly vintage Brownell varieties and a few out-of-patent varieties that we like. Interestingly, the Brownell rose nursery closed in 1970 and yet the demand for those roses continues. Recently we received inquiries from people in Chicago and Montana as well as continued robust interest from local gardeners. We also began preparing a new rose bed for our Brownell collection. The old bed has become invaded with a thick root mass from nearby oak and maple trees in adjoining property and are choking the

Photos: Quebec •
Rose Society
Rose Show



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roses. I will amend the soil in the new bed now and transplant around Thanksgiving.

Our trip to Quebec last June included a visit with old friends Claire Laberge, the former horticultrice of the Roseraie at the Montréal Botanical Garden and Diane Vigneault, president of the Société des Roses du Québec (Quebec Rose Society). We enjoyed a Saturday morning at their Rose Show and saw some beautiful entries. While there, we met a new friend, Mèlissa Fontaine, the jardinière auxiliaires at the Roseraie. We were treated to warm hospitality, as usual, by our Canadian friends including a visit to the Roseraie guided by Claire and Mèlissa which was abruptly ended by a pop-up thunder storm.

In this issue of the *New England Rose Gardener*, we address a couple of rose problems new to our garden, Rose Rosette Disease and an attack by the Spotted Lantern Fly.

Unwelcome Guests in the Rose Garden

Zoom Programs

All of our in-person programs are also available as Zoom presentations

To see a list & descriptions of our Rose Programs, visit our website
[RoseSolutions](http://RoseSolutions.com)

The Brownells: American Rose Pioneers

Our Newest
PowerPoint
Program is all
about Brownell
Roses.

It includes the
history of Walter
and Josephine
Brownell's



Graham Thomas

Growing roses is a rewarding and enjoyable activity. But like any pastime, sometimes the unexpected occurs. Such was the case in our garden. First, we had the unpleasant arrival of Rose Rosette Disease several years ago. Then, this summer we experienced the appearance of the Spotted Lantern Fly. Two unanticipated pests that had to be dealt with. Like all aspects of gardening, there are different approaches and solutions for treating these unwelcome pests.

Rose Rosette Disease:

There has been a great deal of concern among rose gardeners about Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) in their gardens. For those of you who aren't familiar with RRD, it is a viral infection that has no cure. This virus is carried by the tiny eriophyid mite and spreads when the mite feeds on a healthy plant after feeding on an infected plant. The mite cannot fly, but travels via wind currents that can

creation of what became known as SubZero Roses as well as the history of their hybridizing program in Rhode Island.

A complete description of this program can be found on our website's [Program Page.](#)

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[**The Rose Journal**](#)

carry it long distances.

It causes severe structural deformation, most notably "witches' broom," growth which looks like a clustered mass of weak spindly shoots that originate from a single point. Other symptoms include excessive thorn production, distorted blooms and stunted buds. The early tell-tale is bright red new growth that fails to turn green as it matures. RRD ultimately kills the rose within a few years.



Photo by Angelina Chute

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Deformed Growth on Roses

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](#) for more details..

Transplanting Roses

A tip from our Rose Journal:

If you're planning on transplanting roses, do it when they are dormant but before the ground freezes. If you have a large rose bush to transplant, prune it back and water it well the day before you dig it up. This will help keep the root ball intact.

Several years ago, on a driving trip to Washington, DC, we had encountered RRD at a rest stop off Rt 95. There we saw for the first time, roses infected with RRD. A cluster of Knock Out roses demonstrated the typical symptom of witches' broom and red canes. At that time, it was thought that Knock Out roses were more prone to this disease, but that thinking has since been debunked. The research and response to that misinformation led to the conclusion that Knock Out roses had more than its share of RRD because, in reality, there were more Knock Out roses grown than any other variety.

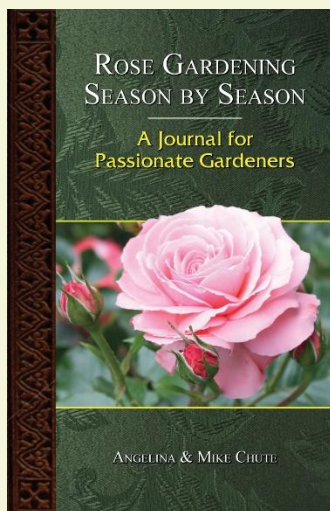


Diseased Stem Growing on Graham Thomas

In early summer five years ago, we discovered a bird's nest in Graham Thomas. We waited until the eggs in the nest hatched and all the birds left, then we moved the nest elsewhere. As the second bloom cycle began, we noticed

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a reddish stem growing. (All stems from Graham Thomas are green including new juvenile growth which is often reddish on many other varieties.) This began to alarm us as we knew that was a symptom of RRD. The stem grew thicker with witches' broom. We pruned it off, hoping we caught it in time, but it grew back.

We kept an eye on Graham and then noticed that lots of thorns also developed - another symptom of RRD. At this point a tough decision was made – Graham had to go. The day we slowly dug up our beautiful Graham Thomas rose was like going to a funeral.

We wondered where the mite came from. Could it have piggy backed on the birds' feathers? Was it imbedded in the plant material that formed the nest? Or did the mites just blow in?

Graham Thomas was the only rose affected by RRD, none before, none since. We chose not to replant anything in that spot and have left it as a grassy plot.

On the bright side of dealing with RRD, there is now anecdotal evidence that indicates that very early removal of infected canes when they first show any symptoms may prevent the spread of this systemic infection. Also, research is ongoing into the development of RRD resistant varieties.

Our advice to anyone who may think that they have a rose with RRD: be cautious. RRD shares symptoms with other rose diseases that are non-terminal. There is a plethora of photos and information on RRD online, so carefully check these resources out and talk with friends who have experienced RRD. A local rose society is a

good place to start.

Spotted Lantern Fly:



Adult Spotted Lantern Fly

Last summer, when everyone was talking about the Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF), we were blissfully unaware of this pest. When we became conscious of its existence and infestation in RI, we were on the lookout for it as we took our daily walk along the East Bay Bike Path. There, we discovered egg masses adhered to trees and then several of the colorful, red-spotted insects crawling along the path. We did what the RI Department of Environmental Management. (DEM) suggested: eliminate them by crushing. This is not always easy to do since the SLF have the ability to sense danger and jump quickly out of the way. Dutifully, we inspected our garden, but found no sign of them. This year was a different story.



Nymph Stage 1

Around early July, we saw an infestation of small insects. They appeared as 1/4 - 1/2" black nymphs (nstars) with white spots clinging to rose canes. We were not alone in this discovery. There was a flurry of questions on the RI Rose Society's membership list-serv asking what these insects were and how to get rid of them. Soon, they were identified and suggestions made on how to destroy them. Suggestions ranged from catching them in bottles, using a hand-held vacuum to suck them up, to spraying them with a homemade solution of vinegar and dish soap. We had so many of these insects, that we decided on a solution that worked for us - a pesticide that would destroy them. The Spotted Lantern Fly, which doesn't fly but actually

jumps and crawls, is originally from China and was first noticed in Pennsylvania in 2014. It has quickly spread to many other states including Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts and New York to as far away as Ohio, Michigan and Tennessee. It is a destructive, sucking insect that can damage crops such as grapes and apples as well as stone fruits and walnuts, according to the RI Department of Environmental Management. While Spotted Lantern Flies will probably not kill a rose bush, they can certainly weaken them and affect the number and size of blooms produced. When they feed, they are attracted to the soft, new growth and excrete a sticky liquid called honeydew which attracts other destructive insects, that can promote the growth of black sooty mold.



Nymph Stage 2

We continue to see the SLF on the East Bay Bike Path and they have grown from early stage 1/2" black Nymphs to late-stage red and black spotted Nymphs to 1" gray adults that can jump 2 feet high! Luckily, some manufacturers have come out with a targeted spray to destroy the them. Meanwhile, keep an eye out this fall for the brown/gray egg masses that the adult SLF lay on outdoor surfaces such as barks of trees, rocks, cars and patio furniture. Methods to destroy these egg masses can be found on-line and is the best defense against being invaded by them next spring.

Photographs of the Quebec Rose Society Rose Show



Horticultural Entries



Awards Table

Above are some pictures taken during judging of the entries at the Quebec Rose Society Rose Show before the show was open to the public. Unlike at our Rose Shows, where 1st place ribbons are blue, in Canada the 1st place ribbons are red.

Below are some arrangements entered in the Show.



Arrangements

Next Issue: Look for our Fall 2026 issue of *The Northeast Rose Gardener* in November of 2026.

Mike and Angelina Chute

