

Bring Home the Silver (Jun-10-2008)

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Most of us have experienced walking through our rose garden and seeing a rose that displays all the characteristics of a winner of a silver trophy at the rose show. The only problem is, the rose show is two or three weeks away, and by that time, your potential "Queen" or silver trophy winner is past its peak bloom. Don't despair. There are a few tricks used by die-hard exhibitors, which I will share with you.

Refrigeration Technique:

- 1) Two or three weeks before the rose show, buy a thermometer. Radio Shack sells an inexpensive battery-operated precision indoor/outdoor thermometer, which can be hung inside the refrigerator with the reader adhered to the outside. The important objective is to chill the refrigerator to a constant 35 degrees.
- 2) All food should be in covered containers or remove all strong smelling food, especially apples and fruit, which emits a gas as they ripen and destroys the rose.
- 3) **TURN OFF THE LIGHT INSIDE YOUR REFRIGERATOR.**
- 4) Generally, cut the rose, when it is 1/3 open.
- 5) Submerge the rose to its "neck" in a pail of warm water for three hours.
- 6) Remove bottom 3 1/2" of leaves, but **LEAVE AT LEAST TWO – 5 LEAFLET LEAVES ON THE STEM.**
- 7) Re-cut under water.
- 8) Label the variety of the rose with paper strip – Use a ballpoint pen to identify the rose, and staple the strip just under flower.
- 9) Use deckle-edge or cuticle scissors to trim damaged leaves.
- 10) Open a file folder and staple the top, and use a rubber band at the bottom to form a "collar". Put a plastic baggie on top of the collar. **EVERY 4 DAYS REPLACE WARM WATER AND RECUT STEMS ONCE A WEEK.**

HOW TO GROOM YOUR ROSES ON THE DAY OF SHOW

Materials needed:

Mister
Saran Wrap
Tweezers
Artist's paint brush
Paper towels
Scissors (cuticle & deckle edge)
ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses

- 1) Go to your local liquor store and ask for boxes with dividers.
- 2) Place your roses, which have been groomed and in vases, in the boxes and turn on the air-conditioner before you place on the back seat in your car.
- 3) Groom the bloom:
 - a. Remove the outer petals if unsightly.
 - b. Use cuticle scissors to trim brown off bloom.
 - c. Tilt flower forward in vase making a wedge of saran wrap behind the bloom.
 - d. Mist rose to make it look "fresh" but don't overdo it.
 - e. If leaves are dull like "Pink Peace" rub slightly" with nylon.

To pick a Queen:

- a. Draw a vertical line down rose – half should be on one side and the other half on the other side.
- b. Viewed from the side, lower petals should not be below the horizontal plane. Draw a horizontal line at base of bloom. Remove anything hanging below.
- d. If sepal is too long, trim off and/or cut off another.
- e. Trim edges of bloom to promote symmetry.