



THINGS I WISH I HAD KNOWN SOONER

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[Houston Rose Society](#)

*(Excerpted from Baxter's Powerpoint
show "Things I Wish I'd Known Sooner")*

- A single 1-inch water line, from which 3/4-inch feeders run to each rose bed, is way-cheaper than separate long 1-inch lines to each bed, timewise and moneywise.
- There are no effective thrips-eaters.
- Spent blooms, cloudy days and dry weather also cause dormancy.
- Cuttings take two years to make a bush capable of producing an adequate quantity of flowers, while field-grown nursery stock can do so in less than six weeks.
- When a person says OGRs "have fragrance that has been bred out of Hybrid Teas, it means he/she either never grew or smelled 'Double Delight,' 'Oklahoma,' 'Mister Lincoln,' 'Chrysler Imperial,' 'John F. Kennedy,' 'Perfume Delight,' 'Jadis,' 'Fragrant Cloud,' 'Dolly Parton,' 'Lemon Spice,' 'Queen Elizabeth,' etc.
- Ladybird Beetles (ladybugs) are two weeks behind aphids. Their coal black-with-orange-stripes larvae look bad, but are really good guys.
- Blind shoots don't make flowers, do block light to other leaves, and do harbor pests.
- Water droplets don't burn leaves, anymore than a magnifying glass laid on a sheet of paper would burn the paper.
- A triple row of roses is a bad mistake.
- The fragrance of Fish Oil Emulsion under your fingernails is magnified after going to bed.
- The outgassing of asphalt from railroad crossties doesn't affect well-watered rose bushes.



- Landscape timbers are heavy, and therefore don't need rebar to stay in place, unless they have been remarkably shortened.
- One person can adequately care for a maximum of 200 rose bushes, with not enough time left to relax with family and friends. Same for two persons. 100 bushes is better.
- Talk to your roses; it does you good.
- Never plant more roses than your spouse can successfully tend.
- Every woman wants a gazebo in her garden area.
- Roses like sunshine all day long.
- Roses are poor converters of solar energy, and therefore require enormous amounts of it.
- Earthworms love alfalfa.
- Aluminum foil is stiffer than Saran Wrap and won't unwrap.
- If I'd known I'd win, I'd have started showing roses sooner.
- Too much alfalfa can kill a potted rose bush.
- If you didn't get wet, then you didn't knock off enough spider mites (using a Water Wand).
- A gallon of clean water left in the rinsed sprayer tank won't let residual wettable powder turn into stone.
- Eighteen-inch lengths of 5/8"-3/4" garden hose, slipped over 1/2"-5/8" reinforcement bar pieces (a 20-foot piece cut into thirds), are good protection for the cambiums of the canes tied thereto.
- White plastic knives make cheap namestakes.
- Rose Judges should have mandatory periodic eye exams.
- A dead bush is oftentimes a first indication that an drip system emitter has plugged.
- A "leaky pipe," left "on," will eventually rot the roots.
- Climbers should be pruned AFTER first bloom.
- All roses with the word "Blue" in their names are really some shade of purple.
- To the general public, fragrance beats show form, hands down.



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- Leaf cutter bees obviously either move faster than the speed of light or work during the hours of 2:00 am to 4:00 am, which is why they are never seen.
- The roots of rose bushes in pots grow in the direction that they are twisted into the pots.
- When tilling the "meals" (cotton-, bone-, fish- and blood-meals), apply them in that order, otherwise you will be smelling the blood-meal longer.
- The leaf at which a new cane forms on a cane will soon be aborted by the bush, naturally.
- A blackspotted leaf is doomed.

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