



# FISHING SEASON

By Rod Johnson



I listened with mixed emotions to Dr. Worf's presentation at the *Reinders Turf Conference* held in March. His presentation was filled with the usual slides and facts, but the theme was different. In his own humble way, Gayle was summarizing his activities and contributions to our industry. In his typical non-flamboyant fashion, Gayle was saying his good byes to the group.

There are more famous turfgrass pathologists than Dr. Worf. There is no more respected turfgrass pathologist than Dr. Worf.

Dr. Worf is not a braggart. I am proud and I am bragging that I had the opportunity to work with him, to have him do research plot work at this golf course, and to put to work the meaningful data that he has generated.

Dr. Worf will soon be focusing on a new interest—fishing. Best of luck and may they always be biting. You are always welcome to fish on this golf course and, by the way, could you take a look at my second green?

The busy month of May finds Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents on the fly. Far too many things to do, too many places to be, and not enough time in a day. Our dawn to dusk schedule seems to hardly leave time to take a good healthy reading session.

The month of May and this issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS* is not the time for lengthy composition extolling the virtues of WGCSA membership. The excitement and the challenge brought on by the season at hand is now center stage.

Now is the time to put to work the plans made during the winter months. It is the time to utilize the skills and new techniques learned during the off season's educational offerings.

The new season is a season of opportunity. To me, part of the excitement of being a golf course superintendent is the fresh start that the new season gives. Last year's failures are now just a memory and part of the experience bank. In May we have every reason to be every bit as optimistic as Tom Trebelhorn and Harry Dalton.

From most reports, Wisconsin golf courses weathered the winter of '90-91

quite well, thank you. Thank you to who? For me, the anticipation of what lies ahead and under winter's snow and ice cover led to an early spring hike. How ironic it was to find some scattered areas of snow mold. For the first time in several years, this fungus was showing its unpredictable nature. How ironic that snow mold was letting its presence be known at a time when University of Wisconsin plant pathologist extraordinaire, Dr. Gayle Worf, is busy planning his retirement. By his own admission, Dr. Worf has spent a tremendous amount of time in the pursuit of snow mold.



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# LILACS

By Monroe S. Miller

For about the first time in this busy spring, I took a few minutes to sit back and reflect on how beautiful a golf course is in the springtime. It can only be this special in mid-May.

I sat back in my golf car, feet up on the hood, and relished both the scenes of the golf course and the aroma of the delicious, steaming cup of coffee I'd just brewed.

It was the unusual light easterly breeze that drew my attention to our shopyard lilacs. Planted some twenty-five or more years ago to separate our yard from the state office building that is our neighbor, this rich and full planting serves up notice through its blossoms that the spring season is closing.

The season of the lilac is really very brief, as I reminded myself this morning. Because we are so busy these first days of each new golf season, we too often miss the beauty and change each day brings. The flowers of the lilac do not last long enough, making it important for us to watch them closely while they do bloom.

It would be nearly impossible to live, work or attend college in Madison and not be aware of lilacs. After all, we have the lilacs in the Longenecker Gardens at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. The lilac garden is the largest such collection in the United States. It has been here since 1935, and it now has more than 275 different kinds of lilacs in all kinds of colors—blue, lavender, deep purple, pure white and even red. Some of these lilacs are imported and have delicate blossoms; others are the bold, all-Wisconsin farm variety that I like best.

They are all beautiful, and visitors come from afar to see this singular collection. Think how lucky Randy Smith at the Nakoma Golf Club is—his shopyard is literally across the street from the Longenecker Gardens. Now there's a neighbor to have in the springtime!

The name lilac comes from a Persian word for "bluish". Plant historians, however, believe this extremely hardy shrub—it grows as far north as Hudson Bay—was brought from the moun-

tain slopes of southwestern China. An atlas will show you how far it is from that part of China to Europe; it's a long way to carry a transplant and have it survive. The fragrance and beauty of lilac flowers were powerful influences even centuries ago.

Lilacs were a favorite in Europe by the 17th century, gracing yards and gardens of magnificent castles and humble cottages alike. Those Europeans who travelled to New England for a better life took along lilac plants.

Some believe the first lilacs planted in America were planted in New Hampshire. It is, in fact, their state flower. Benning Wentworth, New Hampshire governor in 1750, landscaped his 52 room mansion and lilacs brought from England were an important part of that plan. Governor Wentworth was a gregarious fellow, entertaining lavishly and often. His guests frequently copied his use of lilacs and this shrub spread all over the countryside of New England.

History also tells us that some of America's earliest lilac imports were planted at George Washington's Mount Vernon home and farm in Virginia. Obviously our first president loved these spring blooms, too.

There is something about lilacs that always make me feel at home. That's not surprising for a person who loves New England and who had a profoundly happy childhood on a Wisconsin farm. Our farmstead featured dozens of individual lilac plantings. The blossoms and smells have been in nearly all of my Mays.

Almost every Wisconsin farm has lilacs—near the barns and sheds, in the fence rows and along nearby streams. Those planted near the farm house were called dooryard lilacs by my grandparents and others in their generation and before. As farmers left the rocky soils and harsh climate of New England for western lands like Wisconsin, lilac roots were among those possessions carried to begin again pioneer homesteads.

But on those farms they left behind, they also left behind lilacs. In the

wilderness, in the east, where some lilacs grow and still bloom, you know there once was a farm. Driving through the country on backroads, hiking over long abandoned roadways and searching through woodlands, lilacs almost always show the way to the cornerstone of an old foundation. Dooryard lilacs are also markers of old cellar holes.

Despite the completely disintegrated farm buildings and the crumbled walls of foundations of what was once a family's home, the lilacs bloom on. Often, they are nearly lost in the growth of the much larger trees which always move in to claim the unharvested ground. It is not uncommon, either, to find lilacs growing in old and abandoned graveyards.

This is all true in Wisconsin, too. Dooryard lilacs mark old original homesteads in our state. I can take you to places in southwestern Wisconsin and show you where one room schools used to stand; all that remains, often, to mark the spot are the steadfast dooryard lilacs.

In my inaugural spring at Blackhawk Country Club, my curiosity was piqued early on by a couple of clumps of very old lilacs. They were near our second and eleventh tees and tenth green. I suspected they were old dooryard lilacs, left from the farm that became our golf course early in this century.

The age of the plants was one clue—they were (still are) very old, even for that species. They were growing in somewhat peculiar places, not at all where you'd expect them to be if they had indeed been planted as golf course plants.

The evidence built when excavations, whether from irrigation system repairs or new tree planting holes, yielded things like rusty and square nails, horseshoes, broken bottle pieces, wire and hinges.

I discussed my suspicions with one of the oldest men on the crew. He recalled quite clearly what the property was like in the days before Blackhawk, pointing out confidently where the barn had been and where the farm house was. The house had been near, according to him, where my lilacs were.

But the compulsive part of my personality demanded complete confirmation—maybe a legal description or a historical document or an aerial photo

*(Continued on page 5)*

# U-DUMP

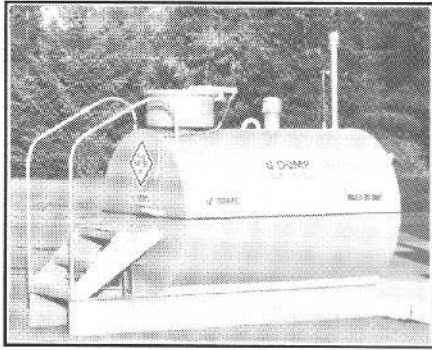
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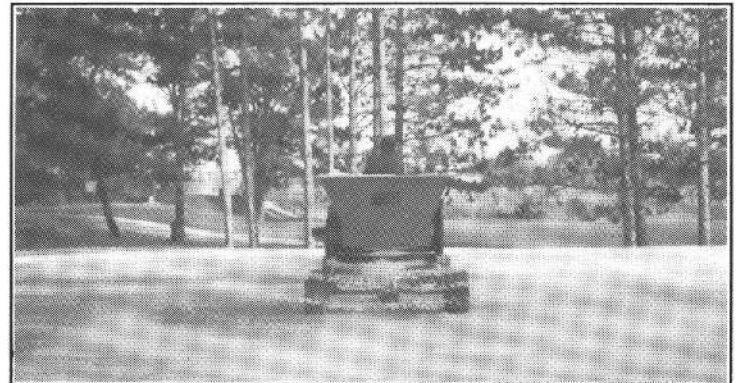
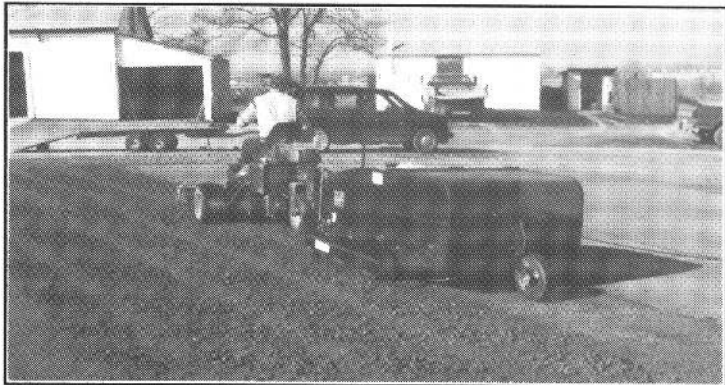
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(Continued from page 3)

or even an old picture. I even thought about how I could enlist the help of someone with infrared equipment.

As each spring turned to summer, my need to verify what those dooryard lilacs told me faded. But each succeeding spring, renewed and even heightened interest returned.

One summer day about five years ago, out of the blue, I received a visit from a very nice couple from Illinois—the Harvey Bauers. Harvey was recently retired and had the time to search for and revisit scenes from his past.

And Blackhawk Country Club was an important part of his family history. You see, his father, John Henry Herman Bauer, was the greenkeeper for the first six years of the course's existence. He had, in fact, done much of the building of the golf course.

That day was magic for me. I learned score of things about the place where I had invested so much time. His clear memory of so many things filled in gaps of my information. Before he left I got his address, gave him a scorecard and a copy of each of the booklets written about the Indian mounds on the golf course.

Later, I mailed him a copy of the November/December 1984 issue of *THE GRASS ROOTS*. That one was the special heritage issue. It carried stories

about the founding of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1930. The cover picture and a picture on page 9 showed those attending the 1930 University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Management Short Course.

Harvey called not long after that, excitedly. He and his wife had discovered, while reading *THE GRASS ROOTS*, his father in the picture on page 9. I quickly checked. Sure enough. Third from the left was John Bauer, then from Prairie View, Illinois and formerly from Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wisconsin.

In a subsequent summer Harvey returned with his older sisters Maida and Phyllis and his older brother Gerry. We walked the golf course and visited many of the places where this family had played when they were children. We stood where the farm house was in those days, and where the dooryard lilacs remain today.

Finally, the missing piece was in place and confirmed what the lilacs had told me over a decade earlier. My questions about who had lived there, where they went and what adventures they had experienced were answered as we stood in the grassed over area of the old farm house, next to the dooryard lilacs. Their memories were as sweet and lovely as the faithful lilacs

are when in bloom.

The aroma of the lilacs in my shopyard evoke memories of my rural childhood and Memorial Day parades. It reminds me of high school graduation and Sunday School at our Methodist Church. Nowadays lilacs remind me of the Bauer family and their time on our golf course, too.

The fragrance and blossoms and even the leaves of the lilac have inspired many lines of literature and poetry. Alfred Noyes of Old England wrote that if you "go down to Kew in lilac time you shall wander hand in hand in love." Amy Lowell sang of the lilacs in New England.

Walt Whitman reflected on the nostalgia-provoking fragrance of lilacs in "When Lilacs in the Dooryard Bloomed". In the verses of this poem he was mourning the death of Lincoln. His message was that the promise of the lilac was whether or not we are here to smell or see them, they will surely come back again.

I shall, soon, put some lilac roots of my own into this golf course ground, leaving a bit of immortality to bloom when May comes for a hundred years hence.

What better mark than some beautiful lilacs could you hope to leave on a piece of this earth?

## Voigt Honored at Retirement

By Randy Smith

On March 15th, approximately 150 persons surprised Woody and Betty Voigt with a party honoring Woody's retirement. His career included 21 years of service to the Ozaukee County Parks System and 13 years on a course in Fort Wayne.

Those attending the occasion at The Smith Brothers Fish Shanty Restaurant in Port Washington included two of the Voigt children, Lori and Ron and their families, relatives and friends associated with the Ozaukee County Park System. Also there were people from the Lions Club, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association.

By late summer, the Voigts plan to move to a little warmer climate—Arkansas—where they will be neighbors to some other familiar people from Wisconsin, Al and Marge Vrana.



Retirement Celebration for Woody and Betty Voigt

I'll bet there will be a few rounds of golf played there too!

Best of wishes to a fine couple and may they enjoy many great years in a well deserved retirement. And please remember to visit your friends in Wisconsin once in awhile!

### Otterbine Names Reinders Irrigation Division 1990 Service Center of the Year

Otterbine Barebo Incorporated, the Emmaus, Pennsylvania based manufacturer of vertical surface spray and asperating horizontal aerators, has named the Irrigation Division of Reinders Brothers Incorporated their 1990 Service Center of the year.

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# Walsh faced challenging decade

By Lori Ward Bocher

"Early in my career I never had any thoughts about becoming dean or even being in higher administration," says Dr. Leo Walsh, who soon will be stepping down as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Not only did he become dean, but he led CALs through one of its most challenging decades—a decade in which the agricultural economy plummeted, the university faced severe budget cuts, and special interest groups fervently challenged the university's role in research and technology.

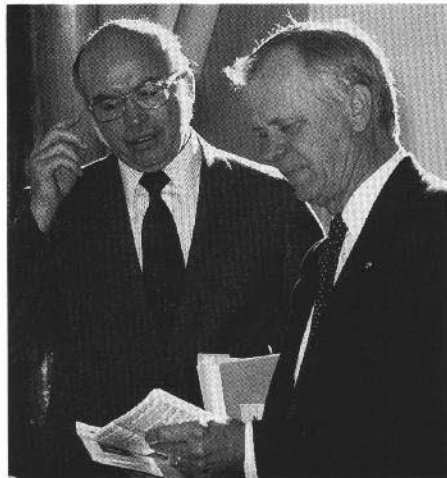
"Since the 1930's, agriculture probably never faced a decade more difficult than the 80's," said Walsh, who was named dean of CALs in 1979. "We experienced the demise of a lot of family farms due to the farm financial crisis. Subsequent to that we had two or three years of some pretty severe, dry weather that exacerbated the already difficult situation. It meant that farmers and most people living in rural areas were under a lot of financial pressure.

"This backed up into the college in that we had difficulty maintaining the number of students that we should have had," Walsh continued. "A lot of people from rural Wisconsin simply were not very excited about a career in agriculture or rural-related industries."

The farm financial crisis also fostered new ideas about research and technology. "Historically, we have looked at technology to help reduce the cost of production, help improve profitability," Walsh explained.

"Somehow, that got twisted around in the 1980's so that some critics felt that technology was the root cause of the problems that were experienced," he continued. "These people basically believed that, if we were to reduce or shut down technology so that additional production did not occur, the whole agricultural sector would be healthier.

"The problem with that idea is that we're not isolated," Walsh empha-



Dr. Leo Walsh with former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland.

sized. "We compete with other states, other nations. Unless there were some way to impose rigid trade barriers, there would be no way that you could maintain a profitable farm operation if the price of your corn or milk had to be 30 to 50 percent higher than some other part of the country simply because you didn't use technology and they did."

Another substantial challenge faced by Walsh and CALs during the 1980's was budget oriented. "Not only did the agricultural sector have difficult financial problems, but we did as well, primarily because budgets at both the state and federal levels didn't meet the inflationary increases and salary increases that we were experiencing in the 80's.

"As a result, we had to cash in positions in order to balance the budget," he continued. "That was particularly true in Extension. We lost about 25 percent of our total Extension staff in the college.

"The greatest satisfaction that I had as dean was being able to meet these challenges and come through the 80's in a way in which I think the college is as strong or perhaps stronger than it's ever been," Walsh said.

"We have a tremendously capable faculty. They continue to excel in terms of the research grants that they draw

to the institution. They continue to get more of the prestigious awards, national and international, than most other institutions.

"And we continue to have a tremendous relationship with the people of the state, the people that we serve," Walsh said.

Walsh was born in 1931 and raised on a livestock and grain farm near Moorland, Iowa. He received a B.S. degree in agricultural education from Iowa State University in 1952. When it came time to select an institution for graduate studies, he chose Wisconsin.

"I chose Wisconsin primarily because it had a reputation as being a very strong graduate and research institution," Walsh recalled. "This was particularly true in soil science."

He received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in soil science in 1957 and 1959. He remained in Madison to accept an assistant professorship at the UW, and subsequently was promoted to associate professor and professor.

As a faculty member in the 1960's, Walsh was fully engaged in research and Extension education. His transition to administrator began in 1973 when he was elected as chairman of the soil science department.

"After serving in that administrative position for seven years, I felt that I had learned a good deal about administration," Walsh recalled. "So when the position of CALs dean opened up in 1979, I thought I'd give it a try."

During his years in the soil science department and as dean, Walsh witnessed the evolution of the turfgrass program at CALs. "When I first came to Wisconsin there was not a turf program," he pointed out. "Like they say, 'Necessity is the mother of invention.' It's the same with the turfgrass program."

Walsh credits Prof. Jim Love with getting the program started. In the 1960's, he was doing some research on the nutrient requirements of turfgrass. Consequently, people in the industry began to contact him about management problems. And students with an interest in turfgrass wanted him as an advisor.

At the same time, the horticulture and agronomy departments were working on the management and breeding of turfgrasses. And plant pathology developed a strong program which gradually evolved into the turf area.

(Continued on page 9)

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(Continued from page 7)

"From the mid-60's on, the turfgrass program evolved among the various departments," Walsh pointed out. Today, it is an interdisciplinary program among the soils, agronomy, horticulture, plant pathology and entomology departments.

"Jim Love was probably the principal person who devoted the time and effort to make the program more visible, to bring the program together in a way in which it attracted substantial numbers of very good students," Walsh said.

"He had a tremendous record in terms of getting these students placed in absolutely top notch golf courses around the country. Once you start achieving success—getting good students, having those students well trained and having them get good jobs—the program builds through word of mouth."

The O.J. Noer Center for Turfgrass Research is another example of how the turfgrass program has matured. Walsh gives credit to faculty members, industry representatives and former turfgrass students. "They worked hard to put this together, and they got the job done," he said.

"It's going to benefit the industry for many decades. I can't see our society not having a substantial need for quality recreational opportunities. Turfgrass is going to be a part of that."

The University of Wisconsin Golf Course also will benefit the turfgrass program. "It's something that we have some control over," Walsh pointed out. "Whenever we wanted to give students experience or do some research work, we always had to go out and beg for help from the people who were managing golf courses.

"While they were all very cooperative and certainly helped us out to the

extent that they could, it's not like having your own facility where you can control all of the variables."

Leo Walsh may be stepping down as dean of CALS, but he's not retiring; he's returning to the soil science department. "I'm going to be doing some water quality and conservation Extension programming, especially as it relates to plant nutrients that are in the environment," he explained.

"I hope to use my technical background and experience in soils, and the contacts I've made as dean, to try to coordinate and bring together some of these programs in a more effective way. I'll also be working part time for the Cooperative States Research Service of the USDA, helping to coordinate water quality and conservation programs across the North Central Region," Walsh concluded.

## Reinders Conference A Huge Success

By Randy Smith

Reinders Turf and Irrigation Conference, Equipment Show and Service Clinic was held this past March 13 and 14. Approximately 1500 registrants, 24 guest speakers and 35 exhibitors participated in the 10th biennial "Mini National" held at the Waukesha County Expo Center. Some of these notables attending all 10 Conferences include Dr. Joe Vargus—Michigan State University, Dr. Bob Newman—University of Wisconsin, Don Maske—Nor-Am, and of course "Mr. and Mrs. Donut" Pam and Rick Lieburg—Hol 'N One Donut Co.

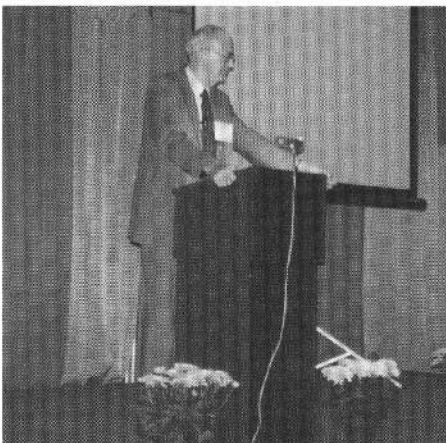
The equipment and supply exhibits filled the floor and balconies with a

wide variety of items. Among those was the new Hydro-Jet aerifier by Toro that may have been viewed for the first time by those not attending the GCSAA Conference and Show. There was a huge Olathe "clipper" that eats logs

and pallets, and a large Hahn topdresser on display outside of the Arena. The OSMAC by Motorola was also a popular booth.

Also highlighting this event were two days of customer-oriented engine and equipment service clinics, irrigation workshops, and timely educational seminars. Refreshments, door prizes and a lot of good shop talk made this a successful event.

By the way, if you are into planning your busy schedules well in advance, please note that the 11th Reinders Conference and Show will be Wednesday and Thursday, the 17th and 18th of March 1993.



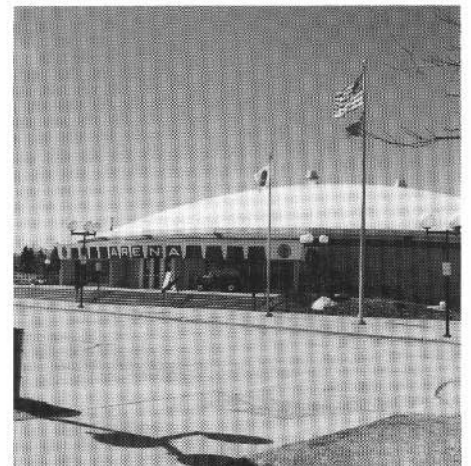
Plant Pathologist and Associate Dean Gayle Worf summarizes "Turf diseases and what have we learned?"



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The Waukesha County Expo Center-site of the 10th Reinders Conference and Show





## Spotlight on Shrub Roses

By Jeffrey E. Epping and Dr. Edward R. Hasselkus

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Jeff Epping is a native of southern Wisconsin. He has two degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison: in 1985 he was awarded a B.S. degree in Horticulture. He earned his M.S. degree in Woody Ornamental Horticulture in 1988. Dr. E.R. Hasselkus was his major professor.*

*Jeff's M.S. thesis focused on Rosa rugosa, the same subject of this article. He is currently a propagator at the Chicago Botanic garden.*

*Both Professor Hasselkus and Jeff Epping are previous contributors to THE GRASS ROOTS. Jeff also spent a summer on the golf course staff at Blackhawk Country Club where, among many other things, he provided excellent instruction on the care, pruning and general culture of woody ornamentals.*

*Dr. Hasselkus has had scores and scores of WGCSA members in classes during their undergraduate years. He's also been a WGCSA guest speaker.*

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Few woody plants can rival the genus *Rosa* in popularity. Although garden roses (hybrid teas, grandifloras and floribundas) usually take top billing, shrub roses are deservedly becoming more popular.

The Midwest's high summer humidity and sub-zero winter temperatures make garden rose culture difficult at best.

However, disease-resistant, cold-hardy shrub roses offer a less-demanding alternative for those who might be disenchanted with garden rose culture.

*Rosa rugosa* cultivars and its hybrids comprise the most promising group of landscape roses on the basis of the following qualities: flower; fruit and foliage characteristics; insect and disease resistance; cold hardiness; and form and fall color.

Native to northern China, Korea and Japan, *R. rugosa* grows along sandy

seashores. It is a lightly suckering mounded shrub that grows 3 to 6 feet tall and wide. *R. rugosa* is most effective when used in masses in the landscape.

It is sometimes used as a hedge plant but is best left to assume its natural form. Treated this way, *R. rugosa* requires only annual renewal pruning (removal of the oldest canes at ground level during each dormant season).

It is often considered to be the hardest of all roses, growing in zones 2 through 7.

*R. rugosa* never requires a winter mulch like garden roses do. Unfortunately, many of its cultivars have lost this hardiness through hybridization with less-hardy roses. Only the hardiest cultivars are useful in the mid-to-upper Midwest.

This species is particularly useful on sites with poor, dry soil. It requires a well-drained, neutral to slightly acidic soil. Very basic soils can cause alkaline-induced chlorosis.

Because this plant is a coastal native, it is naturally tolerant of salt—both in sea spray and in soil. This tolerance is especially important in Midwestern states where salt pollution from winter deicers is common. *R. rugosa* is excellent for roadside plantings, medians and other sites where salty runoff and spray can be severe.

*Rosa rugosa* is the only shrub rose—and one of the few species roses of any kind—that is a recurrent bloomer. Its biggest floral display is in early to mid-June. It then blooms sporadically throughout the growing season until late September. Some *R. rugosa* hybrids have lost their ability to rebloom and are, therefore, less desirable.

Flowers range from single and semi-double to fully double in form, and are white, yellow, pink, magenta or red. Colorful petals surround a cluster of feathery yellow stamens to create a pleasing contrast. Many cultivars have a delightful fragrance—an added bonus in any garden.

Unfortunately, a number of hybrid cultivars tend to retain old brown flower

petals. This problem is especially evident in drought.

Common names for this species are tomato rose and beach tomato, labels derived from the large red fruits that the plant produces. These highly ornamental fruits, or hips, are orange-red and about 1 inch in diameter. They are produced from August through September and persist until early winter.

Mature hips are often present along with the flowers. Together they make a colorful display against dark green foliage. Unfortunately, many hybrid cultivars do not produce fruit, so those that do have higher ornamental value. Double-flowered cultivars are generally sterile.

The species' glossy and rich, dark green leaves have deeply sunken veins, lending them a rugose or quilted appearance. This characteristic gives the shrub a rather coarse texture.

The compound leaves are made up of five to nine 1- to 2-inch leaflets. They are borne on thorny, stout, tan canes. The canes are tomentose and have both prickly and bristly thorns.

The fall color is a pleasing yellow or gold. Some cultivars can be quite striking, displaying shades of yellow, orange and maroon. The showy red hips combined with colorful autumn foliage are especially attractive.

*Rosa rugosa* is highly resistant to blackspot (*Diplocarpon rosae*) and powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca pannosa rosae*), the two most devastating foliar diseases affecting roses. Only cultivars that have retained the species' disease-resistance should be considered for landscape use.

The mossy rose gall wasp (*Diplolepis rosae*) can also be a problem on *R. rugosa*. Wasps deposit eggs that develop into a large, roundish, hairy mass on 1-year-old twigs in spring. The galls are initially light green and later turn brown. They contain wasp larvae that mature and emerge the following spring. Only one generation of wasps occurs each year.

Occasional galls are easily eliminated by pruning infested canes. If the problem worsens, control the insect with a systemic soil insecticide in early spring.

Another insect affecting *R. rugosa* is rose stem girdler (*Agilus aurichalceus*). These beetles lay eggs on canes in June and July. Larvae hatch and feed on the pith, effectively killing all growth above this point.