Objectives

• Identify a mature rose hip
• Prepare seed for sowing
The moment you’ve been waiting for—
Well, one of them

It’s been 4 months since pollinations.
Summer has finally cooled to Fall.
The roses have begun to rebound.

So what is that orange ball where the flower I
pollinated used to be?

It’s a Rose hip!
Inside, are rose seeds.
Those are your new roses!
What is a Rose Hip?

A rose hip is the swollen ovary that contains the rose seeds.

*Did you know?*

Rose hips are high in Vitamin C and an ingredient in many nutritional supplements.

Photo from Univ. of Minnesota
Collecting Rose Hips

A simple procedure:

1. Label bags with the name of the parental cross
2. Remove hips from stem above leaves
3. Place in appropriately labeled bags

A labeled paper bag is perfect for gathering ripe rose hips!
Extracting the Seed

There are 2 methods we use to accomplish the task of extracting the seeds from the rose hip.

We will examine both of them.
Extracting the Seed
Procedure 1

This method is best for small numbers of rose hips.

Simply take a knife or scalpel and slice into the rose hip.

Then scoop out the seeds.

Easy.

Well, after the first 20 or so, you may think otherwise…which brings us to…
Extracting the Seed
Procedure 2
(Fun with the Blender)

Got lots of hips from the same cross?
Got an old blender?
Got water and electricity?

Well, dump the hips—only ones from the same cross—into the blender with a cup of water.
Then BLEND!
Extracting the Seed
Procedure 2
(Fun with the Blender continued)

Don’t worry. You can’t hurt the seeds. We promise.

A little nicking of the seed coat is actually good for them.

Really, they’ll be okay.
Should you choose the blender method...

1. Empty contents of blender into a sieve (preferably over the sink!)
2. On labeled newspaper, allow the seeds to dry
3. Pick seed out of debris once they have dried
   (#3 can be time-consuming!)

Seeds drying on labeled newspaper
The Importance of Good Labels Revisited

No doubt record-keeping is a pain. However…

If you plan to breed roses--
as all rose-hybridizing addicts do—
KEEP TRACK OF YOUR CROSSES!

You will be thankful, we promise!

You will be able to judge what was a good parent, a bad parent, gave a good combination, and so on.