
ROSES

*AND HOW TO GROW THEM
IN THE
SALT RIVER VALLEY
ARIZONA*



BY
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THE ROSE has been the Queen of Beauty among flowers as far back as the records go. Throughout the ages she has held this position unchallenged. All of Asia, Europe and North America pay her homage in verse and story.

The rose is a native of all these countries, and those of the twentieth century are the gradual evolution from the original types, to our almost perfect flower.

Without going into the history of all the various steps, it is sufficient to say that about the year 1825, the Hybrid Perpetual began to take first place in the rose world, and held sway until about 1890. Its disadvantage was its short period of bloom compared with Tea Roses which, while very much smaller in growth, were more constant bloomers, and, as a general rule, were superior to the Hybrid Perpetuals in perfume and foliage.

About 1890, owing to its longer period of bloom, the Hybrid Tea had pushed the Hybrid Perpetual out of first place in popularity, and from that time on it has held sway as the premier. With the many improved varieties of recent years, there is no question about this being the best outdoor garden variety, and all varieties mentioned in this booklet, with the exception of the climbers, belong to that class.

Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to find many roses absolutely perfect for our climate. The long, hot, dry summer brings about a condition which is hardly ideal for roses, and many varieties which, in a cooler

locality reach perfection, are totally unsuited for this section, and a rose which may do ever so well back East, or on the Pacific coast, may prove a miserable failure here.

Owing to the difference in our climate even the color of roses may vary somewhat from the catalogued description. The average rose is generally somewhat lighter in color here, owing to our extreme heat in summer. In the early spring and in the autumn, the color of most roses with us is darker than in summer, some varieties that usually have a slight yellow tint becoming almost pink under the influence of frosty nights and warm days.

In order to be of the greatest practical aid to the home rose grower, a selection has been made, and is here given, of twenty-two roses which have been proved best adapted in beauty and usefulness for planting in Phoenix and the Salt River valley:

RED

American Beauty, Lady Battersea, Genl. McArthur, Duchess of Albany, Etoile de France.

PINK

Mme. Jules Grolez, La France, Mme. Abel Chatney, Caroline Testout, Maman Cochet, Souv. de Pres. Carnot, Maryland, Florence Pemberton.

WHITE

Augustin Guinoisseau, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Molly Sharman Crawford, White Maman Cochet.

YELLOW

Souv. de Pierre Notting, Marie Van Houtte, Pearl de Jardins, Pearl von Godesburg.

CLIMBERS

In the above list no climbing roses are included, as I desire to treat them separately. Every rose grower should plant a few climb-

ing roses. In nearly every garden a few climbers can be used to advantage for planting on the house, porch and trellises, and covering pergolas and rose arches. Avoid the erection of structures that are too light to withstand strong winds. A pergola must be erected over a straight path; arches, too, may go there, but look well at the junction of paths, and at almost any other point. Beside garden paths, posts covered with climbers, dotted here and there, have a charming appearance.

Unfortunately, there is not at this time any good, all round climbing rose which blooms through spring, summer and autumn with any reliability. There are many varieties which are so advertised to bloom, but I cannot recommend any, and will confine this list to those climbers that will prove most reliable for the person desiring a few of this class only, separating them into two divisions. In the first division I shall include climbing Hybrid Teas. Hybrid Tea climbers are mostly sports from well known Hybrid Tea roses. They do not bloom as profusely as the Hybrid Teas, nor as constantly. They may be depended upon, however, to give good blooms in the spring, and a few other blooms, mainly in the autumn, although these are so scattered that they cannot be called continually blooming roses. These varieties are as follows:

PINK

Climbing Belle Seibrecht, Climbing Caroline Testout.

RED

Climbing Reine Marie Henrietta, Climbing Wooton, Climbing Papa Goutier, Climbing American Beauty.

WHITE

Climbing Kaiserine.

In the second division all the other climbing or rambling roses which have given the best results are placed, most of them being

Hybrid Wichuraiana. They are extremely hardy, and of much more vigorous growth than the Hybrid Tea climbers. As a rule they only bloom for a short season in the early summer. With these are also included the best of many other varieties of climbers, and one of these—Climbing Cecil Brunner—has proved to be one of the most constant bloomers in this locality. These varieties are:

PINK

Pink Cherokee, Dorothy Perkins..

YELLOW

W. A. Richardson, Marechal Neil, Cloth of Gold, Aviateur Bleirot.

WHITE

White Dorothy Perkins, Mme. Alfred Carriere, Lamarque, White Banksia.

ORDERING

Having carefully gone over the lists of roses and made a selection, the reader will be ready to order his plants. Ordering is, indeed, one of the most important features to be considered, and an understanding of the conditions which beset all nurserymen would do much to help towards success. The main trouble is that the average man does not properly specify just what he wants and when he wants it, nor what he desires done if the order cannot be exactly filled with each variety ordered. He does not usually consider substitution.

The nurseryman receives his greatest number of orders in the spring, and they usually come with a rush, so that he and his assistants are pushed to the limit to get them out. He has only so many varieties, and so many plants of each variety. Therefore, the man who sends in his order early stands the best chance of securing what he desires, and he usually gets the best of the stock. Late or-

dering is to be discouraged if one wishes to avoid disappointment.

In ordering roses the purchaser should specify whether he wants budded roses, or roses on their own roots. Many prefer roses grown on their own roots, and while it is true that some strong growing varieties, like the American Beauty, La France, etc., do well on their own roots, I believe most roses are better budded, as more delicate varieties, to give good results, must be budded on strong and hardy stock, and the results are more blooms and stronger plants.

LOCATION AND PREPARATION

There are few homes in Phoenix where a suitable place cannot be found to plant roses. Most homes usually stand on a lot 50 or 75 feet by 140 feet, and there is ample room for the formation of a rose garden. Roses need, first of all, sunlight, and the bed should be from early morning until late in the afternoon, and in no event should it be located beneath a tree or trees. The writer is a firm believer in back yard gardening, and our city could be made a veritable rose garden if everyone planted a few roses in his lot. It would enhance the value of his property, make more beautiful surroundings, and give the added pleasure of growing them and watching them unfold their beauties. Let us all get together and beautify our city with roses in this way.

Having looked over your ground and selected the most suitable place for your roses, consider next how many you intend to plant, and shape your bed to accommodate them. Unless formal or landscape gardening is desired, the most practical form of beds for roses is one four feet wide, the proper width for two rows of plants, long enough to hold the number of plants desired when they are spaced at an average distance of two feet, center to center.

The soil should be well dug, and enriched with a good dressing of decomposed manure.

Take out two trenches about nine inches wide, and six inches deep for watering facilities, and if irrigation water is obtainable, so much the better, though it is not absolutely necessary. This work should be done a week, at least, before planting, to allow the soil to settle.

PLANTING

The thing to be most carefully considered, and which is most important in planting roses, is to dig a hole about eighteen inches deep, the center of which should be approximately the center of the mark for the rose. The earth should be taken out with a spade from this hole, and before replacing the same, two things should be carefully noted, first, that the roots spread out at the bottom and do not cross one another, all bruised and broken roots being carefully trimmed off with a sharp knife before planting, and, second, that the bud, i. e., the point at which the variety has been budded on the stock, which you will easily note, should be about one inch below the ground level. This is of great importance to the future growth of the rose. It is a good plan to have some fine soil ready, and lightly sprinkle it on the bottom and roots, pressing it firmly around the plant until the hole is filled. Under no circumstances use fresh manure, and do not let any manure come in contact with the roots, as if not well rotted it will burn them.

Plant slowly and carefully, and see that no air space remains below the main part of the root. Water each rose after planting, and when the bed is finished, it may be covered with a fine mulch of rotten manure, which will help to prevent evaporation.

Be careful not to expose rose roots to the wind or sun any more than is necessary in actual planting. Should you be unable to finish at once, carefully cover up with wet sacks or moss those that remain to be planted, so as to protect the roots from the air and sun.

PRUNING

In order for a rose to make a good growth and flower, it must be pruned. After planting, when the plant has settled, prune each one back to three or four buds, and cut out all weak and spindly growth. Two good shoots, six or eight inches long, with three or four buds, will form the foundation for a good bush. This applies only to pruning newly planted bushes.

Pruning of mature bushes is done in the spring, about the middle of January being a good time. The best, and usually accepted method of pruning roses, is to cut out all weak growths and dead wood and cutting back the long growths about two thirds of their length. An absolute rule cannot be given for the number of canes to be left, but there must not be too much crowding, particularly of the center of the plant. Always cut to outside buds, unless for some reason you wish to have the plant grow in some other direction. In all pruning remember that the fewer the buds you leave to break, the more sap they will receive, and the more buds you leave, the smaller the amount of sap each one will get, and also, that the buds near the base may not break.

CULTIVATION

Now the hard part of the work is over, and the most pleasant part is before you. The actual culture of the rose is very easy and agreeable. Beyond keeping the beds clean and free from weeds, there is not much work to be done. The surface of the ground should have an occasional stirring to admit air, and prevent baking of the soil, but care should be taken not to disturb the roots.

WATERING

As the days become warmer and the ground drier, you must take more care of your plants. You should keep the earth broken up in the beds and not permit it to

cake and crack, thereby losing much moisture by evaporation. Roses should be watered early in the morning before it gets too hot, and never during the heat of the day if it can be avoided. A good mulch is a necessity in the summer time as it helps to conserve the moisture in the soil, and prevents rapid evaporation.

INSECT PESTS

You will find in the early spring just before the buds open, that your young buds are covered with little light green insects, known as the Green Fly, or Aphides, which are common pests in rose gardens. The most effectual way to get rid of them is to spray the bushes with some nicotine compound, such as Black Leaf 40, or Whale Oil Soap, either of which can be easily obtained at any seed store.

MILDEW

Mildew is a fungus disease which attacks some varieties of roses more than others. It is caused chiefly by a severe drop in temperature, and usually occurs in the spring, though sometimes prevalent in the late autumn, and is most common in cold, damp weather. It appears on the leaves in the form of a grayish powder, and the leaf becomes curled and withered. Like many other diseases, mildew is best met by prevention rather than by cure, and it is a good plan to spray the roses early with a sulphur wash, or dust powdered sulphur on the leaves before the disease gets a hold on the plant.

This little booklet does not pretend to be in any sense a complete treatise on the rose, or the more intricate details of its culture, but is intended to be a help for those who have not had any experience but who wish to enter into, and enjoy, the fascinating and healthful art of rose culture.

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