

Roses – Are they really too much work?

By Lynne Kalata

Grower

The Morton Arboretum

August 30, 2002

Many gardeners are discouraged by the performance of roses purchased through catalogs or at local garden centers. They don't look anything like that picture in the catalog!

Many of these roses we buy are hybrid teas from growers and hybridizers in other parts of the world. The climatic conditions in which they are working may be considerably different from the Midwest. What is the solution? Consider roses from hybridizers that live and work in the same or harsher climates.

When Donna asked me to write an article on roses, the topic mentioned was 'Winter Protection'. I haven't done any winter protection for years, because I grow more than 100 roses and that's too much work. I prune only in the spring – sometimes all the way down to soil level. Most of these roses I grow are on their own roots, although I do grow some that are grafted plants. They all grow back to their full size early in the growing season. I don't spray for diseases or insects. I fertilize once with a slow-release product such as Osmocote. I don't cut off faded blooms, and I do enjoy my roses much more than when I did all that maintenance from the "How to" books on roses.

Having said that, the next step is understanding which roses perform well here in the Chicago area. Here are some of the roses I have grown or have seen in other gardens.

Hybrid rugosas

<u>Plant name</u>	<u>Classification*</u>	<u>Color**</u>	<u>Size in feet</u>	<u>comments</u>
Blanc Double de Coubert	HRg	w	5	highly fragrant
Frau Dagmar Hastrup	HRg	mp	4	yellow to burgundy fall color
Linda Campbell	HRg	mr	5	best true red rugosa
Rote Apart	HRg	mr	2.5	Scarlet Pavement
Rotes Meer	HRg	m	2.5	Purple Pavement
Schneekoppe	HRg	w	2.5	Snow Pavement

Canadian Dept. of Agriculture – Explorer series

<u>Plant name</u>	<u>Classification*</u>	<u>Color**</u>	<u>size in ft.</u>	<u>comments</u>
Alexander Mackenzie	S	rb	6	Flowers in clusters
John Cabot	K	mr	4-5	8 – 10 feet as a climber
Prairie Joy	S	mp	3.5	High disease resistance, double pink blooms
William Baffin	K	dp	5-8	8-12 feet as a climber. Best for cold climates

Canadian Dept. of Agriculture – Parkland Series

<u>Plant name</u>	<u>Classification*</u>	<u>Color**</u>	<u>size in ft.</u>	<u>comments</u>
Morden Blush	S	lp	3.5	Pink and white flower

Miscellaneous Selections, hardy zone 2 to 4

<u>Plant name</u>	<u>Classification*</u>	<u>Color**</u>	<u>size in ft.</u>	<u>comments</u>
Golden Wings	S	ly	4	Large, single yellow flower
Rosa alba semi-plena	A	w	6-7	Large dark red fruit, spring bloom
Stanwell Perpetual	HSpn	w	5	Highly fragrant, fern-like foliage

Dr. Griffith Buck roses

<u>Plant name</u>	<u>Classification*</u>	<u>Color**</u>	<u>size in ft.</u>	<u>comments</u>
Applejack	S	pb	4.5	Decorative orange hips

Carefree Beauty	S	mp	4	Best known of the Buck roses
Country Dancer	S	dp	3	Fragrant
Earthsong	Gr	dp	4	Attractive growth habit
Folksinger	S	yb	3	Large 4" fragrant blooms
Golden Unicorn	S	yb	4	Large single flower
Hawkeye Belle	S	w	4	Dark, bronze foliage
Joseph F. Lamb	S	dr	2.5	Fragrant, double deep red blooms
Pearlie Mae	Gr	ab	3	Named for Pearl Bailey
Prairie Harvest	S	ly	4	Hybrid tea blooms, very fragrant and hardy
Prairie Star	S	pb	4	Long lasting flowers – green apple fragrance
Prairie Sunrise	S	ab	3	Large (4-5") rosette w/quartered center
Serendipity	S	ab	4	Fragrant, free-flowering
Summer Wind	S	op	4	Tangerine-pink flower with yellow overtones
Winter Sunset	S	ab	3.5	Full apricot blooms

Bill Radler roses - Wisconsin

Plant name	Classification*	Color**	size in ft.	comments
Carefree Sunshine	S	my	4	Non-fading lemon yellow blooms
Knock Out	S	rb	3.5	2000 ARS winner
Ramblin Red	S	mr	6-10	Climber/rich tree red blooms

*Classifications of Roses

A = Alba (OGR)

Gr = Grandiflora

HRg = Hybrid Rugosa (S)

HSpn = Hybrid Spinosissima (OGR)

K = Kordesii (S)

S = Shrub (S)

Sp = Species (OGR)

**Color

w = white, near white and white blend

ly = light yellow

my = medium yellow

dy = deep yellow

yb = yellow blend

ab = apricot and apricot blend

op = orange-pink

lp = light pink

mp = medium pink

pb = pink blend

dp = deep pink

mr = medium red

dr = dark red

rb = red blend

m = mauve and mauve blend

