

HOW TO HAVE ROSES

THE BEST SORTS TO GROW

SUGGESTIONS TO
Lovers of the Rose

BY
WILLIAM C. BARRY
MOUNT HOPE NURSERIES
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

From the Country Gentleman
Issues of January 2d and January 9th, 1908

Rochester Public Library
Local History

HOW TO HAVE ROSES

THE BEST SORTS TO GROW



THE ROSE has always been held in the highest esteem by lovers of flowers. Its variety of color, form and exquisite fragrance justly entitle it to the first place among floral treasures.

But many are deterred from enjoying this favorite because of the seeming difficulties in its cultivation. The belief is prevalent that on account of its tenderness, lack of vigor, and liability to the attacks of diseases and insect foes, this beautiful flower cannot be grown successfully except by expert cultivators. Others think that the rose blossoms only once during the season, and that the plants, after flowering, are not only unattractive but objectionable; hence it happens that many who should have an abundance of roses in their gardens must, by force of circumstances, be deprived of the great pleasure.

It will be the aim of the writer in this brief article to mention a few beautiful hardy and half-hardy continuous-flowering varieties, possessing good foliage and suitable for planting in ornamental beds on the lawn or in plats in the garden proper, to furnish a supply of cut flowers for house decoration.

The satisfaction of having a bed of roses almost constantly in bloom, equaling in beauty and effect a bed of geraniums or foliage plants, can be realized, in the writer's opinion, by a judicious selection of kinds and by proper treatment of the plants, an operation which is not necessarily difficult or troublesome.

The prospective pleasure, too, of being able to pluck from the garden every day during the summer a bouquet or an armful (according to the number of plants) of these charming flowers for home decoration or for distribution among one's friends, will perhaps induce the reader to note the suggestions herein made, and to attempt at least to become enrolled among those who are recognized as successful cultivators of the queen of flowers.

Within the last few years, through the efforts of hybridists, new varieties have been originated which have greatly enlarged the list of so-called ever-bloomers, and at present

a selection can be made, which, with ordinary care, is sure to give the most satisfactory results. In years past we had to depend mainly upon a few Bourbons, Bengals and Chinas for the purpose mentioned, none of which can be said to have given the satisfaction or pleasure which was anticipated. The plants were not vigorous enough and the flowers were not sufficiently attractive to win admiration and encourage efforts to cultivate them.

The tea rose, though exceedingly beautiful, embracing various forms and colors, seemed too delicate to give promise of any success commensurate with the labor and care involved. It is, therefore, proper to say at the outset that this list, while it will embrace several hardy and half-hardy varieties, obtained by crossing, will also include some teas of surpassing beauty, great vigor, remarkable freedom of bloom, and withal capable of enduring successfully severe cold, if well protected. The origination of these teas, hybrid teas, and polyanthas, prompts the writer more than anything else to suggest and recommend to all flower lovers to make the attempt at least towards securing a bountiful supply of roses during the summer months.

The basis of successful rose-growing is rich soil, ordinary good garden soil, well-drained and thoroughly and deeply spaded, enriched with manure or fertilizer. The soil can hardly be too rich, but the manure must be decayed and thoroughly incorporated with it, and the plants must be set in the soil, not in the manure as it is sometimes done. Well-decayed sod, prepared in advance and forming a compost, is a valuable addition to garden soil. Careful preparation of the soil months in advance of planting, will amply repay the care taken.

HYBRID TEA ROSES

Very satisfactory beds or masses may be planted of one kind of rose; for example—of Gruss an Teplitz, a vigorous, free-blooming, crimson hybrid tea. This is an ideal bedding rose, being a continuous bloomer, of vigorous habit, good foliage and producing abundantly showy, medium-sized, fragrant flowers of a rich and permanent color. Even the first year it flowers very satisfactorily, yielding quantities of bloom, but it is after the plants attain age that this variety shows its value. It is one of the newer roses, not much known as yet, but destined to great popularity when its

merits become understood. It needs protection, hilling up with earth and covering with evergreen boughs or straw.

La France, a hybrid tea, once regarded as the most beautiful of all roses on account of its color, form, fragrance and remarkable freedom of bloom, is still prized by many for its bedding qualities, as well as for its cut blooms. It flowers constantly and its beautiful form, silvery pink color and delicious perfume are unequaled. A mass of La France is certain to attract attention, while the flowers in a vase or in decorations are noticed and appreciated by the most casual observer.

Closely allied to this popular and much-prized rose is Caroline Testout, as prolific of bloom, but the flower is of a deeper shade of pink. It, too, may be listed among the best bedders. It is more rugged than La France, the shoots being very thorny. It grows taller and its blooms, though not so beautifully built, have a color that never fails to elicit admiration. In well-prepared soil the flowers are very large, and it may be classed among those sorts which are noticeable for their showy qualities.

Killarney, a hybrid tea, is an Irish rose which has made wonderful progress in popularity since its introduction a few years ago. It is in every way a distinct variety of vigorous habit and yielding bountifully buds of large size, long and tapering and of a lovely shade of color, flesh suffused with pink. The buds are produced on long, erect stems and are very desirable for cutting. The attractiveness of this rose is greatest as a bud.

Kaiserin Augusta Victoria is another hybrid tea—light yellow, of beautiful form and delightful fragrance—a good companion to the above mentioned.

DWARF POLYANTHA ROSES

A recently introduced rose that will have many admirers is Clothilde Soupert, a dwarf polyantha, which is quite hardy and at the same time a free and continuous bloomer. The flowers are of medium size, of a flesh color, with rosy center, and well formed. The plant is vigorous, erect, quite hardy and flowers abundantly. It is well adapted to beds and masses.

Madame Norbert Levavasseur, or Baby Rambler, a name under which it is better known, is still another dwarf polyantha of recent origin and particularly suited to planting in

beds, being a strong grower of upright habit and yielding large clusters of crimson flowers, of medium size, but very effective because of the profusion in which they are produced. This new and valuable bedder is quite hardy, vigorous, continuous flowering; it has good foliage and will be largely employed by all plant lovers, supplying as it does a long-felt want—a good bedding rose. The blooms being produced in clusters, are not as desirable for cutting as those borne on single stems; nevertheless, the trusses can be utilized in vases with good effect. It improves with age, and moderate protection is recommended.

Mlle. Cecile Brunner, a dwarf polyantha, one of the fairy roses, so-called on account of its miniature and fairy-like buds and blooms, will be highly prized. Its perfectly formed little buds, followed by its charming, small, fully-developed blooms of a salmon color, afterwards becoming white and borne in clusters, constitute an array of beautiful characteristics. For boutonnières it is ideal, but its wealth of dainty, exquisite flowers render it admirable for bedding. This type of rose, unique and novel, will become a great favorite, and my lady friends will, I am sure, say with great unanimity that it should head the collection.

TEA ROSES

The tea rose is the exemplification and realization of the highest form of beauty in flowers. Form, color, fragrance are here blended so as to excite wonder and admiration in every observer and claim love from the devotee of flowers. Pity it is that perfect hardiness could not be included among the qualities which comprise the number of recommendable points in the tea. Considerable protection is required to enable them to come through the winter safely. Besides hilling up the earth around each plant, a shelter of boards should be built about them, with a slanting roof to shed the water. This shelter should be erected in November, after the first severe frost, say about six degrees of cold, and dry leaves or straw should be placed around the plants, filling the spaces before the roof boards are made secure. These directions may seem difficult and troublesome to carry out, but at planting time, if the plants are set out having the protection in view, the labor and expense will be comparatively slight. The purpose of not covering with leaves and boards until the earth is somewhat frozen is to



Frau Karl Druschki



Marshall P. Wilder



Killarney



Gruss an Teplitz

guard against the depredations of mice, from which protected plants sometimes suffer greatly. The construction of the shelter should be such that it can be taken down and put away and replaced from year to year, thus making it comparatively inexpensive.

The tea roses which I shall name are nearly all of recent introduction, and possess merits for the purpose which could not be found in the older varieties. Pink Maman Cochet and White Maman Cochet justly deserve all commendation for cut-flower purposes. The flowers are remarkably beautiful in form, charming in color and remain perfect long after being cut. For vases they are unexcelled. The pink variety, while excellent, is surpassed in beauty by the white, which, though a yellowish white, is tinged with blush, rendering it exceedingly attractive. The buds of both are unusually well formed, surpassing in this regard those of almost any other kind, and the plants being very vigorous and floriferous, a large number of blooms may be obtained from a few specimens. The buds of these varieties should not be cut until they are about three-quarters open, being then at their best.

HYBRID PERPETUAL ROSES

Now that I have presented for your consideration several half-hardy roses which demand some extra care and trouble, there remain a few of the hardier kinds, classed as hybrid perpetuals, which, though sturdy and more vigorous and bearing larger and showier blooms, yet possess in a marked degree all the excellences of the rose family.

Hybrid perpetuals, as they are erroneously called, usually flower profusely in June, and then refuse to flower again except at intervals, but have a distinctive value in that the shower of bloom which comes but once, and is of such short duration, remains a charming recollection, holding forth for the coming season the brightest hopes and greatest expectations—a dream to be realized but once a year. That the devotee of the rose does delight in recalling the pleasures of the past and in anticipating the new charms of the next season, no one can deny who has ever reveled in a rose garden. I have selected from an extended list only a few varieties which I think will receive general approval of their many valuable qualities and of their adaptability to various regions. I have chosen varieties known as continuous

bloomers, believing that the everblooming quality is one to be greatly appreciated, especially in what is called a June rose.

Of these, Mrs. John Laing, a beautiful silvery pink rose, quite hardy, and at the same time a continuous bloomer, can be mentioned with the greatest confidence. Its color, form, fragrance, its long stem and its freedom of bloom are a combination of desirable qualities rarely met with in one variety. It is admirably suited to bedding out in groups and masses, and can always be depended on for an abundant supply through the summer of charming pink flowers for vases and decorative purposes.

Ulrich Brunner is a cherry red rose—a popular shade of color. The flower is large and fragrant and borne on long, smooth stems, so that it is very useful for bouquets. The plants are vigorous, have good foliage and the flowers are freely produced.

Frau Karl Druschki or Snow Queen, as it has very appropriately been named, is a new white hybrid perpetual, which as yet is little known. It deserves wide dissemination, and is destined to become a much-esteemed variety. It is large, snowy white, has shell-shaped petals and is borne on a good stem. The flower is at its best while in the bud state or partly developed. In this stage its beauty is extraordinary, and it is justly entitled to rank first among white roses—although there are many claimants for the place. Its purity of color is one of its most distinguishing features. Many so-called white roses are creamy white, flesh white, or yellowish white. It is hardy, vigorous and flowers continuously on the new growth.

It is not my intention to include in this collection any variety which cannot be commended for its valuable qualities, but in suggesting the peony rose or Paul Neyron, I may be criticised by some for recommending so large and sometimes so coarse a flower. When full blown, I admit that Paul Neyron almost equals the peony in size, and is inferior to some peonies in form, yet in the bud or half developed state it is an extremely beautiful and showy rose. It flowers freely, has long, smooth, thornless stems which render it particularly desirable for cutting, and I cannot withhold my admiration for it.

I have only one more candidate, and this, though the last on the list, should really be the first, especially as there are so many admirers of red roses. The Wilder is a very large,

globular, bright red, fragrant hybrid perpetual, hardy, vigorous and free-blooming, a variety that possesses every admirable and desirable quality. I am glad to complete the list with such a charming specimen of the rose family. Nothing can be more beautiful than a large bouquet of freshly-cut blooms of this rose. It is a present which will be appreciated and admired by the most fastidious, and it is a decorative feature fit to adorn any mansion in the land.

PLANTING AND CARE.

In order that roses may be employed most effectively they should be planted in beds and masses, from 20 to 100 or more plants together and all of one kind, not a variety or mixture, and the varieties suggested in this article are well adapted to this purpose. When planted in beds, roses should be set about 18 inches apart, or 13 plants for a bed 6 feet in diameter and 37 plants for one 10 feet in diameter. The hybrid perpetuals may be planted 2 feet apart, or about 7 plants for a bed of 6 feet in diameter, or 19 plants for a bed 10 feet in diameter.

The rose bug or chafer must be hand-picked and destroyed and the leaf roller crushed. I do not know of any effective remedies for either. Disease should be warded off by keeping the plants in a vigorous, thrifty condition. A liberal supply of water every day during the dry season will greatly aid in maintaining the health of the plants.

The hybrid tea and polyantha roses should be planted preferably in the spring, the hybrid perpetuals in fall or spring; in the fall where the location is favorable, not exposed and climate not too severe. When planting, cut back the shoots to three or four eyes. In spring, when the protection is removed, the dead and injured wood should be cut out and the remaining shoots cut back to four or six eyes.

Roses to be seen at their best should be examined in the early morning, while the dew is yet upon the blooms and before the hot sun has caused them to lose color. For the same reason, roses intended for house decoration should be cut early in the day and care should be taken to cut specimens in the bud state or partly open—as they keep best and are seen to the best advantage.

The roses which I have enumerated are for everybody, for the country yard, city garden, park, estate, public grounds, large and small. No one can afford to omit this

charming flower from the garden. The care bestowed on it and the trouble taken with it will be repaid a thousand times and the pleasure derived from rose culture should not be limited to the few, but open to all.

I would not give the impression that this collection embraces all the best roses. Far from it. This is only a small selection for a special purpose. There are hundreds which should be grown out of doors belonging to the various families of hybrid perpetuals, hybrid teas, noisettes, polyanthas, ramblers, mosses, Japanese, briars, etc.

In concluding, let me name, as requiring extra care and protection with shelter, White Maman Cochet and Pink Maman Cochet. Requiring ordinary care, such as hilling up with earth and covering with straw or evergreen boughs: Gruss an Teplitz, Baby Rambler, Caroline Testout, Kil-larney, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Clothilde Soupert, La France, Cecile Brunner. Ordinary protection, hilling up with earth: Ulrich Brunner, Mrs. John Laing, Marshall P. Wilder, Frau Karl Druschki, Paul Neyron.

Of the hybrid perpetual roses I have mentioned, I give the opinion of Rev. A. Foster-Melliar, author of the "Book of the Rose":

Mrs. John Laing: "It is everybody's rose, with perhaps fewer imperfections than any other."

Paul Neyron: "It is a good garden rose for those who admire a mass of petals and color of the peony type."

Ulrich Brunner: "A great rose in many ways; free blooming and capital in the autumn, hardy and of strong constitution and does well almost anywhere. When asked to recommend three good hybrid perpetuals for gardens, I suggest La France, Mrs. John Laing and Ulrich Brunner."

I will close with Dean Hole's advice to rose growers:

"He who would have beautiful roses in his garden, must have beautiful roses *in his heart*. He must love them well and always. To win he must woo, as Jacob wooed Laban's daughter, though drouth and frost consume. He must have not only the glowing admiration, the enthusiasm and the passion, but the tenderness, the thoughtfulness, the reverence, the watchfulness of love."

WILLIAM C. BARRY.

**For Full Information Concerning Other
Varieties of**

HYBRID PERPETUAL ROSES

HYBRID TEA ROSES

JAPANESE ROSES

DWARF POLYANTHA ROSES—for bedding out

CLIMBING ROSES—for pergolas, arches, verandas, embracing
Ramblers and Wichurianas in great variety

New Roses, beautiful and distinct

Purchasers are referred to our Illustrated Descriptive
Catalogue, just published, and MAILED FREE on request.

ELLWANGER & BARRY,

Mount Hope Nurseries,

ROCHESTER, N. Y.



3 9077 06215 2619