



Roses in the

FLORIBUNDA ROSES

Spartan—'56—coral red
 Jiminy Cricket—'55—coral orange
 Embers—'55—glowing red
 Fashion—'47—coral pink
 Garnette—'47—garnet red
 Vogue—'51—cherry red
 Snowbird—'36—white
 Pink Bountiful—'45—medium pink
 Siren—'53—scarlet
 Easter Parade—'53—pink and yellow

*Year introduced

PEACEFUL, A 5-INCH
 FULL HYBRID TEA ROSE

Photo courtesy of
 Jackson & Perkins Co.

While roses are not native to our Southwestern deserts, a few were planted by early settlers so we have always had them. Following a slow but steady growth of interest in roses, the last ten years has brought a phenomenal increase in rose planting, and the beginning of what promises to be an important new industry for Arizona—the production of rose plants for the wholesale market.

Climatic Advantages

While some features of our climate are not favorable for the production of the best blooms, there are many important advantages which offset these unfavorable conditions. Our long growing season gives us a very good spring bloom in April and May, followed by a hot, dry summer during which the blooms are inferior. This is followed by a fine fall bloom in October-November, often extending into December, so we have two full periods for fine flowers and plant growth.

FAVORITE DOZEN (BUSHES)

Nocturne—deep red
 Etoile de Hollande—med. red
 Red Hoover—med. red
 Tallyho—light red
 Charlotte Armstrong—light red
 Santa Anita—med. pink
 Picture—med. pink
 Countess Vandal—pink blend
 Girona—orange blend
 Fred Edmunds—orange blend
 McGredy's Sunset—deep yellow
 Frau Karl Druschki—white

In summer the intense sunlight fades the more delicate colors, such as the lighter pinks and yellows, and the combination of heat and very dry air may cause the drying of petals of the more tender varieties. During the more temperate spring and fall blooming periods, the same bushes produce excellent flowers.

The same bright sun and dry air gives our roses complete freedom from black spot, the most serious and troublesome disease affecting the rose. Powdery mildew occurs on susceptible varieties but is much less prevalent than in more humid climates. Rust and anthracnose are practically unknown. The two most important root and crown diseases, crown gall and root-knot, are not found in new lands.

A New Industry

This freedom from rose diseases, together with the availability of large blocks of new irrigated land and the long growing season, led one of the nation's largest growers of roses (Jackson & Perkins) to establish new growing grounds in the north end of Deer Valley, about 18 miles from Phoenix. They have more than two sections of land of which about one-half is now planted to roses. The headquarters unit includes a large cold storage plant for budwood and two large buildings for storage and packing of dormant rose bushes and for the preparation of root stock cuttings. Results have exceeded expectations and the long season

plus rapid growth especially during the fall produces larger plants than are grown elsewhere in the same period of time.

The first crop of rose bushes was dug and shipped a year ago, and plantings and facilities are being expanded rapidly.

Some difficulties have been encountered, the most troublesome being the reluctance of the plants to stop growing and to shed their leaves in December so they can be dug and shipped in dormant condition. Even the application of the usual defoliant at first failed to discourage further growth. Chlorosis has affected some varieties. On the other hand, thousands of dollars are saved annually because it has not been necessary to spray for the control of blackspot and other diseases.

Other firms have become interested in rose growing and several of them have made plantings in Maricopa and Pinal counties, and there are prospects of a thriving new industry whose product has a very high dollar value per acre.

Superior Varieties

The great increase in rose planting during the past ten years has been stimulated by the introduction of superior new varieties in the hybrid tea roses, and the breeding of an entirely new class of ever-blooming roses, the floribundas. A list of the best of these new varieties would be too long for this space but a few outstanding recent introductions and superior older varieties are given in the "boxes" on this page.

By Rubert B. Streets

HYBRID TEA ROSES

Peace—'45*—yellow, shaded pink

Santa Anita—'43—medium pink

Helen Traubel—'51—pink blend

New Yorker—'47—medium red

Tawny Gold—'51—gold

Buccaneer—'52—deep yellow

Christopher Stone—'36—medium red

Mme. Henri Guillot—'38—flame

Golden Scepter—'50—deep yellow

Tiffany—'54—clear pink

COVER PICTURE

SPARTAN, a striking new orange-red floribunda, was named for the ancient Spartans who were famed for the great beauty of their women and the strength and vigor of their men. Bushes planted in the Tucson Rose Garden last summer produced brilliant flowers all summer and fall.

Color plates, courtesy of Jackson & Perkins Company, Newark, N.Y.

KONRAD ADENAUER, HYBRID TEA ROSE

Photo courtesy of
Jackson & Perkins Co.



SOME TIPS ON PLANTING ROSES

Roses are hardy and adaptable and will grow under a variety of conditions. The following suggestions, however, are based on many years of experience and observation and should give very good results under average conditions.

1. WHEN TO PLANT: The new crop of bare-rooted roses are received by our nurseries early in January. Select your bushes as early as possible, and plant promptly. The bushes will grow new roots while the cool air is retarding top growth, which is desirable. January and February are the best months to plant bare-rooted roses. For later plantings, buy roses well established in cans. Remove the can carefully to avoid injuring the new roots.

2. DEPTH OF SOIL: Roses will grow well in two feet of good soil with adequate drainage. Three feet of soil are better.

3. SPACING: Experience has shown that bushes spaced 3 feet apart and allowed to grow large so they shade the ground are much longer-lived and produce many more flowers than those spaced 18 to 24 inches and pruned severely.

4. PREPARATION OF SOIL: Except in deep, fertile soils, the soil should be excavated to the depth of 2 to 3 feet. In digging, caliche or other unsuitable soil should be separated from the topsoil and removed and replaced by good topsoil. Manure, spoiled hay, or other organic matter should be mixed with the soil up to one-fourth by volume, as the holes are refilled. Soil sulphur at the rate of 2 ounces per cubic foot and ammonium sulphate at the rate of one ounce per cubic foot of excavation are well worth while. When the hole is filled to within six inches of the top, flood with four inches of water to settle the soil.

5. SETTING THE BUSHES: When the soil is no longer muddy (in 2 or 3 days) in the center of the depression build a low mound of soil (no manure) and spread the roots on this mound. Cover with 2 or 3 handfuls of moist sphagnum or peat moss to keep the roots moist. Then cover with 3 inches of soil (again, no manure). The soil-manure mix can be used to complete filling the hole.

6. DEPTH OF PLANTING: The point of budding, as shown by the swelling on the main stem, should be at, or slightly above, the soil line. Too deep planting is a common cause of failure with roses.

7. IRRIGATION: It is vital that the soil around newly planted roses be kept moist by frequent light irrigations (two or three times a week) until the root system has become established (6 to 8 weeks).

Established roses (one year or over) should thrive on one good soaking per week except in the hottest weather when a 5-day interval may be necessary in lighter soils.

Editor's note: Dr. Streets, a specialist in plant diseases and head, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Arizona, has been devoted to rose culture in Arizona for 30 years, and has gained national recognition as an expert on roses. His testing of varieties to find those most suitable to Arizona has been greatly aided by the Tucson Rose Society through its test garden facilities in Randolph Park.

FAVORITE CLIMBERS

- Cl. Christopher Stone—med. red
- Cl. Etoile de Hollande—med. red
- Blaze—med. red
- Cl. Santa Anita—med. pink
- Cl. Show Girl—med. pink
- Cl. Pinkie—light pink (repeats)
- Cl. Talisman—pink blend
- Cl. Mrs. Sam McGredy—orange blend
- Cl. Hinrich Gaede—orange blend
- Cl. Peace—yellow blend
- Cl. Goldilocks—deep yellow
- Silver Moon—white