

Testing Roses

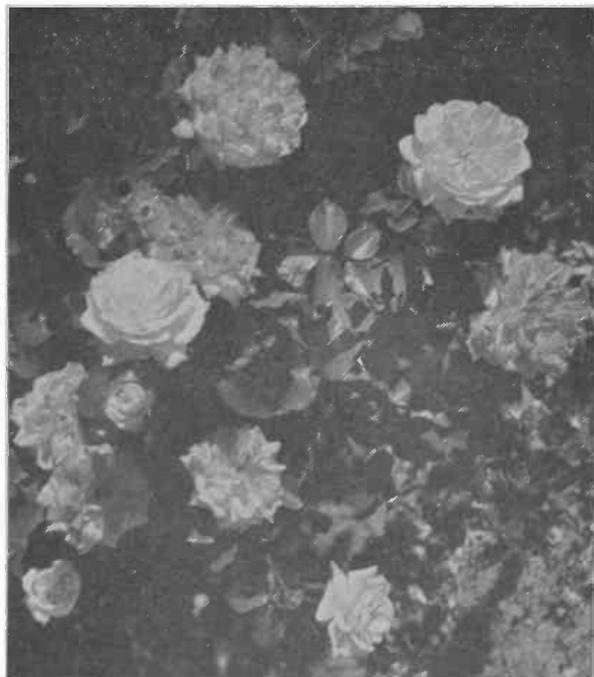
Joe Folkner and Lee Burkhart

Nearly three years ago the Tucson City Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Horticulture Department of The University of Arizona, initiated the establishment of a rose variety test garden. This is a research project to test new varieties of roses, cultural practices under desert conditions, and as a public service.

A favorable site was selected in Randolph Park, the city's largest. A large number of people, including winter visitors, visit the garden each year. Home owners in the urban and suburban areas will benefit from the rose test garden, which will continue to have increasing local and state recognition.

Extensive preparation of the area was provided by Gene Reid, Division of Parks and Recreation. The entire garden, a little over an acre in size, was excavated to a

Dr. Burkhart is head, and Mr. Folkner a member, of the Horticulture Department.



"EASTER PARADE" is name of this floribunda rose, aptly named for its abundance of color and variability of appearance at different stages of flower opening.



ATTRACTIVE ENTRANCE to the rose test garden. That large beam, by the way, came from a railroad trestle at Hayden, Ariz.

depth of three feet. This material which contained some caliche was removed. The backfill was virgin desert soil mixed with large quantities of composted stable manure. The irrigation system is of the overhead sprinkler type, which may be controlled manually or by automatic controls.

This garden consists of 222 plots, 10 plants of each variety. All of the award-

winning varieties of the past three years are included and also many yet un-named varieties.

Most of the plants have been donated by various hybridizers, growers and garden clubs. Others were purchased. The garden will be completed this spring, with 31 plots yet to be planted. Some of these are replants of varieties which did not thrive under desert conditions.



GARDEN IS PLANTED by type of rose rather than color. Mass of bloom occurs in spring and fall.