

Rediscover the passion for roses!

By Rob Van Zanten



Photo courtesy of Vineland Research and Innovation Centre.

Specially bred hardy roses for the Canadian climate, the 49th Parallel collection features Chinook (above), which will be released next year, and Canadian Shield (right), which is already available.

We can all agree that the roses are the most loved flowers in the world and we all want to have them in the garden or a container to enjoy. Whether we take cuts to create that perfect bouquet in a vase or just walk by and smell the delicious fragrance in the air, the rose is a must-have for every gardener.

Novice gardeners have always feared the rose and often have that “I can’t grow them” attitude. The constant care and attention in keeping them disease free and healthy used to be an ongoing battle. Not anymore! Hybridizers have come a very long way in creating beautiful fragrant blooms on a healthy, disease resistant plant. Notably, Kordes and Noack Rosen from Germany have created roses with amazing fragrance, incredible flowers that bloom all season atop glossy green, healthy foliage. “No spray, no fuss, no kidding” is the new direction from rose hybridizers to the consumers. For both novice gardeners and professionals, these are becoming



Photo courtesy of Vineland Research and Innovation Centre.

the roses of choice. More importantly, there is no better way to help the planet and our pollinating friends than to have these maintenance and chemical-free varieties.

Whether you are looking for tall, stately, cut-flower varieties or low-growing and spreading selections, there is a rose for all areas of the landscape. The Clean n’ Easy



Maurice Utrillo hybrid tea bush rose with red, orange and yellow striped blooms.



Photo courtesy of Tesselcar International.



Photo courtesy of Tesselcar International.

Flower Carpet ground-cover roses: 'Amber' above left, and 'Apple Blossom' above right.



'Moonlight in Paris' rose.

tea rose collection are ideal for a centerpiece in the garden or container. They produce cut flower style blooms all season long. They typically grow 90 to 120 centimetres tall and are upright in habit. The Flower Carpet groundcover roses produce thousands of blooms from June to November and are ideal for mass plantings. They grow 75 cm tall and 150 cm wide. Climbing roses round out the landscape needs and can be trained on a trellis or fence. Climbers typically grow between three and five metres tall and wide with a small footprint at the base. All of these roses are hardy to zone 5 climates.

For the prairie gardener looking for the winter hardy rose that can be enjoyed year after year, there are numerous choices. These tough as nails zone 3 varieties produce tea rose-like blooms all season. The Morden Research station in Morden, Manitoba has produced some wonderful varieties in years past. Most notably 'Morden Blush', 'Morden Centennial' and 'Morden Sunrise'. In recent years, Vineland Research station has taken over the rose program and offers the 49th Parallel series of hardy and disease resistant roses. 'Canadian Shield' (2018) and 'Chinook' (2019) are the start to this wonderful collection.

Although the sprays and chemicals for all of these roses should be minimal to none, there are still a few basic care and maintenance tips in making your rosebushes produce to their fullest potential. When planting any rose, select an area with at least six hours of sunshine. Morning sunshine is preferred. Roses love the sun and heat. Avoid watering the foliage if possible and watering the base of the plant is ideal. If you are watering

from the top, then morning is preferred so the sunshine can dry the leaves quickly. Although most modern roses are extremely disease resistant, this helps in preventing any fungus or mildew issues. Next, make sure that the soil you plant your rose in has good drainage. Roses do not like puddling or wet feet. Remove any clay in the hole you dig and fill with a good mix that can be found at your local nursery. It is very important to start your rose in a good location with a good base for proper root growth.

Keep your rosebushes moist but do not overwater. As roses are heavy feeders, it is important to give them food right after planting and then another application right after the first and second flush of blooms. That should be sufficient for the season. Do not fertilize close to the fall when the rose canes are hardening off and going dormant for the winter. Once each bloom is finished (bloomed out) make sure you clip off the rose hip to initiate new sprouting and blooms. Leaving old blooms on your roses targets a lot of the plants energy to the rose hips where new seeds are created. The rose hips are actually high in vitamin C and are edible. Just remember to remove the seeds inside as they are very bitter and bristly.

There is a rose for all parts of the country, all areas of the garden and all gardeners! Since ancient days the rose has been known as the ultimate symbol of love. I don't think much has changed...enjoy them as gifts or gift giving. ☺

Rob van Zanten is from Pan American Nursery Products Inc.



'Morden Blush' rose.



'Morden Sunrise' rose.



'Morden Centennial' rose.



'Winnipeg Parks' rose, from Morden's Parkland series, developed to withstand cold Canadian winters.