

Rose breeding is a combination of science, art

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New roses are generally produced by cross-hybridization, which is both a science and an art.

It's a science because the breeder's knowledge of genetics comes into play in the selection of the two parent plants to be cross-pollinated. From this pollination, the breeder expects and hopes to achieve certain objectives — perhaps a new color, a more vigorous variety, or a more prolific bloomer.

He may select the parents because both are very resistant to rose diseases, with the exception that the new variety will be even more resistant. Of course, from his crosses come many, many seeds, which must be planted and germinated to produce the first generation of new roses.

It is an art because his intuition is used to determine whether or not the first young plants which vaguely indicate their future characteristics, are close to his original objective. Years of evaluation follow his first look at those seedlings, of which no two will ever be exactly alike, even though they may come from the same parents.

The hybridizer will act on training, experience, instinct and conjecture — a combination of science and artistry — to develop the rose varieties for the future.

In the future, there will be more varieties for use in the garden landscapes rather than informal beds. These new varieties will be free-blooming, on plants of many sizes and shapes for use as hedges, borders, or as single specimen or accent plants. They will be more disease-resistant and carefree than plants today.

One major goal of every rose breeder is to achieve a real color breakthrough. In the next half dozen years, the rose gardener may be thrilled with many shades of "plum" colors which may lead to deeper "iris-like" colors... maybe even true blue is closer to reality than we realize.

Blends of colors are not new, but the state of the art

has certainly advanced to produce a more attractive combination of colors.

Bright bicolors, too, have been introduced which are more vigorous and produce more flowers than older varieties. The grandiflora winner for 1980, "Love," is a good example of a scarlet red with silver white covering the back of the petals.

There have been a number of roses in the lavender range. Some were borne on plants that were less vigorous than most gardeners would like, and often with a dirty or undesirable bloom color. One of the better varieties in the magenta-lavender shade is the 1979, AARS winner, "Paradise," which has a strong, vigorous, disease-resistant plant to go with its uniquely colored blooms. From such parent stock will come stronger plants with more resilient colors.

Many rose breeders concentrate on producing new varieties that will have longer "vase life." Rose gardeners want flowers to cut for indoor use and are looking for those varieties that hold form and color well for a long time. To achieve this long-lasting quality requires rose petals with good substance.

The roses of tomorrow will produce many more flowers per plant than many varieties available today. Gardens will be treated to plants that produce a tremendous quantity of roses in clusters and on single stems. Many breeders refer to this type of rose

plant as a "clustering hybrid tea." Varieties of this type are already available.

While technically classified correctly as a floribunda, the variety produces huge quantities of

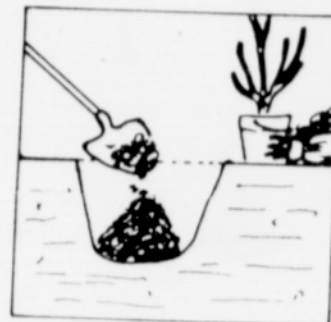
flowers of hybrid tea size and form. This type of clustering hybrid tea will give the homeowner more than twice as many flowers as the "standard" hybrid tea.

The coming decade promises exciting new developments for rose lovers. New colors, new types of plant habit, and more disease-resistant varieties have already been

produced. The competition is very keen among rose breeders of the world to introduce novel and improved new roses and the gardening public is the true beneficiary of this competition.

How To Plant Roses

Planting roses properly requires neither skill nor experience. Simply follow the easy procedure outlined below. Essentials for success with roses are good healthy plants, well prepared beds with good drainage and a minimum of at least a half a day of sunshine in the areas in which the roses are planted.



(1)

Well prepared, deeply spaded bed in well-drained area. Dig each hole 15" to 18" wide and as deep. Add a quart of peat moss or compost and mix well with the soil. Form blunt cone of the mixture in planting hole.



(2)

Prune all rose canes to 12" and remove any broken or injured roots. Position rose on soil cone so the bud union (swelling at base of stem) is just above the ground level after the ground settles in mild climates and about 1" below the surface in climates where winter temperature falls below freezing. Spread roots out in a natural manner down slope of mound.



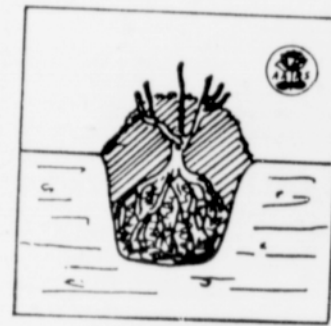
(3)

Work in soil around roots to eliminate any air pockets. Firm soil about roots and add more soil until hole is three-fourths full, then firm with foot or tamper, using care not to injure roots.



(4)

Fill remainder of hole with water and allow it all to soak in, then refill. After water drains, see that bud union remains at proper level and fill remainder of hole with soil and tamp. Head canes back to about eight inches, making cuts one-fourth inch above an outside bud.



(5)

Mound soil around and over plant to height of eight to ten inches. This protects the rose canes from drying out. When buds break, gradually remove mound of soil. Loosen name tag so that it does not constrict cane. When vigorous growth starts, apply plant food according to manufacturer's specifications.

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