Charlotte Armstrong Rose Has Lasting Influence

Probably no other American rose has had so great and lasting an influence on the rose scene for the past quarter century as Charlotte Armstrong, an exquisite, red hybrid tea.

Many rosarians contend that Charlotte Armstrong, created by Dr. Walter C. Lammerts in 1936 at Armstrong Nurseries, Inc., Ontario, California, embodies all that is most desirable in a rose.

Wherever superior roses are growing today it is quite likely that Charlotte Armstrong has a hand in things, for it is rare indeed to find a rose hybridizer these days who is not using the variety extensively in his crosses.

Since its introduction in 1941 when it won the coveted All-America Rose Selections Award, Charlotte Armstrong has sold approximately 3,000,000 plants making it very possibly the largest selling variety of hybrid tea rose in history.

Named For Wife

Named after the late wife of John S. Armstrong, 94-year old founder and chairman of the board of Armstrong Nurseries, Charlotte Armstrong was the result of a cross of Crimson Glory with Sister Therese. From the start, Charlotte Armstrong's origination was unusual and distinctive.

The work was begun by cross pollinating both Crimson Glory and Sister Therese, obtaining about 1,000 seedlings of each variety. The outstanding seedlings of each were then carefully selected for their preferred characteristics and crossed with each other.

This continued until at last a variety emerged that embraced the outstanding color quality of Crimson Glory with the bud shape of Sister Therese. After winning the 1941 AARS award the rose went on to score a national 9.0 rating by the American Rose Society, a rating held by only five hybrid tea roses.

Brilliant Coloring

Because of its brilliant coloring the Charlotte Armstrong is the only one of all the hybrid teas classified in the authoritative volume, "Rockwells' Complete Book of Roses," as a "spectrum-red.". It earned this classification from its bud, which is blood red, turning to spectrum red in cool weather and to cerise in warmer weather.

Strong and vigorous with leathery, semi-glossy, deep green foliage, it produces an enormous number of buds. It outblooms most other varieties three to one.

Thus, having nestled close to the best seller position in American roses for nearly 25 years, Charlotte Armstrong has brought just reward to the man who named it. When John Armstrong named the rose after his late wife he felt that it personified the floral equivalent to the Taj Mahal, a wonderous shrine also dedicated by a man to the memory of his wife.

Indoor Play Said Order of Day

Even in summer there are times when indoor play is the order of the day for the small fry at your house. They'll find this fun:

Put the family car out in the rain to clear the garage for always popular wheel toys. Mark off traffic lines with chalk, and let the youngsters play "traffic," rotating the job of policeman. With sturdy steel wheel goods you need not worry about an occasional collision, even in the crowded space of a garage floor.

Hedges May Provide Privacy, Wind Breaks

Privacy is the principal reason for planting hedges in urban and suburban areas, while in farm and rural areas, hedges are used chiefly to break cold winds in winter and to prevent fertile top soil from blowing away. Hedges also help to delineate property lines, enclose flower gardens and work areas, to shut off unsightly views as well as give beauty to any setting.

Choose your hedge materials for your particular need with care, advises the American Association of Nurserymen.

The best procedure is to ask your nurseryman for suggestions as to the proper plant materials. Hedges grow at maturity to heights anywhere from a few inches to 20 feet tall; low-growing plants, only a few feet tall, generally are used in suburban areas.

Moreover, the plants range from those that drop their leaves in Winter, through flowering plants and evergreens.

Striking Hedges

Many plants not ordinarily thought of for hedges, like roses and azaleas, can make striking hedge plantings for the home property, especially when in flower. Practically everyone knows of barberry and arborvitae hedges, but fewer people know of ilex or holly which is striking for the purpose.

Ligustrum, and the privets have been widely used. Forsythia, one of the old timers, still makes an excellent hedge with its burst of yellow in the spring, green foliage in summer, turning purple in the fall.

For a living fence, the floribunda rose is excellent in urban and suburban areas, while the multiflora rose still is widely used on farm properties where it makes an impenetrable fence at lower cost than wood or wire when mature.

Strive for hedges that will be attractive and colorful all year long, to provide all-season beauty.

Castoffs Recommended For Inexpensive Walk

Love to have a flagstone walk or patio, but find it would be a bit too expensive?

Check local builders and building wrecking firms; what you may find are concrete chunks that were once a floor or retaining wall.

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