

WFRS REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

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'Crepuscule' (Dubreuil, France, 1904)

(photo: Galyna Mykytynets)

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(photo: Angela Bokor)





EDITOR'S NOTE

The world is in turmoil and it seems that the world of roses has its issues too.

Recently, I received an email from Silvia Fineschi. The daughters of Professor Gianfranco Fineschi are looking for rosarians who want to preserve the rose varieties in the collection at Caviglia. They are not able to maintain the garden anymore and want to find guardians who are willing to preserve the valuable rose heritage.

'Champneys' Pink Cluster' is an important rose as it is the ancestor of the Noisettes class. Erich Unmuth is concerned that it cannot be found in Europe and is looking for a way to bring it back into cultivation. See the latest update about this endeavour.

Galyna Mykytynets and her family had to leave their house and beautiful garden with many roses due to the Russian occupation of a part of Ukraine. In the west of Ukraine they started from scratch a new garden proving that the love and passion for plants can make wonders.

'Niphetos', a Tea rose, bred in 1835, sensitive to frost is still grown in protected spaces by rosarians who appreciate her beauty.

Robert Ardini shares his thoughts on the conservation of modern roses that will one day be considered historic.

The Scots roses had their heyday in the first part of the 19th century but Mary McMurtrie's '*Scots Roses of Hedgerows and Wild Gardens*' book with her beautiful paintings may convince you to consider having them in your gardens.

An article written by Rudolf Geschwind in 1894 provides insight into the breeders' thoughts on the black rose.

With roses we can make the world a better place!

Angela Bokor
Romania
WFRS Vice-President for Europe
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Become a Guardian of the Rose Heritage at Gianfranco and Carla Fineschi Botanical Rose Garden

Established in 1994 in Cavriglia, Italy, the garden was created to preserve the biodiversity and genetic heritage of the genus *Rosa*.

This extensive garden comprises all classes of roses, including species, historic and modern varieties. While the historic roses are the garden's main feature, it is also home to modern varieties not found in other collections.

Since Professor Gianfranco Fineschi passed away, his daughters have maintained this valuable collection. Unfortunately, they are no longer able to do so and are now looking for gardeners who would like to become 'guardians' of Cavriglia's rose heritage. Those willing to preserve this genetic heritage will receive budwood for propagating the varieties.

I hope that the world of rosarians will give this valuable collection a chance of survival. If you are interested, please contact me at angela1710@hotmail.co.uk or the Fineschi Rose Garden directly at info@rosetofineschi.it.



‘Niphetos’ (Tea Rose, Bougère, 1835)

Erich Unmuth

Delicate blossoms – robust shrubs: characteristics that have long delighted people, especially when it comes to pure white roses.

Think of the Alba roses e.g. ‘Jeanne d’Arc’ (Vibert, 1818) – powerful, indestructible shrubs, tall climbing rambler roses e.g.. ‘Mr. Nickelby’ (Scarman, 2005), powerful climbing roses ‘White Flight’ (Koster, 1923) or repeat-flowering modern shrub roses such as ‘Schneewittchen’ (syn. Iceberg, Kordes, 1958), which, when in full bloom, fully lives up to its English name ‘Iceberg’.

Around 1830, almost 200 years ago, two pure

white flowering roses were bred that are still for many rose lovers the epitome of the ‘white rose’ today. To this day, they are admired and planted by them worldwide: ‘Madame Hardy’ (Hardy, 1831) and ‘Niphetos’ (Bougère, 1835). Their contrast impressively demonstrates the great diversity of our cultivated roses.

Robust growth, dense thorns, rough foliage, upright, perfectly shaped, centifolia-like (full quartered) flowers, high frost resistance in ‘Mme. Hardy’ – delicate, fragile growth, few thorns, glossy foliage, nodding, tea rose-like flowers, frost-sensitive, that is ‘Niphetos’ ^[1].



Alba Rose, 'Jeanne D'Arc' (Vibert, 1818)



Damask/Centifolia, 'Madame Hardy' (Hardy, 1831)



Rambler, 'Mr. Nickelby' (Scarman, 2005)



Climber, 'White Flight' (Koster, 1923)



Modern Shrub, 'Schneewittchen' (syn. 'Iceberg', Kordes, 1958)



'Marechal Niel' (Castel, 1857)
Ungarische Rosenzeitung 1892



'Niphotos' (this illustration is intended to show the shape of the rose rather than its colour)

'Niphotos' was first mentioned in the *Memoires de la Société d'Agriculture, Sciences et Arts d'Angers*, 1836. Together with two other tea roses, 'Niphotos' was described there as follows:

'*Culture de M. Bougère, jardinier-fleuriste. (Faubourg Gauvin.)*

Niphotos (Thé). Buisson assez vigoureux. 3 à 5 folioles ovales, petites.

Pédoncule quadrangulaire, hispidule. Fleur de 3 po. de diam. [8.1 cm], pleine bien faite, d'un blanc pur. Pétales extérieurs larges, ceux du centre étroits et comme chiffonnés. Première floraison 1835. Très belle fleur, remarquable par sa blancheur éclatante."

Raised by M. Bougère, gardener, florist. (Faubourg Gauvin.)

Niphotos (Tea). Fairly vigorous bush. 3 to 5 small oval leaflets. Quadrangular, slightly hairy peduncle. Flower 3 inches in diameter [8.1 cm], full and well formed, pure white. Outer petals broad, central petals narrow and somewhat crumpled. First flowering in 1835. Very beautiful flower, remarkable for its brilliant whiteness. (Trans. Erich Unmuth)

Foubourg-Gauvin is a district of Angers (the region of Angers remains one of the centres of ornamental plant cultivation in France to date).

Little is known about Mr. Bougère today; even his first name is unknown. His business primarily focused on the cultivation of pelargoniums, ranunculus and citrus plants. Some rose varieties are known by name, but they did not become widespread and are now lost.

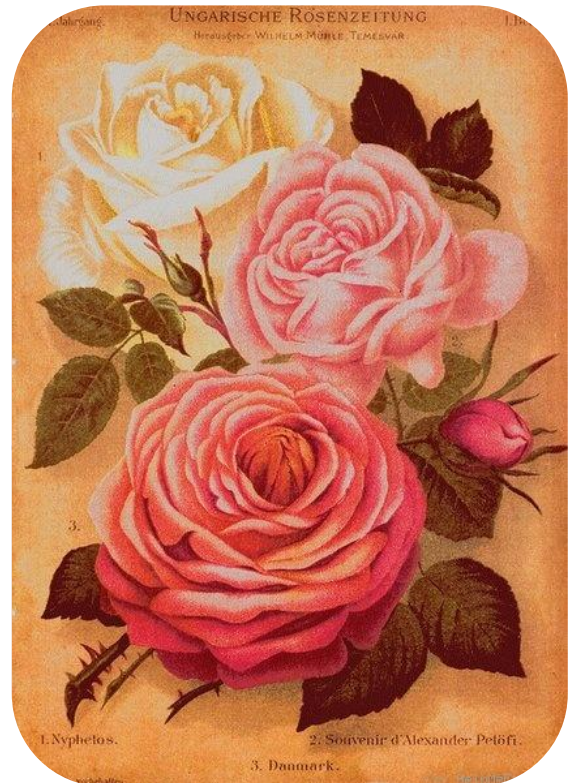
His 'Niphotos', on the other hand, proved itself in the 19th century alongside 'Marechal Niel' (Castel, 1857) as a forcing and cut rose.

Sixty years after it first bloomed, the "Deutsche Rosenzeitung wrote in 1894: *Niphotos, the "white Niel". In recent years, the cultivation of this highly prized rose has made great strides... Now it cannot be grown enough... Thousands of Niphotos plants are in demand... Since the year of its introduction, it has taken an undisputed first place among all white roses and will continue to hold this position for a long time to come in many respects. (Trans. Erich Unmuth)*

At this time, a large number of illustrations can be found in the important periodicals of the day – *Deutsche Rosenzeitung*, *Journals des Roses*, *Ungarische Rosenzeitung/ Rosza Ujsag* – which emphasise the beauty and elegance of this rose's blooms.

In William Paul's book "The Rose Garden", which has been reprinted repeatedly over the decades, 'Niphetos' is listed among the recommended "winter roses". And it is precisely this, its reliable flowering around the turn of the year, that makes 'Niphetos' so popular even today.

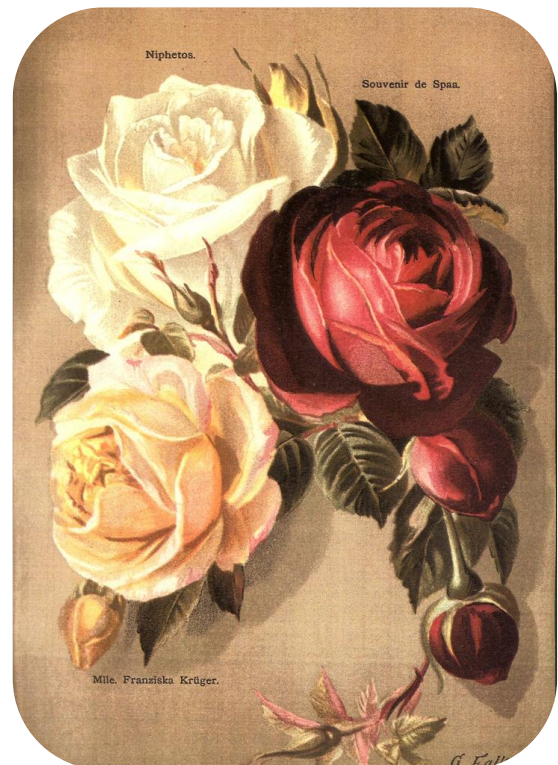
[1] There is a wonderful essay by Martin Stott about Madame Hardy here: [Who was Mme Hardy? | Storyteller Garden](#). In general: Martin Stott's blog regularly features exciting stories and interesting facts for rose lovers.



'Niphetos' -Ungarische Rosenzeitung. 1893 with 'Souvenir d'Alexander Petöfi' (Zsednyicsek, 1888) and 'Danmark' (Zeiner-Lassen, 1890)



'Niphetos' - Deutsche Rosenzeitung, 1894 with 'Papa Gontier' (Nabonnand, 1882), 'Comtesse de Frigneuse' (Guillot, 1885) and 'Baronne Henriette de Loew' (Nabonnand, 1888)



'Niphetos'; -Ungarische Rosenzeitung, 1892 with 'Mlle. Franziska Krüger' (Nabonnand, 1873) and 'Souvenir de Spa' (Gautreau, 1872)



'Niphetos'

(photos: Erich Unmuth)

The Conservation of Modern Roses

An American Perspective

Robert Ardini

We all knew the day would come. Time would pass and the world community would someday be faced with the task of determining which modern roses, if any, were worthy of conservation. Generally accepted rules governing the conservation of old garden (non-modern) roses are clear - cultivars should be grown in three nurseries, displayed in three public gardens, and grown in 30 private gardens - but do these guidelines translate to modern roses?

And, perhaps even more important, with the nearly unlimited number of modern varieties, how do we choose the cultivars worthy of conservation? Now, on the cusp of the quarter century, this seems like an ideal time to continue this conversation and, at least, agree on a list of what to conserve - before it's too late. I say "continue" because I am not the first rosarian to pontificate on this subject. However, I'd like to think that this article advances the conversation in some small way.

Let's start with the easy part - that widely recognized minimum criteria necessary to save an endangered plant:

- grown in three nurseries.
- displayed in three public gardens.
- grown in 30 private gardens.

That criteria has proved reasonably successful in the conservation of old garden roses, so I see no reason why it wouldn't work as well for modern roses.

Now for the hard part - the selection of cultivars worthy of conservation. We have many variables to consider. I will list all that have come to mind, and then I will 'go out on a limb' and dare to suggest my 'wish list' of 10.

A. The selection of varieties must be country specific. What is (or had been) in commerce in one country may not be in another; and, what grows well in one country can be a 'dog' in another. And, every country should decide how to best go about establishing their list of roses to conserve, and how often to revisit the list to make additions.

B. No rose should be considered unless it has been in commerce for at least 50 years.

C. The fact that some modern roses thrive when grafted onto a different rootstock and do not perform as well on their own roots cannot be taken into consideration. Sufficient data that is cultivar-specific will probably never be available.

D. We must give only minimal consideration to having a representation of color, classification, bloom form, fragrance, date of introduction, parentage, and hybridizer; otherwise some of the most popular varieties of their time might not make the cut.

E. Keeping the list to a bare minimum - perhaps only 10-20 cultivars - make our conservation efforts more likely to succeed.

F. Perhaps the most controversial, disease-resistance should NOT be taken into account. After all, when these roses were introduced, dusting and spraying were standard practices embraced by home gardeners.

G. The primary reason for inclusion should be historical; in other words, varieties deemed worthy of conservation should historically mirror the most popular roses grown by the home gardener, and the most popular roses grown in public gardens.

Now for the fun part. What follows, based on the criteria listed immediately above, is my list of ten roses (in no particular order) which I would like to see conserved.

1. **New Dawn.** The standard by which all other large-flowered climbers are measured. Mass displays of this variety still prevail over sides of houses, and on trellises. It's the very first rose to receive a U.S. Patent. I think of it as a quintessential American rose - sort of the rose counterpart of Aaron Copland's orchestral masterpiece Appalachian Spring.

2. **First Prize.** This top exhibition rose for all of the

1970's found its way into home gardens, likely because its sophisticated form was better than anything that came before. Add to that its novelty of color - one of the very first 'blends' and the freckles it develops when it rains spots. It's not winter hardy in some climates, but it is so loved that some home gardeners simply treated it like an annual and replaced it with a new plant each year if necessary.

3. **Sterling Silver.** Yes, it has a reputation as being a stingy bloomer; and the color is often more gray than mauve. However, being the first mass-market mauve, it became beloved and remains so to this day.



'New Dawn' (photo: Rich Baer, USA)



'First Prize' (photo: John Mattia, USA)



'Sterling Silver' (photo: Rich Baer, USA)



'Angel Face' (photo: Robert Ardini, USA)

4. **Angel Face.** This was a color breakthrough on the heels of *Sterling Silver*, as *Angel Face* is a true mauve without any grayish coloring. Then there's the substance which can rival any rose, the fragrance - so strong it simply can't be ignored, and the golden stamens which expose themselves so prominently in the open-bloom stage. This variety is still so popular today, it's a fixture in most rose catalogs.

5. **Sunsprite.** Some widely grown yellows came before - *Eclipse* and *Kings Ransom* both came to mine - but once *Sunsprite* arrived on the scene, it usurped the popularity of all of the others. It is vigorous, floriferous, and has beautifully-serrated shiny green foliage. If it were more disease-resistant, it might have still been the best yellow on the market today.

6. **Medallion.** *Apricots Diamond Jubilee*, *Apricot Nectar* and *Helen Traubel* (technically a pink blend) were all very popular, but once *Medallion* was introduced, it became 'the' apricot. Why? Because *Medallion* offered a truer, clearer, apricot color, improved vigor and form over its predecessors, and quite possibly the largest bloom ever to appear on a hybrid tea - even to this day. With a good fertilization program, *Medallion* can produce dinner plate sized blooms. As if that wasn't enough going for it, a stylized version of *Medallion* (along with *Red Masterpiece*) was chosen to appear on one of the more popular U.S. Postage Stamps.

7. **Pascali.** I struggled with this choice because, in my personal opinion, *Evening Star* is an even better rose overall. However *Pascali* was, and still is, far more widely grown. Sure, *Pascali* has a reputation for small blooms as hybrid teas go; but, so what? That's pretty much the worst I can say about it. *Pascali* still holds up against the 21st century generation of whites - *Sugar Moon*, *Classic Touch*, *Full Sail*, etc., and that says a lot!

8. **Peace.** Prior to the 1959 introduction of *Kordes' Perfecta*, *Peace* was the only mass-market rose to be edged in a color different from the rest of the bloom. Few would argue that *Peace* was included in home gardens of the 20th century more than any other variety.



'Sunsprite' (photo: Rich Baer, USA)



'Medallion' (photo: Rich Baer, USA)



'Pascali' (photo: Rich Baer, USA)

9. **Starina.** *Beauty Secret, Cinderella, Green Ice, Magic Carrousel, Over the Rainbow* and *Si* were all contenders for this spot. What set *Starina* apart from the rest is its orange-red color which was perceived as novel for a rose in its day. *Tropicana* was the only other variety of that color to receive such mass-market embrace.

10. **Mister Lincoln.** *Crimson Glory, Mirandy, Chrysler Imperial, New Yorker* and *Red Masterpiece* were all contenders for this spot, but I knew it had to go to *Mister Lincoln* - as it has been, and continues to be, featured in more home gardens than any of the others. The fact that *Crimson Glory* is found in the bloodlines of so many modern roses was not lost on me; but sometimes the 'child' is better than its ancestry. And, *Red Masterpiece* may be a better overall grower; and, even though it was featured on that U.S. Postage Stamp mentioned earlier, I presume it never reached the level of popularity of *Mister Lincoln* because it lacks its very strong fragrance.

As for other roses that didn't make my cut, but also worthy of mention are *Queen Elizabeth* and *Blaze*. I remember a time when nearly every other home garden contained at least one bush of one or both of these; however, that era was short lived. Time marched on and *Queen Elizabeth* and *Blaze* seemed to mostly disappear, being replaced with *Touch of Class*. And today, most of those bushes of *Touch of Class* have been replaced with *Knockout*.

When I look to the future to imagine what roses might be added to my list - as they reach the milestone of 50 years in commerce - names that come to mind are *Graham Thomas, Gemini, Knockout* and *Overnight Scentsation* - because it is the only cultivar that went into outer space. Only time will tell.

Robert Ardini is the Immediate Past Vice President for North America of the World Federation of Rose Societies and has been growing modern roses for over 50 years.



'Peace' (photo: John Mattia, USA)



'Starina' (photo: Rich Baer, USA)



'Mr. Lincoln' (photo: Rich Baer, USA)

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The Black Rose

article by Rudolf Geschwind

published in *Kerteszeti Lapok* in March 1894, Budapest;

translated from Hungarian by Angela Bokor

People are after ideals! But only in the rarest of cases do these ideals become reality, so that they become the common property of mankind. Such is the fate of plant and flower lovers. We wanted a giant rose – we have got one, so that we might want an even bigger one later; we have bred pretty little roses, and we are not satisfied with all that, we are thinking of all shades of colour, and we want blue, brown, even black roses.

It's been that way as long as roses have been grown, and it's the same today. Sometimes one of them shyly tells the world that he has seen a black rose, planted next to an oak tree - of course then we get black flowers, because the sap of the oak tree turns all the colours black.

"What did you say, did you see a black rose?" he is asked over and over again. "Not me, but a friend of mine, and he was certain, etc., and that's the end of the story. And yet the layman does not always willingly mislead the public. The bright golden-red enamel with which the setting sun drapes the rose soon fades away, giving way to a darker hue in which there is no trace of red. The white, pink and yellow roses show through the leaves in the pitch-black night, but the dark red rose is not so different from the leaves, for it has become black like the skin of an aethiopian.

But I don't want to talk about this optical colouring, I want to talk about the fact that some of the darker species, when viewed from a slightly distance, appear black. I saw this most often at Erinnerung an Brod, which was planted against the north side of a wall and its flowers

:



'Prince Camille de Rohan'

from "Le Livre d'Or des Roses" by Paul Hariot, 1903, p. 55

looked black from a distance of less than ten paces. Very often, when visiting certain gardens, flower lovers have been able to do this when they were not allowed to look at the roses up close. But let us turn from these illusions to reality. I say to the reader that not only have I seen black roses, but I have had them in my garden, and this is not a fairy tale, it is true.

In the past, my garden was often visited by flower lovers; when one day the mayor of our town came to see it, he suddenly stopped in front of a secluded and neglected rose bed and exclaimed in amazement: "Ni, what more do we want, here is a black rose." I, who was standing in the background, hurried over and, to my utter astonishment, saw on one of the bushes, on the dark red flowering *Maxim de la Rocheterie* (Vigneron 1872), a rose in a bright black colour, if you looked closely, very closely, you could see a faint dark red beneath the velvet of the black colour.

This rose was opening on a very short, barely viable branch, and that was probably the reason why, despite the fact that we used the buds for propagation, not a single bud survived. And the flowers that grew that year and the following year on that stem, they were not black.

I must not omit to mention that the bed on which the black rose grew lay in the shade of a tall walnut tree. A few years have passed since then, and I had quite forgotten this incidence when, on a morning walk, I came upon a tall remontant rose, the *Prince Camille de Rohan* (E. Verdier 1862), and who can describe my joy and astonishment at seeing on the crown of the rose not one, but twenty or more open flowers, all in the most beautiful black.

I quickly called my wife and friends, who were all very much astonished at the colour I saw, for in this case the reddish glow was not visible under the black colour, as in the *Maxime de la Rocheterien*; it is true that the black colour was not so bright, but was a pale velvety, but jet black, the ideal of the black rose. Now what to do to fix this colour? I quickly decided and selected three flowering branches for budding and, knowing that this variety would produce many seeds, I left the other branches untouched, which then bore many fruit in the autumn.

It was striking that *both Maxime de la Rocheterie* and *Prince Camille de Rohan* produced black flowers in the same soil conditions. In a sheltered place, in a little shade, in a deep iron-rich soil mixed with meadow soil, without any fertilizer and among walnut roots. I had to think that this latter condition was the decisive factor in producing the black flowers.

This time I was luckier with the budding. Almost all the buds sprouted next spring and I didn't prune the shoots to see the new flowers as soon as possible. In July, indeed they opened up, but they were not black, they were the velvety brownish crimson of *Prince Camille de Rohan*.

After this unpleasant disappointment, I was curious about the specimens grown from seeds. I planted the seeds in November in prepared soil and they sprouted in April and May, and some of them even opened as 15 cm high sprouts in August and September. I wrote the following about these flowers in my notebook at the time:

- 122. Semi-double, crimson, similar to *Gloire de Rosomane*.
- 434. Crimson with violet, full, difficult to open the flower
- 1140. Quite full, similar to the *Souvenir du Président Lincoln*.
- 390. dark red, with crimson violet, full flowers.
- 159. violet-coloured, difficult to open.
- 520. Dark velvety, semi-double.
- 158. purple-violet, semi-double
- 176. similar to Prince de Ternoir.
- 907. *Velvety black* with a bright red centre.
- 144. Similar to 176 but brighter
- 1117. Semi-double, bluish crimson.
- 483. Beautiful dark violet, *almost black*.
- 1192. dark red, small.
- 489. Purple violet, small.
- 434, 159, 520, 166, 907, 144, 483. are still in my garden, but the others have died. Many changed colour at transplanting, one darker, the other lighter.

It is clear from what has been said that the pure black rose is not a figment of the imagination, but *must* sooner or later become a permanent ornament of the flowerbed.

That we have not yet managed to breed it, the reason for this is not only the sloppiness of the seed growers, but also the fashionable foolishness of flower lovers who for years have sought only pink remontans and yellowish tea roses and have carefully avoided mixed colours. I'm convinced that if the old French gardeners had searched with patience and consideration, we would have black roses today. Just look at the dark colour of the roses we had 50 years ago:

a) among the roses of Provence.

Urika. The colour of the bush itself is dark purple, the flower is brownish, large to medium sized, very compact, hemispherical. A beautiful flower.

Ombre précieuse. Produced in Laaken in 1824. Velvety dark brown, medium size. Ornamental flower.

Belle Africaine. Velvety purple-black, very compact, small, regularly convex.

Maceca nova. Velvety, dark crimson brown, semi-double, medium size.

Proserpine. Blackish crimson, with bronze enamel in the sun, full, medium size, velvety.

La Noire de Hollande. The flower is not very full, but it is a beautiful violet with a beautiful blackish violet colour.

La superbe en brun. Dark crimson with sharply outlined brown spots.

Le velours noir. The flowers are large, full, very dark crimson, almost dark brown.

b) Bengal hybrids.

Miralda. Dark crimson with crimson to black shades

Yolande Fontaine black and violet, very dark.

This list could be extended, to prove that the old French gardeners had enough material available to them. to breed very dark, possibly black roses. As far as multi flowering roses are concerned, they have never lacked, and still do not lack, different shades of dark colour.

It is even claimed that the royal gardener of Monza grew black roses many years ago, but there is no doubt that there are many suitable material among the newer multi flowering varieties for growing black roses. We can only

mention the *Deuil de F. Villermoz*, which is a velvety purple-black, and the *Souvenir de Madame Léon Lille*, which is a very dark reddish black velvet.

Among the remontants : *Alexandre Dumas*, velvety crimson-black; *Alsace-Lorraine* velvety blackish red; *Baron Bonstetten* velvety blackish crimson ; *Deuil du Colonel Deafer* velvety blackish purple; *Directeur Alphand*, dark blackish velvety purple ; with brown: *Empereur du Maroc*, dark purple-black with velvety shine ; *Jean Liabaud*, velvety dark blackish crimson ; *Prince Camille du Rohan*, velvety dark chestnut-brown crimson; *Souvenir de William Wood* dark blackish purple *Tartarus* dark crimson, often violet playing black ; *Vulcain* dark violet ; *Xavier Olibo* velvety black, shaded with amaranth and flame red ; *Pierre Notting* black and red violet shades; *Rowland Hill*, dark red with a chestnut-brown satin finish ; *Emperor* dark red, almost black; *Francois Gaulein* red, shades of black ; and *Maxime de la Rocheterie* black with violet, etc.

There are many good seed-bearers among them, and if there were anyone who did not garden for a living, he would find many precious pearls on his way while he was looking for black roses.



'X(avier Olibo' (Germany, Labenz rosenpark)



'Red Robin' (Louis Lens, 1992)
photo: Europa-Rosarium, Sangerhausen

The Three Robins

Erich Unmuth
Rosenkultivarium, Baden

Once again, I would like to emphasise the shrub-like nature of roses. Even when they are not in bloom, some roses display their characteristics in the depths of winter.

Two excellent examples of this are the two varieties bred by Louis Lens: 'Pink Robin'

and 'Red Robin'. These two roses are probably sibling seedlings, at least they have the same parents: *R. helenae* x 'Robin Hood'.

These are tall-growing shrubs, which used to flower here profusely end of May and are notable in October for their striking leaf colour. However, this is merely

a prelude: when leafless, their bright red branches outshine even those of *Cornus sanguinea*, an ornamental shrub renowned for its striking appearance.

The extraordinary display of colours lasts for several weeks and was particularly striking this year because there was a layer of snow on the ground again for a few days, providing a great contrast after several years without snow.

The Chinese species, *Rosa helenae* Rehder & E. H. Wilson, also exhibits slight discolouration of the branches in winter.

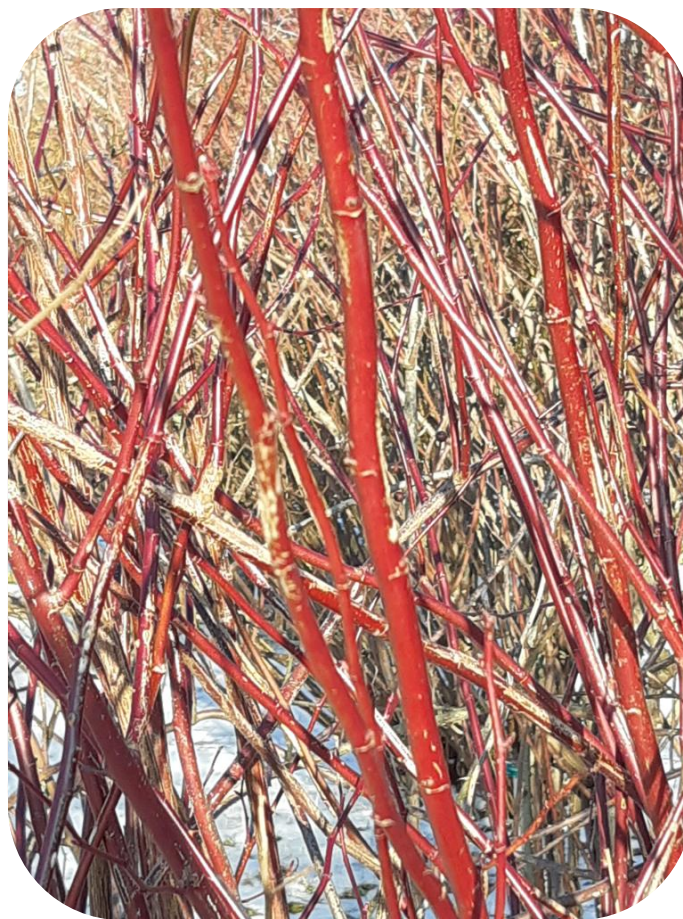
This winter, a 'third robin' ensured that gardening at temperatures around 0°C was colourful, entertaining and varied!



'Red Robin' foliage in autumn



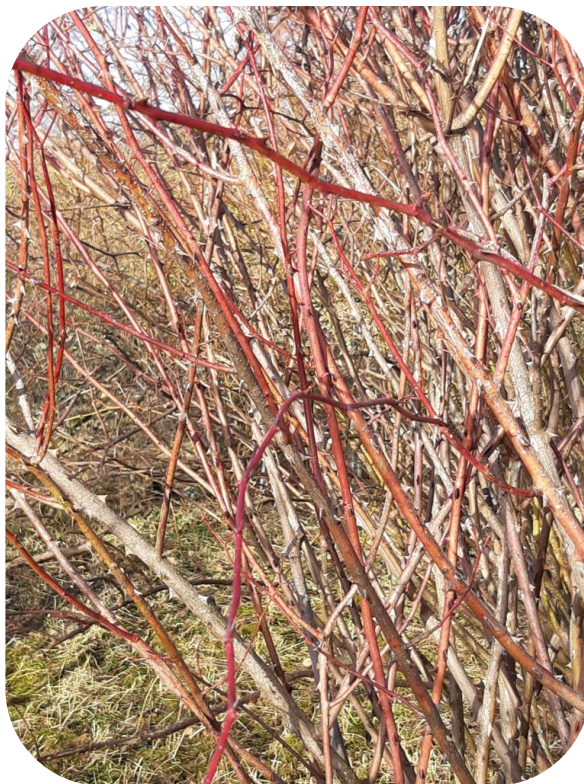
'Pink Robin' 18.01.2026



'Pink Robin' 18.01.2026



'Pink Robin', 7.02.2026



Rosa helenae, 7.02.2026



'Red Robin' – autumn leaves



the third robin



'Pink Robin'



Rose Heritage of Southern Ukraine: Creating Harmony Amidst Loss

Galyna Mykytynets

Our small private garden was located in southern Ukraine, in the town Melitopol (since February 2022, the town has been under the temporary occupation of the Russian Federation).

Geographically, it belongs to the Azov region, approximately 50 kilometers north of the Sea of Azov. Due to the war of aggression and the subsequent occupation, our family was forced to leave our home and garden in February 2022.

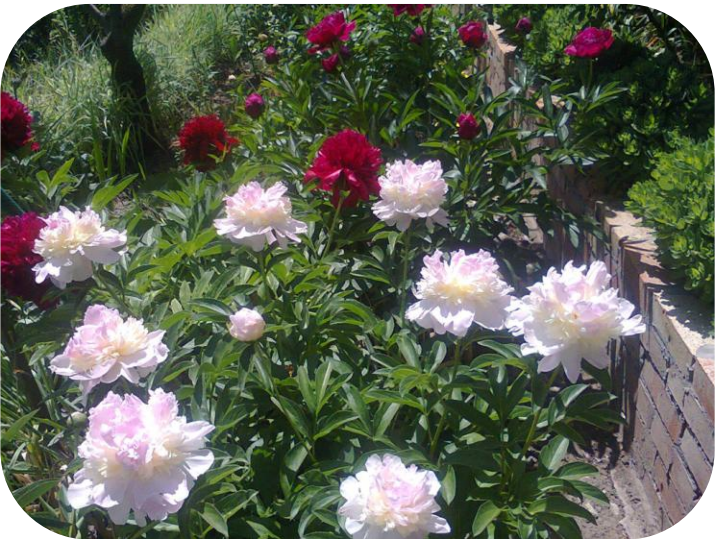
To this day, we do not know what has happened to our garden or plants, as the property is currently occupied by unknown individuals who

settled there illegally and without our consent. When we purchased the house in 2001, the plot was an old fruit garden (apricots, sweet cherries, and plums) situated on a steep slope and covering approximately half an acre – about 20 meters wide and 100 meters long downhill.

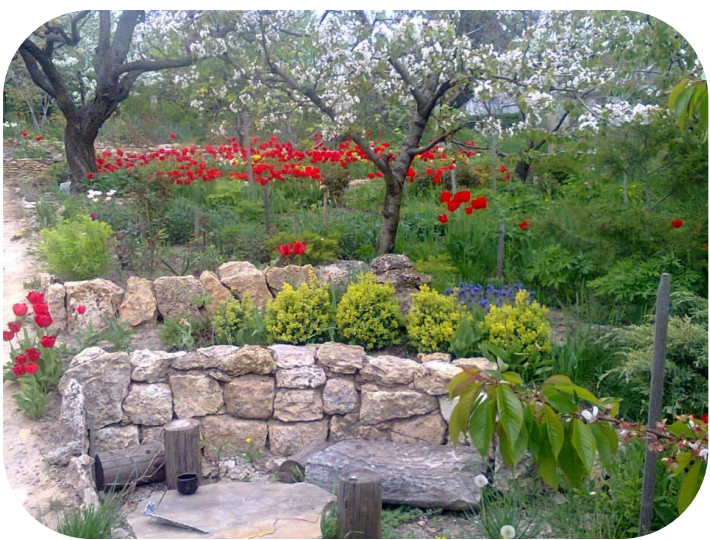
Starting in 2009, we began to restructure the space by building terraces from natural stone and creating areas for flower beds and ornamental plantings. Over the next twelve years, the garden grew to include around 900 rose bushes representing more than 700 rose cultivars from different horticultural groups.



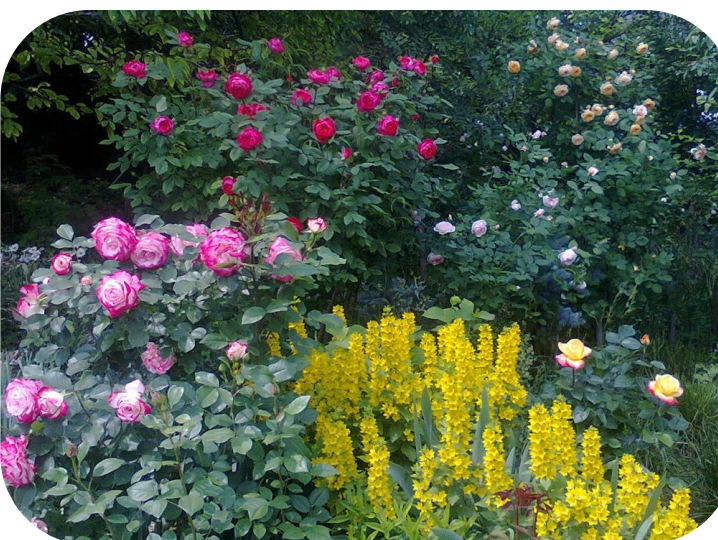
Spring 2013



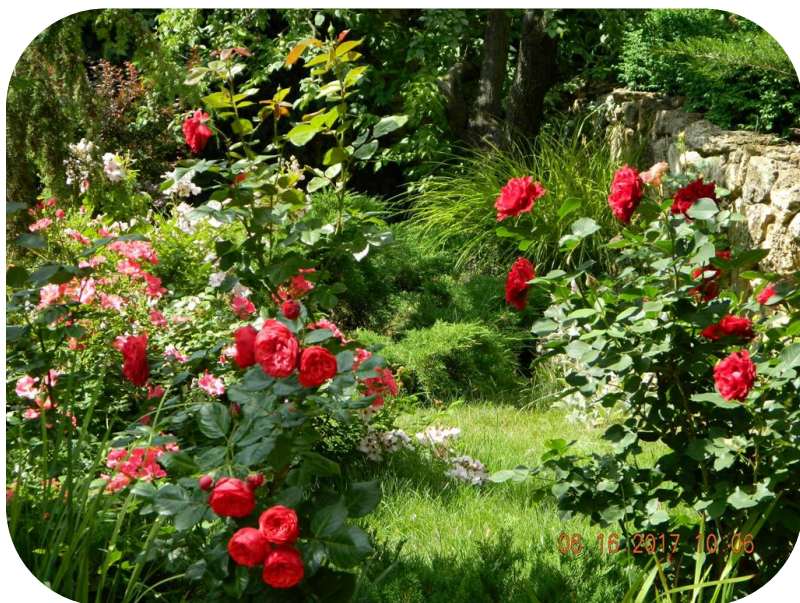
Spring 2015



Spring 2015



Summer 2015



Summer 2017

These included modern Hybrid Tea roses, ranging from classic varieties such as *Gloria Dei*, *Chicago Peace*, *Love and Peace*, *Papa Meilland*, and *Blue Moon*, *Louis de Funes*, *Eddy Mitchell* to my personal favorites *Augusta Luise*, *Comtessa*, *Chippendale*, *Piano*, *Hommage a Barbara*, *Nostalgie*, *Frederic Mistral*.

The collection also featured Floribunda roses such as *Midsummer*, *Jubile du Prince de Monaco*, *Botticelli*, *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Red Leonardo da Vinci*, *Stephanie Baronin zu Guttenberg*, *Novalis*, *Koko Loko*.

Shrub roses included *La Rose de Molinard*, *Dieter Muller*, *Cardinal Hume*, *Laduree*, *Marie Curie*, *Caramella*, *Purple Lodge*, *Astrid Graf von Hardenberg*.

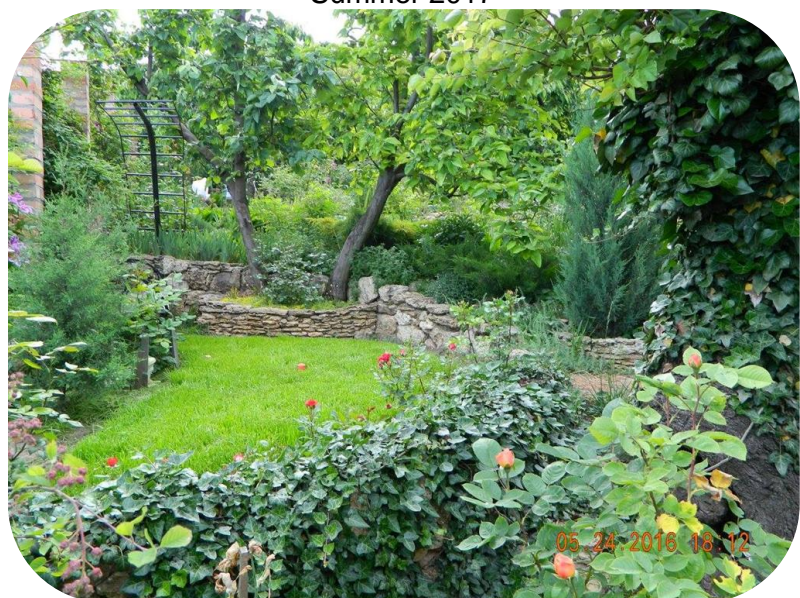
Climbing roses ranged from older cultivars like *New Dawn* and *Ash Wednesday*, traditional varieties such as *Westerland*, *Polka*, *Rimosa*, *Pierre de Ronsard*, *Barock* to more modern climbers including *Laguna*, *Bajazzo*, *Dee Dee Bridgewater*, *Night owl*.

Groundcover roses included *Stadt Rom*, *Sweet Haze*, *Rody*, *Les Quatre Saisons*, *Hello*, *Kastelruther Spatzen*, *Alba*, *Rouge i Scarlet Meillandecor*.

The Grandiflora group was represented by *Honore de Balzac*, *Honey Dijon*, *Madame Anisette*, *Stephen Rulo*, *Blue Eden*.

Hybrid Musk roses such as *Sally Holmes*, *Bouquet Parfait*, *Heavenly Pink*, *Ballerina*, *Robin Hood*, *Guirlande d'Amour*, *Dinky* completed the modern collection.

A separate area of the garden was dedicated to old garden roses – more than 130 different historic varieties collected from across Ukraine.





'Sally Holmes'



'Amareto'



'Frau Eva Schubert'

Beyond roses, the garden was adorned from early spring with thousands of ornamental bulbous plants: crocuses, snowdrops, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and many others.

Their blooming in May gradually transitioned into peonies (several dozen cultivars) and irises, including over 600 varieties of Tall Bearded irises. In summer, after the main wave of rose blooming, flower beds were filled with lilies and daylilies, cannas, and gladioli. In autumn, chrysanthemums brought vivid color back to the garden.

Ornamental onions, culinary herbs, and grasses complemented the overall harmony of the design. The garden was created in a natural, informal style, with elements reminiscent of old ruins. Despite its modest size, it included several distinct landscape features: an alpine rock garden on the slope, small ponds for amphibians, a small swimming pool, an altar stone, and multiple compositions combining roses, conifers, and large stones. In winter, the stone terraces were visually supported by a diverse collection of conifers (junipers, mountain pines, taxus, and thujas) ensuring the garden remained attractive throughout the year.

Along the perimeter of the garden, climbing roses and clematis were planted. We preserved the old fruit trees and shaped their crowns in such a way that during the scorching southern summer they protected the delicate roses from direct sunlight. In addition to the old trees, we added new deciduous species with attractive foliage to the compositions, including varieties of Crataegus, Sorbus, Cercis, staghorn sumac *Rhus typhina*, as well as bushes of barberry (*Berberis*), *Sambucus*, Forsythia, lilac (*Syringa*), hazel (*Corylus*), *Ficus*, *Buxus*, and others.

A separate terrace was created with large stones, junipers, and groundcover roses which, during blooming, formed a continuous bright carpet of blooms. There was also a separate terrace with musk roses and another one with French shrub roses bred by Dominique Massad:



'Nevada'

Paul Bocuse, Cybelle, Agnes Schilliger, Versigny, Elizabeth Stuart, Nelson Montfort, Elodie Gossuin, Emilien Guillot, Rose de Gerberoy, Prix P.J. Redoute, as well as flowerbeds with David Austin roses (the best performers in our garden were: Lady of Shalott, Benjamin Britten, The Pilgrim, Charles Darwin, Princess Alexandra of Kent, Abraham Darby, Mary Rose, Hyde Hall, Fair Bianca, Crown Princess Margareta, Olivia Rose Austin, Princess Anne, Boscobel, James L. Austin.

Near the house, in a place of honor, in recent years we separately planted roses of Ukrainian breeding (from the Nikita Botanical Garden and

others): *Pestraya Fantaziya, Khersones, Khortytsia, Shevchenko, Marko Vovchok, Gratsiinyi Tanok, Devochi Hriozy, Zolotaya Osen, Granatovyi Braslet, Jim, and others*

My greatest passion was collecting and growing historical roses. Among the most famous varieties grown were:

Gallica roses: *R. gallica Officinalis, Versicolor, Cardinal de Richelieu, La Belle Sultane, Mme Hardy;*

Damask roses: *Kazanlik, Leda, Ispahan;*

Moss roses: *Muscosa, Malvina, Nuits de Young, Salet, William Lobb, Henri Martin, Blanche Moreau, Madame Louis Lévêque,*



'Tradescant'

Bourbon roses: *Hermosa, Souvenir de la Malmaison, Louise Odier, Boule de Neige, La Reine Victoria, Mme Pierre Oger, Mme Isaac Pereire, Zephirine Drouhin*;
Portland roses: *Jacques Cartier, Yolande d'Aragon, Madame de Knorr, Madame Boll, Comte de Chambord, Rose de Rescht*; .
and Hybrid Perpetuals: *Ferdinand Pichard, Reine des Violettes, Souvenir du Docteur Jamain, Baron Girod de L'Ain, Paul Neyron, Frau Karl Druschki*,
as well as many others – from large climbing ramblers such as *Paul's Himalayan Musk, Alberic Barbier, Paul Noel* to miniature Polyantha roses like *Little White Pet and Baby Faurax*, from Rugosa roses to other natural species such as *Rosa glauca* and various hybrids: *Foetida – Persian Yellow, Parkfeuer, Spinosissima - Stanwell Perpetual i Double Scotch White*; the Setigera hybrid – *Long John Silver*, and many others.

We invested love for nature and our souls into our garden, as well as knowledge, labor, financial resources, skills, and great care. It served as a place for family recreation, tea gatherings, meditation, and hosting guests, really a special space where family members could “hide” from the outside world, relax, and immerse themselves inwardly, surrounded by nature and flowers.



'Paul's Himalayan Musk'



'Paul Bocuse'



the garden in October

We were not, and are not, professional gardeners or landscape designers. By education, I am a teacher of geography and biology, and for many years I have worked as a research herpetologist at the Pryazovskyi Nature Park, I have several scientific publications, studying amphibians and reptiles of our region and of whole Ukraine.

My husband is also not a builder, although he constructed all the terraces and ruins; he works with wood and creates sports equipment for Eastern martial arts. We created our garden guided by the call of our souls and our own feelings, each of us contributing our vision and a part of ourselves. It is extremely painful for us to lose the embodiment of our dreams and ideas, many years of our work and the soul we invested in our garden and its plants.

Today we live in the town of Kamianets-Podilskyi in the south of the Khmelnytskyi region in western Ukraine.

We have a small house and a garden, this new garden is very small and quite different, yet it is also planted with many roses and various flowers that will delight us from spring to late autumn.

There are few stones, and we have even built a couple of stone terraces; there are still very young apricot, peach, and sweet cherry trees, as well as small conifers planted this year. Of course, our miniature garden will remind us of the lost Melitopol's garden, bringing joy and instilling hope.

And as long as we are alive, we will continue planting flowers and beautifying the world around us despite the horrors of war, death, and destruction brought by the aggression of a neighboring country, because flowers, their beauty, and love for them save us and help us survive despite all the losses and hardships of war.

The new garden in Kamianets-Podilskyi





'Barock'



'Dany Hahn'



'Gloire de Dijon'



'Pastella'



'Ghislaine de Feligonde'



'Red Parfume'

More pictures of Galina's beautiful garden on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/galina.mikitinec.297532/photos>



'Frühlingsduft' (Kordes, 1949) 949194919491949

Book Review

Scots Roses of Hedgerows and Wild Gardens by Mary McMurtrie

Erich Unmuth

Every now and then, you finish reading a book but don't put it away; instead, you set it aside and pick it up again and again over the years. For me, Mary McMurtrie's 'Scots Roses of Hedgerows and Wild Gardens', published in 1999, is one of those books.

Mary McMurtrie, a Scottish botanical artist and horticulturalist, was born in 1902. She was 97 years old when her book was published, and she continued to paint and work on other books until shortly before her death in 2003.

Even though I was familiar with *Rosa spinosissima* L. as a rose endemic to the Vienna area, and even though Wilhelm Kordes' "Frühlingsrosen", his great 'Karl Foerster' or 'Aicha' (V. Petersen, 1966) descended from *Rosa spinosissima* L. have always been part of my rose collection, this book has given me a deeper appreciation of the charm and value of the 'Scots Roses'.

McMurtrie's illustrations show not only detailed flowers but also buds, leaves and rose hips in their development, green shortly after flowering and red to black in autumn. It is only through this detailed description and through the apt comments that one can begin to understand the range of varieties that existed during the heyday of the 'Scots Roses' in the first half of the 19th century.

Robert Buist^[1] wrote in The American Flower Garden Directory in 1839:

.....amongst two thousand cultivated varieties of the garden rose, of *Rosa spinosissima*, there are above five hundred varieties; *Rosa gallica*, two hundred; *R. centifolia*, one hundred and fifty; *R. damascena* above one hundred; *R. alba* fifty; *R. rubiginosa* thirty.....

A wide variety of cultivars can still be admired today in large collections such as those in Sangerhausen and L'Hay. Due to their early flowering period, often more than a month before the main flowering season of modern garden roses, they are usually overlooked by visitors. Completely unjustifiably so!



'Dunwich'



'Glory of Edzell'



'Marbel Pink'

The *Deutsche Rosenzeitung* writes about this in 1895:

Eine Gruppe von der Rosa spinosissima bietet Vorzüge und Reize, welche sie in manchem Betrachte unschätzbar machen. Der Landschaftsgärtner von gesundem Auge kennt ihren hohen Wert. die Fülle des feinen Laubwerks und die Eleganz der vielen jungen Triebe, von eigentümlichem, durch keine andere Rosengattung zu ersetzenden Reiz, zauberisch schön in dem jährlich wiederkehrenden Reichtum an niedlichen Blumen, welche zwar nicht sehr üppig gefüllt sind, aber als Knospen und in halboffenem Zustande zu dem Elegantesten und Schönsten gehören, was die ganze Rosenwelt bietet.

A group of *Rosa spinosissima* offers advantages and charms that make it invaluable in many respects. The landscape gardener with a keen eye knows its high value. The abundance of fine foliage and the elegance of the many young shoots, with a unique charm that cannot be replaced by any other rose species, are enchantingly beautiful in the annually recurring profusion of pretty flowers, which, although not very lushly filled, are among the most elegant

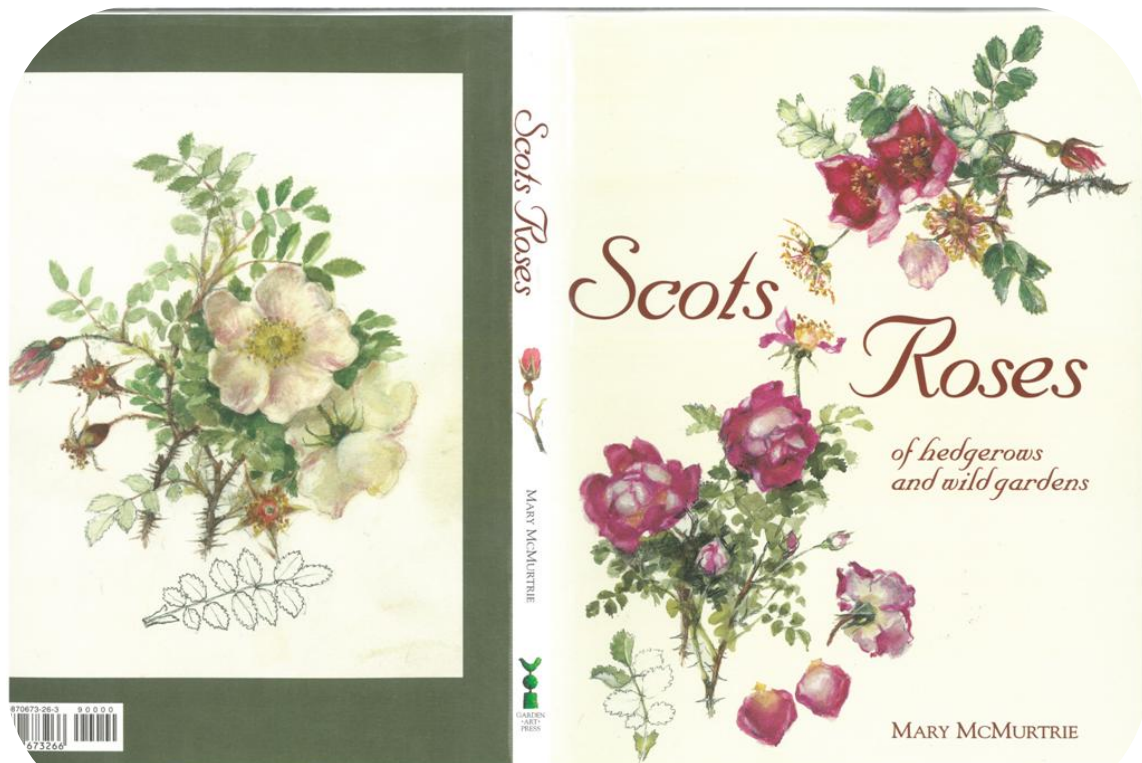
and beautiful that the entire world of roses has to offer when in bud and half-open.) (Trans. Erich Unmuth)

It should be added that the *R. spinosissima* and its varieties are also suitable for extreme locations such as embankments in full sun, where even gravelly, drying soils and high lime content in the soil are not a problem. Drought tolerance in particular is proving to be an important characteristic today.

And especially in dry locations, these roses display striking foliage colouring in autumn.

Even though Mary McMurtrie's "Scots Roses of Hedgerows and Wild Gardens" is out of print and only available second-hand, I can only recommend taking inspiration from her work and considering the increased use of *R. spinosissima* and its hybrids!

[¹] Robert Buist (1805–1880) was a nursery- and seedsman based in Philadelphia. He became one of America's most influential horticulturists of the 19th century through his businesses and garden manuals.





Rosa spinosissima var. *altaica*



'Aicha'



'Nankin'



'Red Nelly'



'Red Nelly' in winter



'Single Red'



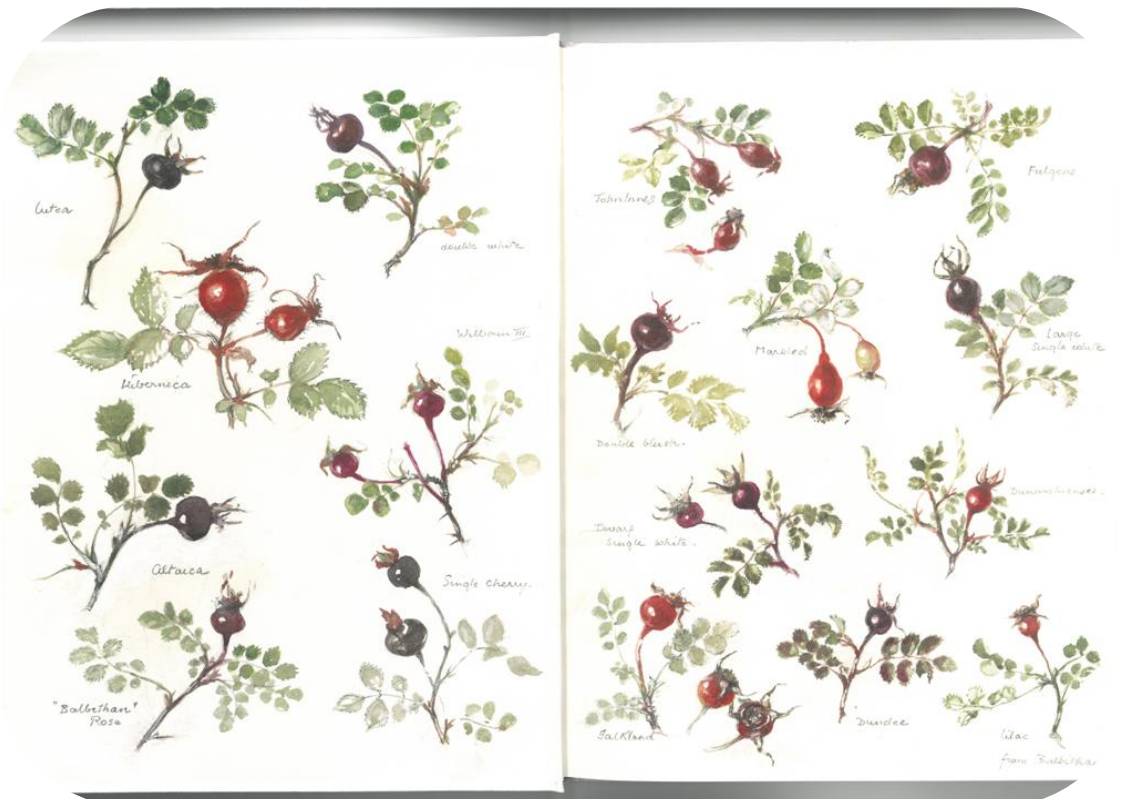
'Red Nelly' in autumn



'Karl Foerster'



'Lutea'



(the book can be found online at archive.org- note by Angela Bokor)

Update on 'Champneys' Pink Cluster'

Erich Unmuth

In recent weeks, some progress has been made in the search for clarity regarding the "correct" 'Champneys Pink Cluster'.

Prof. Malcolm Manners^[1], Florida Southern College, in particular, has provided clarity in this regard.

The 9th International Heritage Rose Conference, held in Charleston in October 2001, was largely devoted to the emergence of Noisette roses.

The book **Noisette Roses - 19th Century Charleston's Gift to the World**^[2] provides an excellent summary of the topics discussed at the conference.

Prof. Manners' 'Hampton Park Study' is of crucial importance in the context of identifying 'Champneys Pink Cluster'. He summarises the results in a recent email as follows:

I suppose we'll never "prove" that the rose in commerce is the true original, but our DNA testing, a few years ago, demonstrated that:

- 1. Graham Thomas's Musk and all of the musk finds from the SE USA are the same rose or very minor sports of each other.*
- 2. The rose grown and sold in the U.S. as 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' is the same rose among all the nurseries sampled.*
- 3. That rose is the direct offspring of R. moschata x 'Old Blush'*
- 4. The rose grown and sold in the U.S. as 'Blush Noisette' is consistently the same rose, among nurseries*
- 5. Our 'Blush Noisette' is the direct offspring of our 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' and some other parent.*

So while that does not prove them to be the original roses having those names, the concept seems to be supported.

He writes about the photos he sent me:

Two observations about 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' vs. 'Blush Noisette': CPC will have fewer

petals, showing stamens when fully open. Also, the receptacle shape is different. CPC is long and narrow, whereas BN is more rounded. Here are some photos, one of 'Blush Noisette' and two of 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', in the Florida Southern College garden.

Prof. Manners' observations and research findings on *R. moschata*, a presumed parent of 'Champney's Pink Cluster', are also extremely interesting. He summarises them as follows: *We grew Graham Thomas's UK find of R. moschata, as well as the multiple collections from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, for many years at Florida Southern College. And we did DNA research with them. We see three forms — the single and double as painted by Redouté, and a much more double form called 'Temple' musk, since it was found on the grave site of the Temple family. DNA shows them all to be virtually identical. Any large shrub of the double form will eventually produce a branch of the single form, and on very rare occasions, the reverse (single to double) mutation will occur. And while I have not seen it on my plants, I've been told that the double form has been observed to produce the Temple form on at least one occasion.*

As for the parent of CPC — Temple never sets hips and normally does not produce pollen. The double form almost never sets hips, but may produce some pollen. The single form produces much pollen and many hips. So it is my assumption that it would have been the single form involved with 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', but that could very well have occurred on a single-sport branch of an otherwise double flowered bush

*And so I don't believe there is a valid taxonomic reason to separate out a "plena" form; I just consider them all to be *R. moschata*. My opinion of course.*



'Champneys' Pink Cluster' bud and flower



'Champneys' Pink Cluster' bud

In 1846, William Robert Prince (1795–1869) – whose father William Prince ^[3] introduced 'Champneys Pink Cluster' and 'Blush Noisette' to the US market through his Linnaen Botanical Garden and Nursery – described the difference between the two roses in his Manual of Roses:

'Blush Noisette' Is more double than its parent and of much more dwarf and compact growth; the flowers in very large dense panicles. The old 'Champneys Pink Cluster', although not full double, is still quite a favourite for its rapid growth, its appropriateness for pillars and other climbing positions, and for the profusion of its flowers which are in very large panicles much more diffuse than the preceding variety. (William Robert Prince, Prince's Manual of Roses, 1846, p. 155)

Due to the broad consensus between historical descriptions/observations and current research findings I believe that there is no need to establish a comparative plantation.



'Blush Noisette' flower & buds

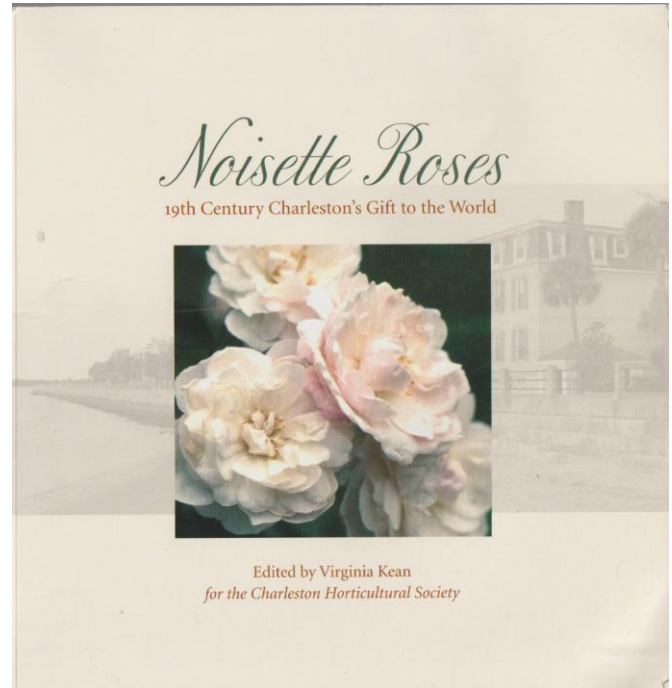
Furthermore, the search for European gardens where the “correct” ‘Champneys; Pink Cluster’ is available in good condition has been successful. It should be possible to obtain budwood this summer.

As for the weak plant in the Rosenkultivarium Baden, I will try to remedy the situation this spring through intensive care. Perhaps active microorganisms can improve the biological activity of the soil and thus enhance the vitality of the plant.

[1] Malcolm Manners, Professor Emeritus of Horticulture Florida Southern College, Extensive research work on the subject of roses, 2013 award as Great Rosarian of the World

[2] Noisette Roses - 19th Century Charleston’s Gift to the World, edited by Virginia Kean for the Charleston Horticultural Society, 2009

[3] William Prince (1766–1842), American horticulturist, owned the Linnaen Botanical Garden and Nursery, introduced many varieties of fruits and roses into the United States, sent many plants to Europe, member of the horticultural societies of London and Paris.



J. P. Redouté Rosa moschata „Les Roses” 3rd Edition by Redouté & Thor



J. P. Redouté Rosa moschata flore semi-pleno „Les Roses” 3rd Edition by Redouté & Thor

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL MEETING

4-5 JUNE 2026 SLOVENIA



Dear colleagues and friends,

Nearly a decade after the World Federation of Rose Societies Congress, we are delighted to invite you to rediscover Arboretum Volčji Potok and experience the development of our rose gardens in a new light.

We are pleased to welcome you to the International Meeting in the Rose Gardens of Arboretum Volčji Potok, taking place on 4–5 June 2026 in Slovenia.

June is the season when the Arboretum's rose gardens bloom in all their splendour. Together with the Slovenian Rose Society, we invite you to experience more than a thousand rose varieties, enjoy guided walks through three exceptional rose gardens, and discover the colours, scents and stories that make each rose unique.

Since hosting the World Federation of Rose Societies Congress in 2017, the rose gardens of Arboretum Volčji Potok have continued to develop in line with contemporary horticultural practice. In 2022, the Arboretum received the Award of Garden Excellence, recognising its dedication to beauty, expertise and sustainable cultivation.

Join us for a memorable programme of expert-led tours, music, culinary delights and warm fellowship among roses – in a setting where every bloom tells its own story.

The official language of the meeting is English.



Programme Overview

Thursday, 4 June 2026

19:00–21:00

Welcome Party at Arboretum Volčji Potok

Friday, 5 June 2026

9:00–13:00

Expert guided programme through the rose gardens of Arboretum Volčji Potok:

- Visit of the Upper Rose Garden, featuring a contemporary collection of more than 600 rose cultivars
- Presentation of the development of the rose gardens following the World Federation of Rose Societies Congress in 2017
- Ride on the electric train through the park with a general guided introduction to the history and development of Arboretum Volčji Potok
- Presentation of the collection of Papal Roses and their symbolism
- Visit of the Lower Rose Garden, showcasing tall-growing and historic roses as well as less commonly represented groups

13:00–15:00

Lunch and social gathering among the roses

15:00–18:00

Optional programme:

- Excursion to Kamnik with a guided tour of selected works by architect Jože Plečnik
- or
- Kneipp experience in the park, with time for relaxation and personal exploration

18:00–21:00

Slovenian Rose Day: a sensory celebration of roses with tastings, storytelling and live music

The programme takes place largely outdoors. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.



Registration Fee

The participation fee for the International Meeting (4–5 June 2026) is: **€60 per person**

The registration fee includes participation in the Welcome Party, lunch, entrance to Arboretum Volčji Potok, electric train tour of the park, expert guided visits of the rose gardens, and organisational costs of the event. Accommodation, travel expenses and the optional excursion to Velika Planina are not included in the registration fee.

Registration and Payment

Registration and payment of the participation fee must be completed via the online registration form below.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Registration deadline: 15 April 2026.

Optional Post-Meeting Excursion

For participants who wish to extend their stay in Slovenia, we are pleased to offer an optional post-meeting excursion to Velika Planina.

Saturday, 6 June 2026

9:30–13:30

Located close to Arboretum Volčji Potok, Velika Planina is one of Slovenia's most picturesque alpine landscapes. The excursion includes a return cable car and chairlift ride, offering panoramic views of the Kamnik–Savinja Alps.

Participants will enjoy a guided tour in English through the traditional shepherds' settlement, visit the museum and the Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows, and experience authentic local cuisine (traditional stew, sausage, cottage cheese dumplings with fruit topping).

Participation fee for the Optional Post-Meeting Excursion (6 June 2026): **€54 per person**

The excursion is optional and can be selected during the online registration process.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Recommended Hotels

For your convenience, we suggest the following hotels located near Arboretum Volčji Potok. Please contact the hotels directly to arrange your reservation.

- [Hotel & Restaurant Pri Špornu](#), Cesta Radomeljske čete 1, 1235 Radomlje (1.6 km)
- [Penzion Repnik](#), Vrhpolje 186, 1241 Kamnik (6.3 km)
- [Hotel Krona](#), Ihanska cesta 2, 1230 Domžale (6.8 km)
- [Hotel Ambient](#), Aškerčeva cesta 6a, 1230 Domžale (7.2 km)
- [Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel](#), Bratislavska cesta 8, 1000 Ljubljana (16.5 km)
- [DoubleTree by Hilton Ljubljana](#), Dunajska cesta 154, 1000 Ljubljana (17.1 km)

Transport Information

– Transfer from Ljubljana Airport to Arboretum Volčji Potok is available with Taxi Kamnik. The fare is approximately €30 per car (up to 4 persons) and €40 per van (up to 8 persons). We have informed the company about the event, and they will be expecting participants of the meeting.

Booking phone number: +386 31 713 421

– Bus timetable from Ljubljana to Volčji Potok: [View public transport information on our website](#)

We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the beauty, diversity and cultural heritage of roses in one of Europe's recognised Gardens of Excellence.

We would be honoured by your presence.

We look forward to welcoming you to Arboretum Volčji Potok.

With kind regards,

Arboretum Volčji Potok

in cooperation with the Slovenian Rose Society



Contact Person

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Tel.: +386 31 599 924

E-mail: breda.copi@gmail.com

 [MORE INFORMATION](#)

<https://www.arboretum.si/en/events/international-meeting-in-the-rose-gardens-2026/>



17th International Heritage Rose Conference
April 24-28, 2026
Nanyang & Shanghai, China



WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES



21ST WORLD ROSE
CONVENTION

January 7-13, 2028
Bhopal, INDIA



Hosted by
**MADHYA PRADESH ROSE
SOCIETY BHO PAL, INDIA**



Under the aegis of
**THE INDIAN ROSE
FEDERATION**





Celebrating 80 Years of Cutting Excellence with FELCO

Innovative tools designed for rose enthusiasts and professionals alike

2025 marks a major milestone for FELCO: 80 years of Swiss-made excellence in pruning innovation. Founded in 1945 by visionary engineer Félix Flisch, FELCO has revolutionized the way we care for plants, from

vineyards to rose gardens, with tools that combine precision, durability, and sustainability.

To celebrate this anniversary, FELCO proudly unveils a special edition of its most iconic tool – the FELCO 2 – 80th Anniversary Edition. This legendary pruning shear, known globally

for its ergonomic design and clean, precise cut, is now available in a unique version featuring a commemorative engraving, gold-cobalt F-GOLD blade coating, and a numbered series — honouring both heritage and excellence.