

“Healthy, Hardy and Glamorous: Antique Roses in Modern Gardens.”

Alec Globe (a.globe@ubc.ca), South Surrey Garden Club, April 24, 2013.

For those who would like to grow some of the older, disease resistant roses, here are some suggestions. All are available mail order from Palatine and Pickering Nurseries in Ontario. Or you can visit Alec Globe’s open garden at the end of June and take cuttings. A small ^R before the name indicates that the variety blooms at least twice per season. Fragrance ratings: f = some, ff = good, fff = strong. Each class has different size and growth habits.

4-6 feet high: Chinas, Gallicas, Hybrid Perpetuals, Portlands (Portland Damasks).

5-7 feet high: Centifolias, Mosses, Damasks.

6-8 feet high: Albas.

Canes from 15-30 feet long: Ramblers (Hybrid Multifloras and Wichuranas).

The **best books** are David Austin, *The Rose* (2009 not his books on the “English Rose”); Charles & Brigid Quest-Ritson, *Encyclopedia of Roses*, also titled *The American Rose Society Encyclopedia of Roses* (2003); and John Scarman, *Gardening with Old Garden Roses* (1996).

Planting: dig a large hole 2’ x 2’ x 2’. Use new earth if a rose grew there previously. Add organic material, superphosphate (or bone meal) and alfalfa pellets to the soil.

Pruning: **(1)** Deadhead blooms promptly to prevent fungus diseases and encourage the next bloom. **(2)** Shape bushes after the last deadheading of the year. **(3)** In fall, shorten OGR’s (and David Austin’s English Roses) canes to the thickness of a ball point pen. Otherwise the plants get twiggy and floppy. **(4)** Do not prune once-blooming roses in spring, or you will lose that year’s flowers. **(5)** For climbers and ramblers, cut 2-3 entire canes out every year, train canes horizontally, and prune laterals closely in spring.

Yellow

Albéric Barbier (opens rich yellow—Hybrid Wichurana Rambler, ff, 1900), Pickering.

Ghislaine de Féligonde (light yellow Hybrid Multiflora Rambler, f, 1916), Palatine.

^R Mutabilis (opens coppery yellow, turns deep pink, ends red--single China, little fragrance, 1894), Pickering. Always in bloom.

Rosa hugonis (medium yellow, single species, f, collected in China, 1899), Pickering. Very early.

White

Alba Maxima or Semi Plena (white Alba, fff, <1613), Palatine, Pickering.

Léda (white—edged with crimson—Damask, fff, 1826), Pickering.

Mme Hardy (white Damask, fff, 1832), Pickering.

Mme Legras de St Germain (white Alba, fff, <1846), Pickering.

Mme Plantier (white Alba, fff, 1835), Pickering.

Maiden’s Blush (white with blush pink highlights—Alba, fff, 1802), Pickering.

^R Stanwell Perpetual (white—opens pink, fades porcelain white—fff, <1836).

York and Lancaster (white with a few pink splotches—Damask, fff, <1867), Pickering.

Purple and Red

Belle de Crécy (dark purple, Gallica, fff, 1829), Pickering.

Cardinal de Richelieu (dark purple—Gallica, fff, <1847), Palatine, Pickering.

Charles de Mills (dark red with purple overtones—Gallica, ff, <1790), Palatine, Pickering.

^R Eugène de Beauharnais (dark red with purple highlights—China, fff, 1838), Pickering.

^R Général Jacqueminot (medium red, Hybrid Perpetual, ff, 1853), Pickering.

Henri Martin (medium red Moss, fff, 1862), Pickering.

Hippolyte (purple with carmine red and a bit of white—Gallica, ff, <1842), Palatine.

^R Indigo (shades of purple, crimson, and mauve—Portland, fff, <1845), Pickering.

La Belle Sultane (dark purple with a sensational boss of gold stamens, 1801), Pickering.

Nuits de Young (very, very dark purple—Moss, fff, 1845), Pickering.

^R Reine des Violetes (violet Hybrid Perpetual, fff, 1860), Palatine, Pickering. Small 2nd flush.

The Bishop (shades from magenta to purple—Gallica, fff, <1790), Palatine, Pickering.

Tour de Malakoff (shades of purple and lilac—Centifolia, fff, 1856), Pickering.

Tuscany and Tuscany Superb (very dark purple—Gallica, fff, <1837), Palatine, Pickering.

Veilchenblau (many shades of violet and lilac—Hybrid Multiflora, fff, 1909), Palatine, Pickering.

William Lobb (shades of lilac, violet, purple—Moss, fff, 1855), Palatine, Pickering.

Pink

^R Baronne Prévost (medium pink, Hybrid Perpetual, fff, 1841), Pickering.

Cabbage Rose (medium pink, the original Rosa centifolia, fff, <1596), Pickering.

Camaieux (purplish pink and white stripe—Gallica, fff, 1830), Pickering.

Celsiana (light pink Damask, fff, <1817), Pickering.

Communis (medium pink, Moss, fff, <1720), Pickering, sold as 'Common Moss.'

^R Comte de Chambord (medium and silvery pinks—Portland, fff, 1860), Pickering.

Crested Moss = Chapeau de Napoléon (medium pink, Centifolia!, fff, 1827), Pickering.

Duchesse de Montebello (light pink Gallica, fff, 1825), Palatine, Pickering.

Empress Josephine (shades of pink, Gallica, fff, <1815), Palatine, Pickering.

Félicité Parmentier (pink Alba, fff, <1841), Pickering.

Ispahan (medium pink, Damask, fff, <1832), Palatine, Pickering. Blooms early, fabulous scent.

Köningin von Denmark (medium pink Alba, ff, 1816), Palatine (as Queen of Denmark), Pickering.

^R Mrs John Laing (medium pink, Hybrid Perpetual, fff, 1887), Pickering. Wonderful fall bloom.

Rosa Mundi (striped pink and white, Gallica, <1581), Palatine, Pickering.

^R Rose de Rescht (deep pink, Portland, ff, 1880), Palatine, Pickering.

Seven Sisters (shades of pink—Hybrid Multiflora rambler, fff, 1815), Palatin

Climbing Roses – Formative Pruning and Maintenance

What is a climbing rose? For our purpose it is any climbing rose, including miniatures, that repeat bloom. These should be pruned when the forsythia blooms (around St. Patrick's Day this year) and maintenance pruned all summer. What it is **not**, is a rambler, an antique rose or any

other kind of climber that blooms only once in a summer, and these should be pruned only after blooming.

Young roses, up to 3 years, little or no pruning except for Dead, Diseased, Damaged or Dying.

Sharp, clean tools. If soil is dry, water the day before pruning.

Basics - Climbing roses have two kinds of canes. **Main** canes grow right from the ground, or very close to it. **Laterals** grow off a main cane.

Training - If you are training roses along a wall or fence on a wire, set the lowest wire 45cm (18in) off the ground and space subsequent wires 30cm (1ft) apart. Gently wrap the main canes around the wires. If training roses up pillars, arches or pergolas, spread the main shoots as horizontal as possible and tie them to the supports. For narrow areas, weave back and forth in an S shape. If the main stems are slow to branch, tip-prune them to the first strong bud to encourage side shoots, otherwise leave them to fill the available space.

Routine Spring Pruning

- First remove dead, diseased or dying branches and any suckers below bud union
- Then tie in any new shoots needed to fill supports
- If the plant is heavily congested, or some canes declining, cut out any really old branches from the base to promote new growth
- Prune any flowered laterals back to 2 or 3 buds (6 – 8 inches)
- Clean up under the bush
- Feed with a granular rose fertiliser over the soil and mulch with a 2 inch layer of garden compost or well-rotted manure

Renovating Overgrown Bushes

- As above but cut some of the old woody branches to the ground, retaining a maximum of six young, vigorous stems that can be secured to supports
- Saw away any dead stumps at the base of the plant, where rain can collect and encourage rot
- Shorten side shoots on the remaining branches by one third to one half, to encourage branching

If a main cane gets damaged, use one of its good laterals and “promote” it to a main cane.

Prune main back to 12 to 14” of junction and allow this closest lateral to become the new main cane.

Easy rules - Prune **main canes** no more than 1/3, if at all, unless you are taking it out right at the ground or to a junction to promote a lateral. **Laterals** – cut all season to keep within 6 - 8” of main cane (2 or 3 buds). Cut above a bud eye, doesn’t matter which way it faces. Cut after blooming to promote new growth.

Pruning Tools

- Secateurs (hand pruners) – bypass where blades pass each other make the cleanest cut. Usually best to prune ¼” above a bud facing outward or in the direction you want the

bud/branch to grow. Generally cut at a 45° angle away from the bud. The blade of the pruners should be closest to the part of the plant you want to keep. Cut branches up to pencil size.

- Mini pruners – for flower stems, tiny cuts including removing old foliage from roses in Spring. Less damaging than picking off leaves.
- Loppers – best if bypass. Good for branches up to the diameter of a dime.
- Pruning saw – anything too big for the loppers. I checked into a lithium battery powered Black & Decker pruning saw called the Piranha to save on elbow grease and get into small spaces. After looking at the \$80 U.S. price tag, and realizing I would only need this a couple of hours a year, I bought a \$6 pruning blade for my husband's sabre saw and I will let him do the cutting.
- Anvil pruners – (including ratchet). Not good for clean pruning cuts but great for cutting up the branches for tying or putting in green bin. Ratchet pruners and loppers will easily chop them up.

General Care of Pruning Tools

- Keep your tools sharp. Paul Buikema, a certified arborist with a list of other credentials as long as your arm, said when speaking at the 2013 Master Gardener Update, that for every 6 or 7 swipes of the stone on the cutting edge of the blade, do only one on the opposite side.
- Keep your tools clean – You can use 10% bleach, Listerine, or Lysol spray which I find is easiest and doesn't hurt the blades. Paul uses it on ALL his tools including rakes, shovels etc. before going to the next client's yard. It is a good idea to give a quick spray between bushes to prevent any spread of disease. It takes at least 30 seconds of contact with the tool to disinfect. Keep your pruning tools in a scabbard or in a bucket to prevent putting on the ground which can pick up soil-borne diseases. This obviously doesn't work for shovels etc.
- Use 3 in 1 oil on moving parts. WD40 is good for removing rust and loosening "frozen" parts but it is **not** a lubricant.

Good website. Paul Zimmerman. Ashdown Roses www.Ashdownroses.com
Or Google [Pruning & Controlling a Climbing Rose - YouTube](#)