

Rose Culture.

Junie Parks '98.

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Rose Culture.

The rose is a shrub, or dwarf tree, which has beautiful fragrant flowers and is usually protected by thorns. It stands at the head of the floral kingdom, and is called "The Queen of Flowers." It belongs to the order Rosaceae, which includes most of our fruit trees and some of our berries, such as the apple, peach, pear, plum, raspberry, strawberry, blackberry, and many ornamental shrubs.

Little is known of the history of the rose. It is mentioned in the early literature, and is thought to have been known to the primitive Egyptians, as several varieties are found in Egypt now. We know that they were cultivated by the Jews during the reign of Solomon, because it is mentioned in the Song of Solomon. It is also mentioned in the Book of Ecclesiasticus, the author of which lived seven hundred years after

Solomon. Stornes speaks of it in his Iliad and his Odyssey. Chaucer, who wrote in the thirteenth century also mentions the rose. We find accounts of its origin in more ancient writings.

It was consecrated to Harpocrates who was a God of Silence, and it was considered a symbol of silence. It was the custom of some to suspend a rose over the dining table to remind the guests that what was said at the meal was to be kept secret.

In history, mythology and poetry the rose holds a high place. The poets write many beautiful poems about it. It is also mingled in history. In the "War of the Roses" in England, between the houses of York and Lancaster, one side wore badges of white, and the other, badges of red roses. Since then the rose has been the emblematic flower of England.

The rose is one of our oldest

flowers, and was used very early by the Romans for decoration and perfume. It was used at religious festivals. At the Fete-Dieu petals were scattered in the air. Rose water is also spoken of by ancient writers. It was used in 1570, at the University of Oxford, at dinner. Sometimes rose-water is mixed with medicine to destroy disagreeable smells. Attar is the best product of the rose but it is greatly adulterated now. It is said that pure Attar has been worth eight times its weight in gold.

There are usually four methods employed in propagating the rose: first, by cuttings; second, by budding; third, by grafting, and fourth, by layering. They are also propagated by seeds when new varieties are wanted, but not when the same variety is wanted. The greater number of the varieties is grown from cuttings, but we have some that are very difficult to root. These are best grown by budding or grafting.

Cuttings can be made at any time in the year, but the most successful propagation of the largest number of kinds, is made by cuttings in late winter or early spring, in January, February and March. The cuttings should be taken from strong vigorous plants one or two years old. Take for example, the Tea rose. Obtain the cuttings from young, vigorous wood. Cut it with two or three leaf stocks, and make a smooth cut just below a leaf stock. Put into sand moistened with warm water and never allow it to become dry. It will root in about 30 days. It can be potted when the roots are about an inch long in soil one part sand and three parts loam.

Budding is an important method, but is more expensive than cutting, because the stocks must be purchased, and the labor of budding costs more than making cuttings. By this method, we are able to grow varieties that are difficult to grow from cuttings, and their propagation would

be stopped were it not for this method. The Baronesse Rothschild, which is a silvery pink, cup-shaped flower; Marguise de Castellane, which is a large carmine rose of globular shape, and Madame Boll which is a carmine rose, are propagated by budding. Some weak kinds such as Xavier Olibo, Marie Baumann, and Madame Victor Verdier may be made stronger by working them on a strong stock. The Brier, the Griferaie and the Manetti stocks have been used but the Manetti is preferred. The stocks are planted in rows about three feet between them and six or eight inches apart. In July or August, the buds are inserted. The bud should be put low, for then the stock is not so liable to send up suckers.

In putting a bud in, make a T shaped cut through the bark, the horizontal cut being about one half inch and the vertical cut one inch in length. With the point of the knife loosen the bark. Cut the bud

you wish to put in by beginning below it and cutting up just beneath the bark. Slip the bud in the T shaped cut beneath the bark and tie in place with a cloth string or fibre, usually Raffia fibre. After it begins to grow, the string may be removed.

The best time to graft is during the winter months. It is better to graft on stocks than roots, because so many of the root grafts fail to grow. Stock grafting is carried on to a large extent in England. Different colors may be grafted on a stock of the same species.

Layering is a slow method of propagation but it is a very good way. It is little used now, but plants that do not root well from cuttings can be obtained in this way. It is the only way that some can be produced on their own roots. The Persian Yellow can be grown in this way. In layering, a branch may be bent down and covered with earth leaving the end uncovered, this will

take root and form a new plant. In the cup method of layering take a triangular shaped piece of paper and roll it in the shape of a small sugar paper and put this around the limb at the place you wish the roots to grow. Fill it with fine soil and keep it moist. Tinfoil or rolled lead is better to use than paper.

Experiments are always being made, and new varieties of the rose constantly being obtained. These new varieties are obtained by crossing, by bud variation and by grafting buds. This last method is not often used.

The moss rose was obtained from the Province Rose, which is the first rose used in commerce, by bud variation.

When you wish to get new varieties by crossing, the plants should be placed close together, and when the seeds are ripe, gather them and separate them from the pulp. Place them in moist sand over winter. If not placed in this moist sand, they will

not grow until the second or third year.

Of late years, many new varieties have been obtained. Some of these are Marie Van Houtte, which is a yellow rose; Alfred, a large, crimson rose; Elisa Boelle, which is pure white; La France, which is a pink globular rose; Paul Neyron, a large, deep red rose; Bennett is a crimson rose, and has long pointed buds; and the American Beauty which is pink.

In selecting roses for your windows or garden, select a variety of colors and choose those that are hardy, fragrant and of a perfect form. Some of the highly scented roses are Marechal Niel, Madame Bravy, La France, Nancy Lee, Alfred Colomb, and Louis Van Houtte. Some of the good climbing roses are Lamarque, Gloire de Dijon, Marie Burton and Solferino. We have a large number of monthly roses. Some of the best varieties are Catherine Merruet, Isabella Sprunt, Marie Van Houtte and Elisa Boelle.

The rose will grow best in a

rich soil, which may be somewhat stiff, but must be free from standing water and have good drainage. If the land is clay, it may be improved by mixing with sand and leaf mould; and if too sandy, mix in clay and leaf mould.

The rose should have a cool, airy situation, but not altogether in the shade and not too near large trees. An eastern or northern exposure is the best in the summer, but the plant must be protected in the winter. Those that are left out of doors may be mulched, that is covered with straw, or may be put in a pit or cold frame. For protection in summer, they should be planted where they can get plenty of sun in the morning, and some shade in the afternoon.

Roses may be planted in a border about the lawn, or in beds or by themselves. The pegged down system may be used instead of the bush form for a rose planted by its

elf. In this system, the branches are layed on the ground and fastened there. In this way one bush will make a bed by itself.

One very important object in rose culture is the pruning. This should be done in the fall. All the weak wood should be cut off, and the plant cut back a little if you want many flowers. If you want large flowers cut back to about two eyes. Some varieties will give another crop in the fall, if they are pruned immediately after the flowering season is over in the spring. Teas, Chinas, and Burbons need severe pruning as they flower from new wood. Climbing roses require little pruning for flower from the old wood.

One of the great troubles that rose growers have with plants is diseases of the rose. If they are kept too damp, they will become bothered with mildew and mould. A good remedy is to dust the plant

with sulphur. Insects also bother roses. For red spiders, wash the plant. This is also good to keep the plant free from dust. Tobacco fumes will keep off aphids and greenflies. For worms in the soil about the plant water it with lime water.

Plants are better sent by express than by mail, because more soil can be left on the roots, which protects them and keeps them moist.

In packing plants or cut flowers to be sent by mail, take some moss and thoroughly moisten it, and then squeeze it. Spread a cloth on the table and scatter the moss over it and sprinkle it among the roots of the plant, and wrap the whole in the cloth. Wrap this in oiled paper to keep the moisture in and wrap again in thick wrapping paper. Plants may be sent great distances in this condition without injury.

It has been discovered that the best way to keep cut roses is to put

them in a dark, cool, well ventilated place. This was discovered by a man who put some flowers in a chimney to keep and found that they kept better than they would on ices. In cities, where cut flowers are sold, some people keep their flowers in a hole or cave under the sidewalk where they may be kept cool and have plenty of air.

If you want roses for winter blooming, they should be grown in pots all summer. It is said that the most fragrant roses are those of Malta; and those of Cyrene are most profitable in yielding oil.

There are a large number that we can grow out of doors in our Kansas climate. Following is a list of the most hardy ones: *Prairie Queen*, pink; *Baltimore Bell*, white; *Madame Plantier*, white; *General Jacquenot*, red; *John Hopper*, red; *La Reine*, light red; *La France*, *Paul Veron* and the *Seven Sisters* are pink; *General Washington*, crimson; *Chas. Wood*,

Rosa Rugosa and Reine Marie Pie,
red; and Russel's Cottage, crimson.

As these roses are so beautiful and
so easily grown on the lawn, everyone
should have them, for they give much
comfort and pleasure.