

THE JOY OF
rOSES

Nicolien van Doorn

TERRA

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Introduction

Roses have absolutely everything a flower needs. The petals are velvety soft and come in almost any colour. The flowers have various shapes—large or small, open or filled, rounded or pointed. Is there any other plant with this much variation in height and width? There are 30 cm crawlers and climbers that scale a roof with ease. With every conceivable height and width in between. This means there is a suitable rose for every garden. And we haven't even mentioned the best thing yet: most roses bloom for months at a time and many roses spread a heavenly scent.

Another huge benefit of roses is that they contain beneficial substances. The fruit, the rose hip, is used to make jams and sauces that are chock full of vitamin C and antioxidants. Rose water can be distilled from some roses, which is used in the perfume and pharmaceutical industries.

So it's no wonder that the rose has been known as the 'Queen of Flowers' for 2500 years. The Greek poet Sappho was the first to call it that. She was referring to the wild rose, which did not look nearly as streamlined as our modern, cultivated roses. Since then, everyone has been in agreement: the rose is the most beautiful of all flowers!

1. ROSA 'LOVELY ROMANZA'

2. ROSE HIPS

3. ROSA 'APRICOT QUEEN ELIZABETH'

4. ROSA 'GRACE'

LOURENS ALMA TADEMA
THE ROSES OF HELIOGABALUS (1888)



The history of roses

Roses existed before we humans did

Roses existed before we humans did. In China and North America, fossil rose petals have been found dating back about 40 million years. They were 'wild' roses, with five (or sometimes four) white or red petals around a tuft of stamens. These ancestors of all roses were only found in the northern hemisphere, in North America, Europe and China. They did not naturally occur south of the equator. If you think of our modern burnet rose, you will get an idea of what such roses must have looked like.

When humans developed many millions of years later into beings whose aesthetic senses make a distinction between beautiful and ugly, the rose became their favourite flower. Roses are grown and revered in many countries. The emperor of China had them in his garden five centuries ago—not just because of their beauty and pleasant scent but especially because the flowers and hips helped with health issues. The ancient Persians and Greeks also used rose oil to fight diseases. In the Middle Ages, wild roses were planted in European monastery gardens. The monks made medicines and fragrances from the dog rose (*Rosa canina*), the sweetbriar rose (*Rosa rubiginosa*) and especially the French rose (*Rosa gallica* 'Officinalis').

Steven van Dalen, owner of De Wilde rose nursery, prefers to classify roses by growth type rather than ancestry. “The problem with the ancestry is that in Old roses the lines of descent get all mixed up,” he explains. “That makes it so unclear that a strict regime doesn’t work.” He opens a huge book in which the roses are classified by ancestry. “Look, nobody can understand any of this,” he says. “As soon as you’ve read it, you’ll already have forgotten it. My customers don’t want to know where a rose comes from. What’s important to them is the height, the colour, whether the plant can handle being by the driveway or whether it can act as a hedge to keep out the neighbouring cats. That’s why I always ask first what they plan to do with their new rose. If they say, ‘I want the rose to climb up a tree’, or ‘I’m looking for a low shrub’, I know what they’re after. Although the use of roses can also overlap. Grandiflora roses can grow in clusters, so that would make it a floribunda rose. And even a climbing rose isn’t always a rose that has to go upwards. *Rosa* ‘Compassion’ is a good climber, but can also stand alone without you having to lead it up something. So then it would be a shrub.”

But well, these are exceptions.

Below, roses are classified by growth patterns. The names alone tell you whether the rose does what you want it to do.

CLASSIFICATION BY GROWTH PATTERN

1. WILD OR BOTANICAL ROSES

All of our cultivated roses are descended from wild roses. Wild roses are extremely hardy: they can grow in poor soil and they don’t need a lot of care. If you don’t prune them, they grow into dense, thorny shrubs that birds and small animals can shelter in. If the shrubs get a bit too big and wild, you can just cut off a chunk. They are a good choice for nature gardens and public green spaces, and can also be planted as hedges.

Most wild roses have single flowers that pollinators such as bees, bumblebees and hoverflies love. What is more, they produce lots of rose hips in autumn, which make the birds very happy. And you too, of course, because you can use those same rose hips to make jam and chutney. So are there any drawbacks to wild roses? Yes, there are: they flower for about four weeks, which is a lot less than the Modern, continuously flowering roses.

Well-known wild roses are the wrinkled rose (*Rosa rugosa*), the sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), the French rose (*Rosa gallica*), the mandarin rose (*Rosa moyesii*; from western China, came to Europe in 1894) and *Rosa sericea* f. *pteracantha* (from China, came to Europe in 1890). What’s striking about this rose is the 1-2cm large, bright red thorns. The burnet rose (*Rosa spinosissima*) is native to Europe and has violet-black rose hips.

Roses classified by their growth pattern

1. Wild or botanical roses
2. Grandiflora roses
3. Cluster roses
4. Shrub roses
5. Climbing roses
6. English roses
7. Old or historic roses
8. Rose bushes or park roses
9. Miniature and patio roses
10. Groundcover roses
11. Standard and weeping roses



1. MANDARIN ROSE
(*ROSA MOYESII*)
2. *ROSA SERICEA* F. *PTERACANTHA*
3. BURNET ROSE
(*ROSA SPINOSISSIMA*)

2. GRANDIFLORA ROSES (HYBRID TEA ROSES)

Grandiflora roses, also known as hybrid tea roses, originated from crossing repeat-flowering Chinese tea roses with other groups. They are compact shrubs that can grow to 70-120cm. They usually have one flower on the end of each stem. These are large, full-bodied flowers that start blooming mid-June and don't stop until well into autumn. With their straight stems and often strong fragrance, they make good cut flowers in a vase. These roses can be found in various shapes and colours.

Popular grandiflora roses are 'Audrey Wilcox', 'Dame de Coeur', 'Just Joey', 'Peace' and 'Queen Elizabeth'.



1. ROSA 'JUST JOEY'
2. ROSA 'QUEEN ELIZABETH'





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Polyantha or floribunda?

Polyantha roses are crosses between the *Rosa multiflora* and the repeat-flowering Chinese tea roses. Floribunda roses are crosses between grandiflora roses and *Rosa polyantha*, which is why their flowers are larger.

1. ROSA 'PERLE D'OR'
2. ROSA 'SCHNEEWITTCHEN' (OR 'ICEBERG')

3. CLUSTER ROSES

If you are looking for a rose that produces a lot of flowers well into autumn, the cluster rose is the right choice for you. There are cluster roses with numerous small flowers (polyanthas) or with a few larger flowers (floribundas). The flowers are in bunches on a stem and can be white, pink, red or yellow. The plants remain as nicely compact shrubs that grow to 40-80cm. There are also low cluster roses that don't get taller than 40cm.

Examples of floribundas: 'Absolutely Fabulous', 'Apricot Nectar', 'Astrid Lindgren', 'Bonica', 'Burgundy Ice', 'Friesia', 'Hot Chocolate', 'Marie Curie', 'Poustinia', 'Prinses Claire van België', 'Schneewittchen' (or 'Iceberg'), 'Sexy Rexy' and 'Valentine Heart'.

Some polyanthas, with smaller flowers: 'Cécile Brünner', 'Crystal Fairy', 'Fairy Dance', 'Fairy King', 'Fairy Princess', 'Fairy Queen', 'Lovely Romanza', 'Lovely Fairy', 'Morsdag', 'Perle d'Or' and 'The Fairy'.



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4. SHRUB ROSES

Shrub roses grow taller and spread wider than grandiflora roses and cluster roses. Many shrub roses grow to 1.0-1.5m, but there are some that reach 2m or more, both in height and width. They are a popular choice for larger borders and gardens. Varieties that grow straight are suitable for small gardens and flowering hedges. The larger shrubs such as 'Westerland' can also be used as low climbers against a wall. Examples of shrub roses: 'Jacqueline du Pré', 'Nostalgie', 'Red

Ballerina' and 'Westerland'. And the Austin roses 'Gertrude Jekyll' and 'Golden Celebration'.

Persica or Hulthemia roses

A new group of garden roses was launched in 2015: the *persica* or Hulthemia roses. They are compact shrub roses that were long found in the deserts of the Persian Empire. This 'new' rose has single flowers that attract bees and butterflies. They come in light and dark pink, lilac blue, light yellow or



salmon orange. Typical of the *persica* rose is the dark spot in the middle of the flower. It resembles an eye, so it seems as if the rose is looking at you. The shrub grows to about 60cm and is resistant to the cold in winter and summer droughts. It is suitable as a garden plant, but also fits in a pot or planter on a balcony or patio. Another plus point is that it is a self-cleaning rose. That means that you don't have to dead-head old blooms to extend the blooming period. The plant produces new flowers spontaneously until well into autumn,

followed by attractive rose hips. Ideal for gardeners looking for an 'easy' option.

1. ROSA 'GOLDEN CELEBRATION'
2. ROSA 'SMILING EYES'

5. CLIMBING ROSES

Climbing roses grow upwards, as the name implies. But they only do that if they are tied and led up something, because they can't attach themselves like an ivy or a creeper can. They should really not be called 'climbing roses', but 'guided roses'—although I think many people won't understand what you mean if you use that term. Climbing roses get at least 2m tall. The more flexible their branches are, the easier it is to fasten them. You can make them grow up an old, bare tree, or over a pergola, rose arch, arbour or obelisk. Climbing roses also do well against a wall, but they then need a trellis to keep them in place. A useful system for the side of a house is a trellis of stainless steel wire, which is almost invisible outside the growing season.

In roses that grow upwards, we distinguish between climbing roses and rambling roses (or 'ramblers' for short). Climbing roses get 3-4m tall at most, so you can have them grow over a freestanding ornament. Some have stiff branches that grow upwards; others have more flexible branches.

Rambling roses (vine roses, ramblers) grow much faster than climbing roses and also get taller. Some stop at a height of 4m, but there are some that reach 20m, so they need a lot of space. Most ramblers only flower once, but do so very abundantly. Their flowers are usually smaller than those of climbing roses. There are also repeat-flowering ramblers, and ramblers with large flowers, such as 'Albertine'. Many ramblers produce a lot of rose hips after flowering.

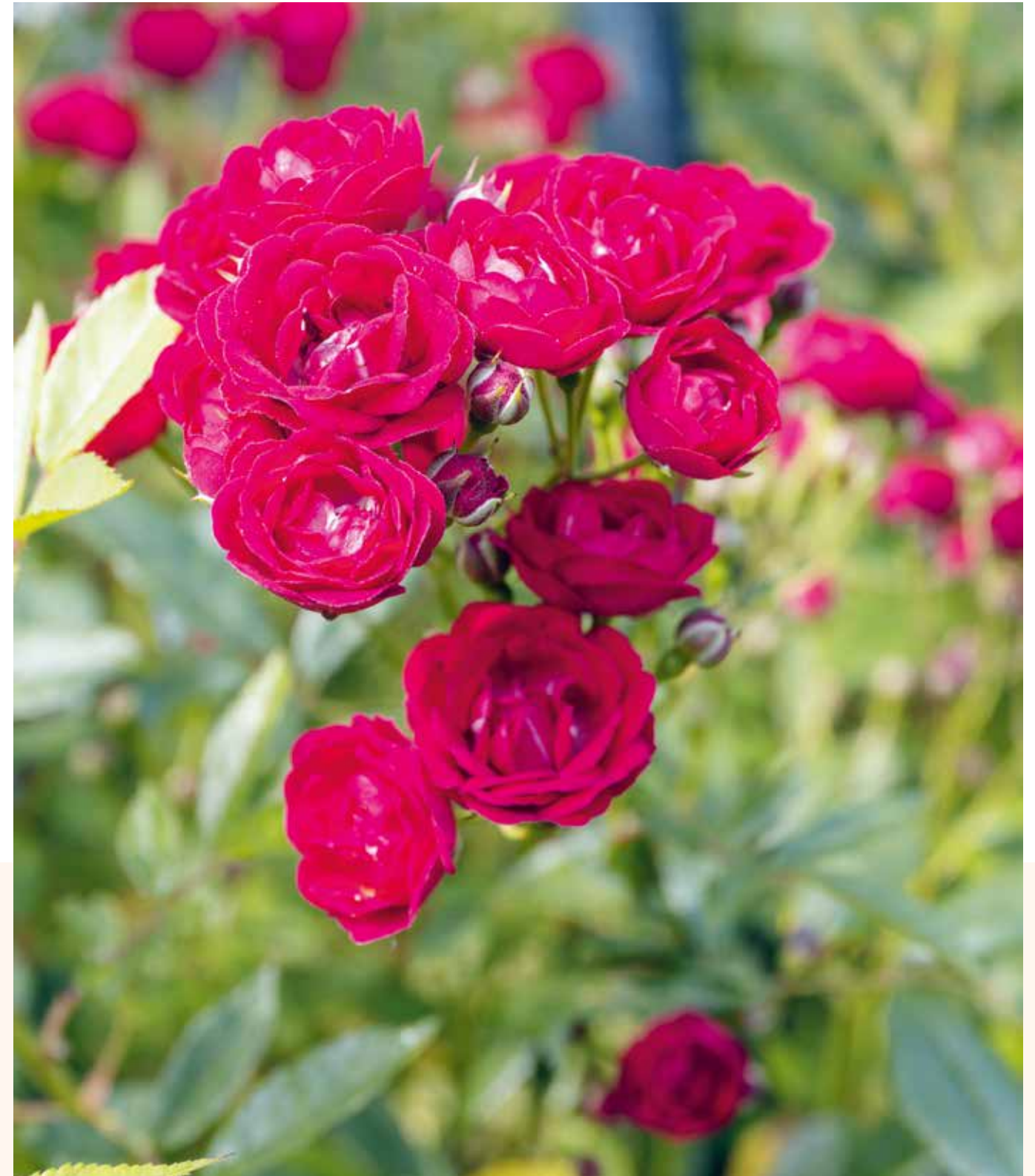
Well-known ramblers are 'Bobbie James' (10m), 'Kiftsgate' (12m) and 'Seagull' (6m).

Many climbing roses flower throughout the whole summer, but not all of them. The roses 'Dorothy Perkins' (6m) and 'American Pillar' (3m) only flower once, but do so very abundantly. There are also varieties that do well in spots that get less sunlight, such as 'Adelaide d'Orléans', 'New Dawn' and 'Pink Cloud'. The soft pink 'New Dawn' is also very easy to guide up a support.

Continuously flowering ramblers

Over thirty years ago, the English rose grower Chris Warner introduced a novelty: rambling roses that flower multiple times. 'Warm Welcome' (1986), 'Little Rambler' (1995) and 'Open Arms' (1995) were the first, followed by 'Purple Skyliner' and 'Rambling Rosie'. These roses grow to 2-3m and are easy to guide, making them ideal for smaller gardens. Another repeat-flowering rambler rose is 'Ghislaine de Féligonde'. 'New Dreams' and 'Perfume Dreams' from the cultivator Martin Vissers also flower repeatedly.

The German breeding company Rosen Tantau released a Perennial series: 'Perennial Blue', 'Perennial Blush', 'Perennial Domino' and 'Perennial Rosali'. The firm Kordes felt obliged to follow suit and released the Siluetta series: 'Crimson Siluetta', 'Lavender Siluetta', 'Purple Siluetta', 'Romantic Siluetta', 'Sunny Siluetta' and 'Sweet Siluetta'. These are all strong, healthy ramblers that flower multiple times.



ROSA 'PERENNIAL DOMINO'

6. ENGLISH OR AUSTIN ROSES

At the start of the 1960s, the English cultivator David Austin decided to combine the advantages of Old roses with those of Modern roses. By crossing them, he created roses that are known today as 'Austin roses' or 'English roses'. They have the full-bodied flower shapes, colours and wonderful scent of Old roses, but flower throughout the summer. Most varieties become large shrubs; others are suitable as bush roses or climbing roses, or as tub plants for on the balcony or the patio.

A plus point of these roses is that they only need four hours of sun per day instead of the usual six. Do keep in mind that they don't like getting the full brunt of the afternoon sun. The most suitable place is somewhere where they only get direct sunlight in the morning or evening.

But no matter how beautiful they are and how nice they smell, English roses also have some downsides. The flowers are so large and heavy that the young branches bend and can collapse under the weight. Once the branches have grown older and thickened, this problem goes away. Another problem, however, is that while the shrubs are perfectly at home in the mild English climate, many don't do as well in the distinctly harsher Dutch winters. What is more, some English roses don't handle wet conditions very well. If it has rained a lot for a long time, the buds will rot—the petals get stuck together and no longer open. Moreover, many English roses are not resistant to diseases and pests such as mildew and black spot.



1. ROSA 'DARCEY BUSSELL'
2. ROSA 'CHARLES AUSTIN'
3. ROSA 'HERITAGE'
4. ROSA 'LEANDER'
5. ROSA 'IMOGEN'

Some popular English roses

- 'The Alnwick Rose'
- 'Charles Austin'
- 'Compassion'
- 'David Austin'
- 'Darcey Bussell'
- 'Gertrude Jekyll'
- 'Heritage'
- 'Imogen'
- 'Jubilee Celebration'
- 'Lady of Shalott'
- 'Leander'
- 'Queen of Sweden'



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7. OLD OR HISTORIC ROSES

Old or historic roses are cultivated (= bred) rose varieties. Crossing European and Chinese roses allowed varieties to be created that are now called Old or historic roses—a term also covering varieties that already existed. The name ‘old’ is used because most of these roses already existed before the arrival of the Modern roses in 1867.

Historical roses can be divided into two subcategories: the old roses from Europe that only flower once per year, and the group created from crossings between European and Asian roses that flower until well into autumn.

Historical roses have densely filled and usually wonderfully scented flowers in white, pink and purple colours. When more modern varieties with more pronounced colours such as red, yellow and orange became popular in the twentieth century, the Old roses were in danger of disappearing from gardens. But fans of these roses made sure that many were preserved after all. In recent times, the historical roses with their shrub-like growth, full flower shape and wonderful fragrance have been making something of a comeback.

Well-known Old roses are ‘Blush Noisette’, ‘Comte de Chambord’, ‘Ferdinand Pichard’ (with striped flowers), ‘Honorine de Brabant’, ‘Gruss an Aachen’, *Rosa chinensis* ‘Viridiflora’, ‘Rose de Rescht’, ‘Charles de Mills’, *Rosa gallica* ‘Officinalis’, *Rosa gallica* ‘Versicolor’ (with striped flowers), ‘Ulrich Brüner Fils’ and ‘Zéphirine Drouhin’.

1. ROSA ‘ROSE DE RESCHT’
2. ROSA ‘BLUSH NOISETTE’
3. ROSA ‘FERDINAND PICHARD’

8. ROSE BUSHES OR PARK ROSES

Any Modern rose that doesn't fit into a certain category is called a 'bush rose' or 'park rose'. They are the larger, broader shrub and cluster roses. They are hardy, can grow to 2-3m tall and have many single flowers arranged together in clusters.

Almost all bush roses are repeat-flowering.

Bush roses have a lot of plus points. To start with, you can do all kinds of things with them. You can plant large areas with them or make an impenetrable hedge; that's why they are often to be found in municipal parks and borders. You can plant the varieties that grow taller against a fence or use them as a low-growing climbing rose. Bush roses are not very susceptible to diseases, combine well with other plants, do well a bit of shade and require little maintenance.

The following bush roses are very healthy and if you dead-head blooms that have finished flowering, these roses will flower from early in the season until well into autumn:

'Angela', 'Bonica', 'Lavender Dream', 'Pearl Drift', 'Penelope', 'Purple Breeze', 'Rosy Cushion', 'Rush', 'Symphonica', 'Westzeit' and 'White Fleurette'.



ROSA 'LAVENDER DREAM'

9. MINIATURE AND PATIO ROSES

Miniature roses are shrubs that usually don't grow beyond 30-40cm. They are suitable as ground cover, but they also do well in a pot or planter. They have many branches and small flowers arranged together in clusters. Miniature roses were created from 1930 onwards from crossings between short Chinese roses and polyantha roses. Because they were then crossed with many other types of roses, there are miniature roses that look like miniature tea hybrids, miniature moss roses and miniature climbing roses. Some are even available as a standard rose.

Patio roses are a bit bigger than miniature roses. Miniature roses and patio roses flower abundantly and are very suitable for small gardens, planters, tubs and pots.

Examples are 'Chili Clementine', 'Lupo', 'Poppy Rose', 'Riverdance', 'Starlet Melina', 'Sweet Dream' and 'Topolina'.

10. GROUNDCOVER ROSES

Groundcover roses don't grow taller than 50-60cm but can cover more than 1m with their long, flexible stems. They need little maintenance and their branches and leaves can fill entire sections, making them suitable for 'difficult' parts of the garden. After a couple of years, the rose will have covered a slope or flowerbed completely and you won't see weeds there anymore. If you want to prune them (once every four years), use a hedge trimmer to clip them down to 5-15cm from the ground.

Groundcover roses also do well in pots or in hanging baskets. Examples are 'Alcantara', 'Alpenglühchen', 'Amber Sun', 'Apfelblüte', 'Aspirin Rose', 'Félicité et Perpétué', 'Fil des Saisons', 'Green Summer', 'Happy Chappy', 'Heidekönigin', 'Heidetraum', 'Innocencia', 'Knirps', 'Larissa', 'Laura Ashley', 'Loredo', 'Magic Meidiland', 'Mirato', 'Neon', 'Pretty in Pink', 'Rosy Cushion', 'Rosy Carpet', 'Schneeflocke', 'Queen Mother', *Rosa pimpinellifolia*, 'Stadt Rom' and 'Tapis Volant'.

An interesting new groundcover rose is *Rosa* 'Crewcreep' syn. 'Centre Stage' from Chris Warner. The rose nursery Jac. Verschuren-Pechtold has started growing this rose in 2024, initially in small numbers.



11. STANDARD AND WEEPING ROSES

A standard rose is a normal rose that is grafted at eye level onto the rootstock of a wild variety, such as *Rosa canina* or *Rosa rugosa*. The rootstock doesn't grow taller anymore but does get thicker every year. The roses grafted onto the rootstock are varieties bred by people, such as grandiflora roses, cluster roses, miniature and patio roses or historical roses. The taller stems often have climbing roses, which droop down nicely. Standard roses also do well in pots. Examples of standard roses: 'Alcantara', 'Annapurna', 'Global Hit', 'Heilige Elisabeth', 'Ingrid Bergman', 'Leonardo da Vinci', 'Princesse Charlene de Monaco', 'Schneewittchen', 'The Fairy' and 'Virgo'.

When a climbing rose with long, flexible branches is grafted onto a 140cm tall rootstock, you get a weeping rose. The twigs have nothing to hold onto, so they droop and this creates the weeping shape. Make sure the rose is anchored to a sturdy pole. Well-known weeping roses, often planted in cemeteries, are: 'Albéric Barbier', 'Charmant', 'Excelsa', 'Jasmina' and 'Satina'.

ROSA 'LEONARDO DA VINCI'

“WE PROPAGATE THE ROSES THAT THE PLANT BREEDERS CREATED. WE’RE THE LAST LINK IN THE BREEDING PROCESS”



Steven van Dalen

OWNER OF THE ROSE NURSERY
DE WILDE IN EMPE

Say “rose nursery” and you are saying “De Wilde”. Everyone who has anything to do with roses knows the Zutphen nursery, which incidentally is no longer located in Zutphen. In October 2022, Steven van Dalen, owner of De Wilde, sold the land to the municipality of Zutphen. “I had to go, as Zutphen needed the land for building houses. This has been going on for years and the next step would have been expropriation.” He deliberately went looking for a location close by, and now grows his garden roses in the outskirts of Empe, a village west of Zutphen. What has also changed is that he no longer sells cut flowers. “I had to make a choice: do I keep doing everything or not? I decided to make things a bit easier for myself. After all, I also sell garden roses online and the nursery is open on Saturdays.”

The rose nursery De Wilde has been in business for over a hundred years, although that isn’t actually true for the Zutphen location. “My grandfather started growing vegetables in Zutphen in the 1960s,” says Steven. “After that, my father grew conifers, heather plants, cut chrysanthemums and strawberries. In the early 1990s he and I started selling cut roses.” Meanwhile, in Bussum, there was the De Wilde nursery, which had been growing garden roses since 1921. “When they had to leave Bussum in 2003, we

merged to become one company. De Wilde is a known name in the world of roses, so we kept that name.” Steven grew into the job slowly. “Around 1998, my parents started cutting back their involvement. And now with the move to Empe, we’re entering another new phase.”

His clients can choose from more than 800 varieties of garden roses, the majority of which are sold via the Internet. “Some people know exactly which rose they want,” says Steven, “but most come here with a question. They want to know what rose can climb in a tree or up a trellis. Or what rose is suitable as a hedge, because they have trouble with the neighbour’s cats. These types of questions are best put to a specialist grower. Garden centres don’t have that expertise anymore. They don’t need it, because garden centres have become a place for fun-shopping. Consumers go there for a lounge set and pick up a potted rose on the way.”

De Wilde buys cuttings and grafted roses, which he then grows for sale. “We propagate the roses that the plant breeders created. We’re the last link in the breeding process.” When determining which roses he sells and which not, Steven asks himself the question: What does it add? “If I have a hundred roses, what do I need a hundred and twenty for? And why do I need yellow roses if they don’t sell? I used



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to throw away unsold roses. But when the economy is in recession you have to make different choices, or you’ll go under. Everything has become so expensive that I need to sell all my roses. The question is: can I please everyone with what I do? Because you want everyone to be able to find something they want at your place. The trick is not to grow all varieties, because that costs money. Compare it to a restaurant that offers ten types of fish and ten types of meat: before you know it, you’ll be swamped by your stock. I know roughly what percentage I sell, and I buy my roses based on that. But I also want unusual varieties in the assortment Beautiful purple roses such as ‘Indigoletta’ or ‘Rhapsody in Blue’. And my personal favourites, of course, such as ‘Compassion’ and ‘Guirlande d’Amour’, both climbers.” About two thousand rose varieties are sold in the

1. PUTTING TOGETHER ORDERS FOR SHIPPING
2. ROSA ‘BONICA’
3. ROSA ‘INGRID BERGMAN’



ROSA 'THE FAIRY'

Netherlands. “Every year, breeders come up with about fifty new varieties,” says Steven. “But it can take ten years before people ask for that new rose. They prefer a variety that they know, such as ‘Bonica’, ‘Ingrid Bergman’ or ‘The Fairy’. It’s very difficult for a new rose to get included in that list; it’s almost impossible to publicise the rose. What also doesn’t help is that gardeners learn about maybe five varieties during their training, and that’s it. Even roses that have been tested for years and win prizes, such as Excellence roses, aren’t covered. Those award ceremonies are a snapshot; I don’t even pay attention to them. And people aren’t interested in that kind of thing. Most have a postage-stamp garden and want roses that are pink, red and hardy. Another thing is that people have different ideas about gardening than in the past. That changes over time. Nowadays many people don’t enjoy gardening, don’t have the time, or both.” According to him, the number of rose growers is rapidly declining. “Twenty years ago, there were about eighty growers; ten years ago there were fifty—and of those about fifteen are left. The fewer growers there are, the more the product range shrinks. If a grower doesn’t make any sales

of a certain rose for two years, they’ll stop growing it. The variety will still exist but is no longer being sold. You can’t keep growing a rose indefinitely. You choose a certain product range that is profitable. This is good because you are left with the strong varieties, the varieties that are in demand.”

What should people look out for when buying a rose? “That the rose isn’t susceptible to diseases. That it was organically grown, is repeat-flowering and has a fragrance. The colour of the flower is also important, of course. People usually choose pink, white or red. In that order. Yellow is a long way behind those three. Yellow is a tough colour; you have to make sure your garden can take it.”

When it comes to repeat flowering and fragrance, you’re soon talking about English roses, which were developed by David Austin starting in the 1960s. “The benefits of English roses are that they are repeat-flowering, smell nice and have attractive leaves,” Steven says, summarising. “But they also have disadvantages. They have weak branches, the flower buds droop and they are susceptible to mildew. People say that has improved since 2000, but that’s not the case.

Pyrethrin and Rosacur

Pyrethrin is an insecticide of natural origins that is certified for use in organic farming. It consists of various active ingredients, so that the insects can’t develop resistance to the product. It breaks down quickly and has a minimal environmental impact. There are also downsides: in addition to the harmful ones, Pyrethrin also kills the useful insects. And it only works for a short interval, so it needs to be applied regularly. Rosacur contains the active ingredient tebuconazole, which is effective against fungal diseases such as black spot, mildew and rust. Tebuconazole has a relatively low acute toxicity.

English roses have the sensitive leaves of Old roses, which fungi thrive on.”

There’s that word: ‘fungi’. It makes you wonder how a nursery like De Wilde deals with the problem. “Our roses aren’t organic,” Steven admits. “It’s difficult to grow roses organically for technical reasons. To keep them healthy, you need to make sure they get the right nutrients, or they won’t turn out well. Our roses are fertilised organically, but that washes out easily in our sandy soil. Once a year, in spring, I use Osmocote. That’s as organic as possible.”

What is more, in the case of grafted roses, the grower doesn’t know how the rootstock was treated. “If the rootstock wasn’t grown organically, the rose isn’t organic. But that’s almost impossible to trace.” He sprays the plants as little as possible.

Trademarks and plant breeders’ rights

Trademarks protect the rose’s name for ten years and can then be extended indefinitely. Registration in the trademark register gives a grower the right to prohibit others from using the trademark. But other people can still market the same rose under a different name. Trademarks are indicated by an R (in a circle) or by adding TM after the name of the rose. The ® symbol stands for ‘registered trademark’, the ™ symbol comes from the USA and stands for ‘trademark’.

If a breeder has been cross-breeding roses for years and has finally created the perfect new rose, they patent it. Other breeders who want to include this rose in their product range and propagate it must pay the breeder who ‘made’ the rose a specified amount (licence fee). The plant breeders’ rights for roses apply for 25 years, during which others can only propagate the rose if they have a licence contract with the holder of that plant breeder’s right. A plant breeders’ right is indicated by stating PBR (Plant Breeders’ Right) after the name.

“There are fewer and fewer of these products anyway, and organic products are just as effective. We use Pyrethrum for lice and Rosacur for fungi.”

ROSE NURSERY DE WILDE

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Opening hours Friday and Saturday from 09:00 to 17:30.
www.dewilde.nl