



Tri-State Rose Society

January 2023

“Distant Drums” (F)
Introduced 2003
Height 4 ft; Width 3 ft.

UNDERSTANDING ROSE CLASSIFICATION



“Celsiana” (Damask)

Introduced prior to 1732; Height 5-6+ Ft; Width 4-5 ft.

OLD GARDEN ROSES

- Types of roses that pre-dated the first hybrid tea in **1867**
- Hardy
- Low-maintenance
- Most often single, double
- More limited color range
- Frequently bloom only once/year
 - bloom may last weeks

TYPES OF OLD GARDEN ROSES

- ***Albas***: Clusters of pale pink/white, tall, dense, bloom once
- ***Bourbons***: Vigorous, very fragrant, open growth, tall. repeat flowering, in clusters of three
- ***Centifolia***: “Cabbage Rose” with 100+ overlapping petals; blooms once per year, usually in June; extremely hardy; arching thorny stems; originated in Holland and seen in Dutch master’s paintings
- ***Damask***: Open shrubs with drooping, arching branches; loose clusters of intensely fragrant flowers; blooms [mainly] once a year; extremely hardy

“Variegata di Bologna” (Bourbon)
Introduced 1900; Height 9-10 ft; Width 5 ft



MORE TYPES OF OLD GARDEN ROSES

- **China:** Requires mild winters; small-to-medium; twiggy growth; blooms very small, either singly or in small clusters; repeats; originated in Southeast Asia.
- **Gallica:** Oldest known class of rose; Dense – but may look spindly; heavily scented – or not at all; flowers in clusters of three; bloom once (spring)
- **Hybrid Musk:** Vigorous; Fragrant blooms in long trusses; repeat-flowering



“The Green Rose” (China)

Introduced 1855; Height 2 – 4 feet; Width 2 – 3 feet

STILL MORE TYPES OF OLD GARDEN ROSES

- ***Hybrid Rugosa***: Rugged; extremely hardy; extremely disease resistant
- ***Noisettes***: Large clusters of mildly fragrant blooms all summer; shrub is large, sprawling, up to 20 feet, can be used as a large climber.
- ***Portland***: Not winter hardy below Zone 4; In warmer areas, grows upright, sturdy, with dense foliage; generally, a repeat-bloomer

“FJ Grootendorst” (Hybrid Rugosa)
Introduced 1918; Height 4–6 feet; Width 4–6 feet





“Rosa Mundi” (Gallica)

Introduced 1200? 1500?; Height 4 feet; Width 4 feet

WHERE TO FIND OLD GARDEN ROSES

- *Antique Rose Emporium*
 - <https://antiqueroseemporium.com>
- *David Austin Roses*
 - <https://www.davidaustinroses.com>
- *High Country Roses*
 - <https://www.highcountryroses.com>
- *Heirloom Roses*
 - <https://heirloomroses.com>
- *Northland Rosarium*
 - <https://www.northlandrosarium.com>





“Rosa Arkansana” (Species)

Identified 1880; Height 1-4 feet; Width 3-4 feet

SPECIES *ROSES*

- “Wild roses”
- Typically large shrub
- Arching canes
- Spreads by suckers
 - Good for soil stabilization, wildlife habitat
- 4-5-petaled blooms
- Form hips in autumn
- Disease-resistant
- Usually bloom only once, in spring or summer

MODERN ROSES

- Era began in 1867 with introduction of “La France”
 - Known as the first hybrid tea
 - French breeder Guillot crossed Old Rose forms **Hybrid Perpetual** (repeat bloom, upright, sturdy stems, moderate height) and **Tea** roses (large blooms on weak stems cause flowers to droop)
 - New Hybrid Tea had beautiful, large blooms on strong upright stems
- Demonstrated that selective breeding (“planned parenthood”) could result in new flower forms, colors, size, improved characteristics and disease resistance

“La France” (Hybrid Tea)

Introduced 1867; Height 4–6 feet; Width 3–4 feet



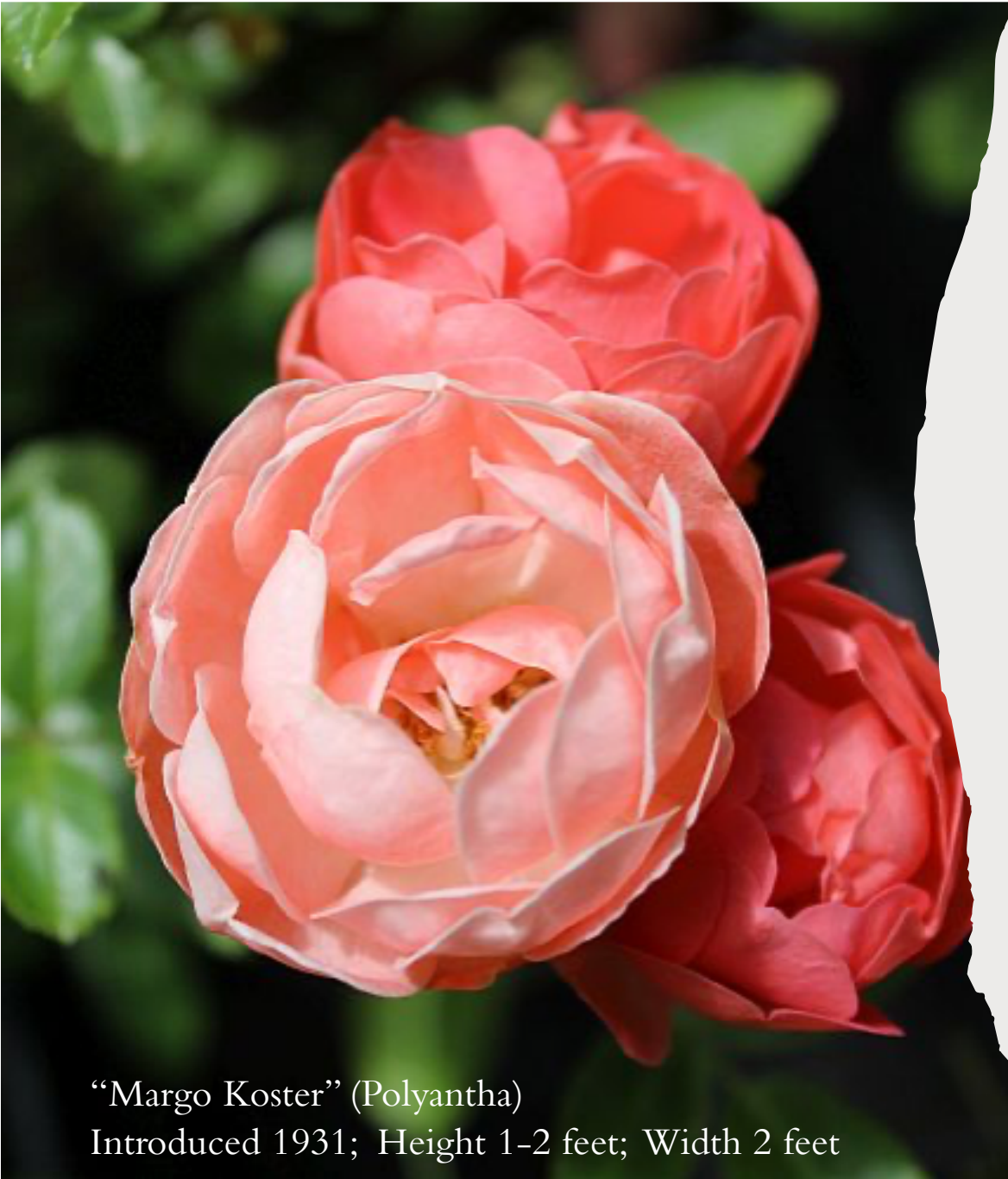
HOW ROSES ARE CLASSIFIED

- Hybridizer is the one to determine
 - Classification
 - Color Class
- Depending on environmental conditions, roses in our yard may differ slightly in color, height, or size of bloom

“Enchanted Evening” (F)

Height & Width 3-4 feet
Introduced 1998

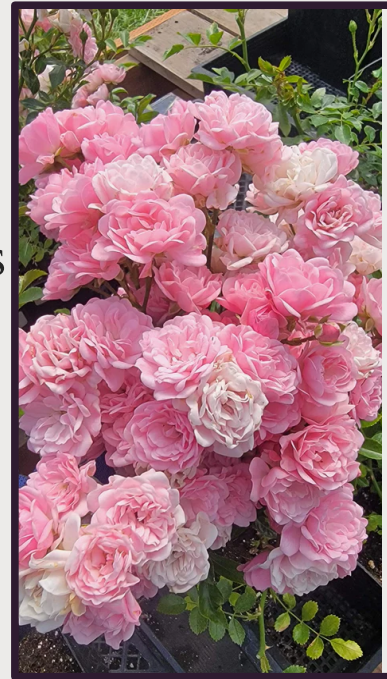




“Margo Koster” (Polyantha)
Introduced 1931; Height 1-2 feet; Width 2 feet

POLYANTHA

- Flowers 1-2 inches
- Continuous repeat
- Sometimes in long trusses
- Low-growing
- Incredibly reliable displays of color
- Forerunner of modern floribunda



“The Fairy”
Introduced 1932
Height to 4 feet
Width to 3 feet



HYBRID TEA

- Long, pointed buds
- Long stems, single flower
- “Perfect form,” the classic rose
- Every color but blue and black
- Many have subtle or no scent
- Inbreeding that results in the HT rose has diminished winter hardiness and disease resistance

“Peace”

Introduced 1945; Height 4 feet; Width 3-4 feet





“Livin’ Easy”

Introduced 1996; Height 3-5 feet, Width 3-6 feet

FLORIBUNDA

- Developed in 1939
- Cross between a polyantha and hybrid tea
- Compact
- Superior hardiness and disease resistance
- Clusters of flowers on sturdy stems
- Useful in hedges, borders, and containers

GRANDIFLORA

- Developed in 1954
- Cross between hybrid tea and floribunda
 - Flower form & long stems from tea
 - Continuous flowering & hardiness from Floribunda
- Flowers single or in clusters atop tall, sturdy stems
- Flower size large
- Frequently lack strong fragrance
- Tall height



“Queen Elizabeth”

Introduced 1955; Height to 10 feet, Width 3 feet

SHRUB ROSES

- Vary widely in attributes
 - Mounding v. spreading
 - Height 3 – 15 feet
 - Most bloom in repeated flushes v. once a year
 - Varying disease resistance
 - Prefer full sun v. some shade
- Usually hardy, tolerate rain
- Vigorous growers
- Do not require pruning
- Especially useful in masses as borders or hedges

“Molineux” (Shrub)

Introduced 1994; Height 4 feet; Width 3 feet



“Coffee Bean” (Mini)

Introduced 2008; Height 18-20 inches; Width to 24 inches



MINIATURES

- Emerged as a class in 1930's
 - Crossed *China* roses with *Polyanthas*
- Smallest roses
- Tiny versions of hybrid tea and floribunda
- Profusion of tiny flowers
 - 1 – 1½ inches diameter
- Average height 18 – 24 inches
- Excellent in borders, pots, hanging baskets

MINIFLORA

- New classification in 1999
 - Met an emerging need
 - Hybridizers were developing roses too small for hybrid tea but too big for miniature
 - Miniflora class kept those roses from being discarded
- Intermediate size between true miniatures and floribundas
- Height & Width 2½ - 4 feet
- Blooms 2+ inches in diameter
 - Larger than Miniatures
 - Smaller than Hybrid Tea or Floribunda

“Whirlaway” (Miniflora)
Introduced 2005

Height 3–4 ft
Width



CLIMBERS

- Don't really climb on their own at all
- Long, pliable canes
- Require training and tying
- Blooms on horizontal
- Require minimal pruning
- Typically hardy
- Some only bloom once a year



“Pearly Gates” (Climber)

Introduced 1999; Height to 14 feet; Width 5 feet



“Double Delight” (Hybrid Tea)
Introduced 1977; Height 3-5 feet; Width 2-5 feet

QUESTIONS?

