



ROSES, you either love them or you hate them. Well, not so much hate them, after all how could you hate anything to do with horticulture... It was only a few years ago that I would rather have a weed growing in my garden that I could satisfyingly pull out, than grow a rose in my garden! I 'disliked' them!

It brought back memories of a childhood duty, when I used to visit my grandparents in Bournemouth and they used to get me to deadhead all of those (I thought) bloomy hideous coloured evil prickly bushes, that gave me nightmares along with the movie, *The Day of the Triffids*.

However I guess as we age our tastes change, and mine certainly have.

We are all aware of those plants and flowers that come in and out of fashion, but the rose I guess, is one that always holds a place of its own. I still believe that to have the perfect effect you really need to have a separate (large if at all possible) rose garden. Where just roses grow and are allowed to create a great statement.

Recently I visited the RHS Garden at Wisley where there is a new Rose garden, it was the most spectacular garden I think I have seen in a very long time, it would be wouldn't it, of course it is the RHS after all, however that aside, the way in which each rose stood and showed off its glory was spectacular, the colours and scents were outstanding.

So I have succumbed, and now I have a few 'select' Roses dotted around the garden. Of course no ordinary Rose, however, ones which I feel easily fit in and enhance the borders.

To talk about Roses in depth I would need every page of this magazine, and volumes more. There are roughly 150 known species alone, and the garden hybrids of those number in the thousands. Every year, new varieties are tested, and some are eventually introduced.

Most Rose (Genus *Rosa*) species are native to Asia, with smaller numbers being native to North America and a few to Europe and northwest Africa. Roses from different regions of the world hybridize readily, giving rise to types that overlap the parental forms, and making it difficult to determine basic species. Fewer than 10 species, mostly native to Asia, were involved in the crossbreeding that ultimately produced today's many types of garden roses.

There are several major classes of garden roses. The best-known and most-popular class of rose is that of the Hybrid Tea Roses, which accounts for the majority of roses grown in gardens and sold in florist shops.



It is believed that roses were grown in all the early civilizations of temperate latitudes from at least 5000 years ago. They are known to have been grown in ancient Babylon.

Paintings of roses have been discovered in Egyptian pyramid tombs from the 14th century BC. Records exist of them being grown in Chinese gardens and Greek gardens from at least 500 BC

Every summer, the Ruislip Central Horticultural Society holds a Flower Show in the Great Barn in Ruislip. The main focus for that show is Roses, hundreds of blooms are displayed by many competitors all hoping that their bloom will win the top accolade, "*Best Exhibit in Show*". Shown here are some pictures of the roses that were on display.

So, as I said I have a few select roses in my small garden now, some of which are pictured here. A species Rose called *Eye Paint*, took my eye at Merriments Garden a few years ago, so I grabbed one when I saw it and it now sits well in the border complementing a similar colour *Alstroemeria*, also I believe if you are going to have a Rose it's got to be worth it, so it's got to look good in the spot you want it for, and especially for me smell great. One of the strongest scented roses is *Rosa Gertrude Jekyll*, again pictured here taken in my garden this summer.

So do select your rose carefully, take time and browse some rose specialist catalogues. A great one to start with is David Austin Roses, sold in most garden centres and they have a great website too so you can learn about roses and which variety suits you.



Rose Eye Paint



Rose Gertrude Jekyll

A great RCHS Fish & Chip Supper Quiz Saturday 17th October. A few tickets remaining at £10 each. Come and have an evening of fun. For tickets call Warren on 01923 451616.

And finally a quote, "If you enjoy the fragrance of a rose, you must accept the thorns which it bears." Isaac Hayes.

Until next month.

Warren