



Trowel Talk!

March, 2012

Stunning roses made in Canada!

Canadian breeders have given us a remarkable choice of hardy rose cultivars.



Photo by Mary Ann Van Berlo

Rose beds – Central Experimental Farm

The Explorer Series was developed in Ottawa, Ontario and L'Assomption, Quebec. There are 24 roses in this series, mostly named after Canadian explorers. Bred to survive harsh Canadian winters, they have become increasingly popular with home gardeners across the country. These hardy beauties are on show from June to October in the Ornamental Gardens at the Central Experimental Farm.

Blossom colours range from white to deep red, and flowers come in single, semi-double, or double form. Some are borne on single stems and others in clusters. Blossom size varies from 2 to 10cm. Regular deadheading until late August encourages energetic reblooming. After that, left to their own devices, many will produce attractive hips.

Trowel Talk!

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- Editor: Mary Ann Van Berlo
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My favourite Explorer roses are Champlain, Henry Hudson, John Cabot and John Davis, all hardy to Canadian zone 3 or lower. Champlain and Henry Hudson are suitable for low hedges, specimen plantings and groundcovers. Both bloom continuously – Champlain in a breathtaking shade of red, and Henry Hudson with deep pink buds that morph into pink-tinged white blossoms with yellow stamens. John Cabot is a climber with fragrant, pinkish-red blossoms. John Davis trails or climbs, and produces aromatic, blushing-pink blossoms.

The Parkland series was developed in Morden, Manitoba. The roses in this group are low to medium in height, very hardy, and bloom continuously. There are 13 roses in this series. I particularly like Adelaide Hoodless, Morden Blush, Morden Centennial and Morden Ruby.



Photo by Mary Ann Van Berlo

Rosa 'Explorer – John Cabot'

Adelaide Hoodless is probably one of the tallest in the series – up to 2m – and blooms in red, semi-double flowers that later produce attractive rosehips. It is resistant to powdery mildew but moderately susceptible to blackspot. Because of height, blossom load and a certain sparseness, it may need support.

Morden Blush, Morden Centennial and Morden Ruby each grow to about 1m. Morden Blush has small light pink to ivory coloured

double blossoms that continue all summer long. It is drought tolerant and resistant to blackspot and powdery mildew. Morden Centennial has two flowering periods for its medium pink double blossoms and is disease resistant except for mild susceptibility to black spot. Morden Ruby lives up to its name in colour and has a leggier look than the other three.

The Prairie Series, also developed in Morden, is relatively new. Prairie Celebration and Prairie Joy, at 1 to 1.5m in height, are both hardy to Zone 2 with good disease resistance. Prairie Celebration produces reddish pink single blossoms. Prairie Joy sports medium pink double flowers.

Winter protection using 25 to 30cm of mulch around each plant for the first two winters after planting will help to avoid winter damage or winter kill. If you are planting grafted stock, locate the graft union at least 9 to 10cm below ground level. Any less and the plant will be vulnerable to winter damage.



Photo by Mary Ann Van Berlo

Hardy roses as a front border display – garden of the late Marie-Paule Dupuis

'Made in Canada' roses are readily available in our local nurseries, but shop early because they go fast!

Edythe Falconer
Master Gardener



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Where to find us this month for free gardening advice!

ONGOING:

Telephone Help Line: 613-236-0034

- Wednesday and Thursday 1-3 pm (all year)

E-mail Help Line: mgoc_helpline@yahoo.ca

- monitored daily
- send photos of garden pests, diseases or plants for ID

CLINICS:

Ottawa Home & Garden Show – March 22-25, 2012 – CE Centre, 4899 Uplands Drive – Visit us at our booth. We'll be there all weekend at this annual Spring show, to answer your gardening questions and provide short lectures on gardening topics

Rare & Unusual Plant Sale: Sunday, May 13, 9am-1pm,

Tropical Greenhouses on Maple Street, parking lot, Central Experimental Farm

Red Trillium Studio & Garden Tour, May 12-13, 10am-5pm

MGOC advice clinic & plant sale at 112 Terraview Drive, Kinburn.

Byward Market: Saturdays, May through June (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

Parkdale Market: Saturdays, May through June (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

Carp Market: Saturdays, May through June (8 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

SPEAKING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS:

Propagation/Seed Germination – March 20, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Mary Ann Van Berlo, Master Gardener

Pretty Street Community Centre, Stittsville, Ontario

Hosted by the Stittsville-Goulbourn Horticultural Society (guests welcome)

Crops in Pots Workshop – March 17, 2012 – 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener

City Hall, Ottawa, Ontario

For information: Bonnie - 613-237-1056

Gardening for the Busy Gardener – April 10, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener

Old Fire Hall, 260 Sunnyside Avenue, Ontario

Hosted by the Old Ottawa South Garden Club (non-members \$7)

Renovating an Older Garden – April 16, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener

Brockville Wesleyan Church, 33 Central Avenue West, Brockville, Ontario

Hosted by the Brockville Horticultural Society (guests welcome)

Thugs, Bullies & Sneaks – Plants to be Wary Of – April 17, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Rebecca Last, Master Gardener

Pretty Street Community Centre, Stittsville, Ontario

Hosted by the Stittsville-Goulbourn Horticultural Society (guests welcome)

Gardening with Little to Low Maintenance in Mind – April 19, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener

City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue, Nepean, Ontario

Hosted by the Nepean Horticultural Society (guests welcome)

Vertical Gardens – Up & Down the Walls with Vines – April 23, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener

Cornerstone Community Church 1728 concession 11, Almonte, Ontario

Hosted by the Almonte Horticultural Society (guests welcome)

Container Gardening Workshop – April 28, 2012 – 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener

Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario

For information: 613-580-2588 www.ottawa.ca/recreationguide or drop in to any Client

Service Centre including the Glebe Community Centre

LECTURE SERIES: Presented jointly by Friends of the Farm & Master Gardeners

Tuesdays in April Non FoF Members – \$15 for one talk, \$50 for four talks

FoF Members – \$12 for one talk, \$40 for four talks

7:00 p.m. – Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Reservations: info@friendsofthefarm.ca OR (613-230-3276)

All from a Little Seed – April 3, 2012 – Rebecca Last

Low Down, Delightful Dirty Earth – April 10, 2012 – Edythe Falconer

The Beauty of Annuals – April 17, 2012 – Diane McClymont Peace

Creating a Winter Scene in your Yard – April 24, 2012 – Julianne Labreche



For information on arranging a lecture for your group: speakers@mgottawa.mgoi.ca

For more information on Master Gardeners, visit us at: <http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca>

March TO DO List

- Watch for the right day to apply dormant oil spray on your fruit trees and shrubs. Follow the instructions on the package as this pest & disease control requires specific weather conditions and must be applied while the plant is still dormant (no leaves or flowers breaking bud). Viburnum shrubs also benefit from an application of dormant oil to keep the viburnum beetle in check.
- Bulbs and tubers such as cannas or dahlias can be started in pots to get a head-start on the season.
- Start some seeds indoors under lights.
- If you have a gardening or plant identification question, ask a Master Gardener (contact information to the right).

Tip of the Month:

Basil is easy to grow from cuttings taken from the fresh basil you buy at the grocery store. When you bring your package of basil home, put it in a glass of water on a windowsill. Roots will form quickly (about 2-3 weeks) and you can pot up the little plants or transplant outdoors. Some people never actually plant the basil in the soil. As it grows larger, they keep using it (from the glass of water) and rooting up new cuttings.

Basil is also easy to grow from seeds and seed companies have many varieties if you can't find what you like fresh for cuttings.



Basil rooted in water from cuttings.

Thanks to Dale Odorizzi of Lanark Master Gardeners for sharing this month's tip.