



***Rosa damascena* (Rosa damascena or Damask Rose)**
The origin of this species is unknown, although its true origin is unknown, although its species presumably derived from Damascus. The species presumably from Egypt and may have been growing in the Middle East even before Christ. Following the Roman conquest of this distinct species was introduced into various parts of Europe. The varieties in the garden include: York and Lancaster, 1551; Rose of Castile, 1645; Leda (Painted Rose), 1827; and Mme. Hardy, 1852. These varieties are semi-double and bloom freely in June and July.

Eglanteria

This species includes the English Sweetbrier or Eglanteria. Cultivated in the English gardens prior to the 14th century, this rose at one time was the only English wild rose known in Great Britain and continental Europe. It is a fragrant "Eglantine" of Shakespeare and other writers. It is credited with great longevity, old specimens have been found in ruined castles and deserted gardens. Varieties in the garden include Lord Penzance and Lord Penzance, a famed English lawyer who was famous for his rose breeding, produced the first hybrid for him by crossing *Rosa eglanteria* with *Rosa foetida* (Hybrid Foetida). In 1894 he produced the first hybrid for his wife by crossing *Rosa eglanteria* with *R. colorata*.

Hybrid Spinossissima (Scotch Rose)

This rose is a species in which all but a few botanical varieties are rather spiny. Its prickly stems and compact habit are not characteristic of other roses found in Europe and Asia. Stanwell Perpetual is one of the earliest varieties. Discovered in a garden in Stanwell, England, and introduced in 1838, it became known as the Scotch rose because of wide propagation by Scottish nurseries. This rose was long popular in England.

Centifolias

This group of roses in the garden include: *Rosa centifolia* (Cabbage Rose), credited to Dutch breeders who began breeding roses in the 16th century until the rose reached perfection about 1800. *Rosa centifolia* (Provence Rose, Pink Cabbage), grown in the 16th century and probably the Provençal variety mentioned by Shakespeare; *Rosa centifolia bullata*, a variety in Holland in 1815 as a mutation of the original rose; Red Provence, origin unknown; and Rose des Vénitiens (Painter's Rose), portrayed in 18th century Dutch flower paintings.

Albas

This group of roses (White or York Rose) may have been brought to Europe by the Romans earlier than 100 A.D. and is one of the most popular roses in cultivation. Other outstanding varieties in this group include: Maiden's Blush (Great), well known since the 15th century and long considered one of the best of *Rosa alba*; Koenigin von Danemarek (Queen of Denmark), 1816; and Mme. Legras de St. Germain, 1848. This rose can be identified in many flower paintings of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Hybrid Foetida

This variety, Harrison's Yellow, was grown prior to 1830. The original distribution of this rose was initiated about this time by the famous Prince Nursery of Flushing, L. I. Within a few years, every nursery in this country and many in Europe offered it for sale.

Bourbons (Rosa borbonica, Bourbon Rose)

This rose is a hybrid between the China Rose (*R. chinensis*) and either the Gallica (*R. gallica*) or the Damask rose (*R. damascena*). As a class, bourbons are compact and the growth is vigorous. Many hybrids have been produced between this rose and other species. The original form had a fragrance described as similar to "apple sauce". Some plants flower once while others bloom over the entire season.

Outstanding varieties in the garden include: Souvenir de la Malmaison, 1843; Louise Odier, 1851; Zephirine Drouhin, 1868; La Reine Victoria, 1872; and Mme. Pierre Oger, a mutation of La Reine Victoria.

Gallicas (French Rose or Rose of Provins)

This rose is found growing naturally throughout Europe, Western Asia, and parts of North America. Its widespread distribution is probably due to its cultivation as a medical plant and its viable seeds. Extensive commercial development near Provins, France, during the 18th century gave it the name Rose of Provins. Although its origin is unknown, it is believed to have been a religious emblem of the Medes and Persians in the 12th century B.C. Varieties in the garden include: *Rosa gallica officinalis* (Apothecary Rose), 13th century; *Rosa Mundi* (*Rosa gallica versicolor*), 1581; *Catherine Majeux*, 1830; and *Rosa gallica grandiflora* (Alike), origin unknown.

Old Climbers and Ramblers

The Sombreuil (Climbing Tea) was introduced in 1851 in Angers, France. It is the hardiest and most vigorous of the white teas free from mildew and is recommended as a climber for culture in the open air.

Chinensis (Bengal or China Rose)

The earliest records of this rose are found in the Chinese screen paintings of the 10th century portraying Blush China roses. These appear to be identical with the species which reached England in 1809. These were cultivated in Europe at least early in the 16th century. The pale China roses were also popular with Italian painters. Varieties in the garden include Hermosa, 1840; Old Blush, origin unknown; and *Rosa chinensis mutabilis*, origin unknown.

Garden of Roses of Legend and Romance

This unique 2.7-acre garden features a collection of 1,500 plants representing about 500 varieties of roses of antiquity, legend, and romance. Dedicated in June 1970, the garden was developed through the generosity of Mrs. Samuel J. Forbes and Joseph J. Kern, both of Mentor, Ohio. Mrs. Forbes provided funds to develop the garden in memory of her father, the late Michael H. Horvath. The roses were the gift of Mr. Kern, well known rose nurseryman. The formal garden was designed by William A. Strong and Thomas W. Hill, Landscape Architects of Cleveland, Ohio.

Roses have been favorite flowers of mankind through the ages. The Greek poetess, Sappho, called the rose "Queen of Flowers" more than 2,500 years ago. There is evidence that roses were grown as long ago as the 16th Century B.C.

Even though many of the old roses have been lost, those cultivated today are still attractive, and have much botanical interest and historical value to show the evolution of the rose. The Garden of Roses of Legend and Romance is preserving those old favorites adapted to this region.

OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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