

## **The 1, 2, 3's of Rose ID**

(A somewhat "how to" to rose identification!)

When I first come across an unidentified rose I look at the overall shape, size and growth habit of the bush. Is it upright or does it weep? Is it compact or is it large and open? Next, I look at the bloom itself, color, size, petal count, shape, is there fragrance? Then I usually will observe the leaves, size, shape, color, healthy or diseased. After all of my observations are made, I then start comparing it to other roses I'm familiar with.

**Chinas** – Upright, twiggy, medium sized blooms usually ranging from pinks to crimson. Heavy repeat bloomers. In cool spring, foliage tends to be susceptible to Powdery Mildew. Foliage is otherwise very healthy w/ small leaves that are somewhat "pointed."

Example: Old Blush, Archduke Charles, Ducher and Mutabilis

**Species** – Small, simple flowers, blooming once a year (spring). They are generally disease resistant and very hardy. Most of the Species roses are ramblers, mounding up into trees or draped over fences.

Example: Swamp Rose, Cherokee Rose and Lady Banks

**Bourbons** – Repeat blooming, usually large, fragrant, full blooms. Common growth habit can be somewhat angular and open, large, making them excellent roses for pegging. They generally bloom at the ends of their arching, long canes. They have a tendency to black spot and defoliate in very humid conditions. Example: Mdme. Isaac Pierre and Souvenir de la Malmaison

**Teas** – Large, open bushes, blooming on the ends of their canes. Blooms sometimes so heavy, they way down the canes. Fragrance said to be reminiscent of tea. In early spring, some may have tendency to ball; they do prefer warmer weather. Example: Duchesse de Brabant, Mrs. B. R. Cant, William R. Smith and Mrs. Dudley Cross

**Floribundas** – Floribunda means "cluster-flowered." They are hardy, shrubby bushes that have a heavy repeat throughout the season. Valentine, Iceberg, Eutin and Nearly Wild

**Hybrid Musks** – Open angular growth habit. Cluster blooming, can tolerate poor soil or shade/sun conditions. Many set good hips and the majority are extremely fragrant. Can be used as mannerly climbers. Felicia, Ballerina, Buff Beauty and Prosperity.

**Polyanthas** – Large clusters of tiny flowers adorn low growing shrubs. Usually hardy, and bloom a good repeat throughout the year. Polys have small blooms, leaves and overall height. Celcile Brunner, Marie Pavie, La Marne and Climbing Pinkie

**Noisettes** – Most Noisettes have an extremely fragrant flower. Another more common characteristic is that most of them are climbers or pillar roses. Come in pinks, whites, blushes and believe it or not, yep, apricot / yellow! Their blooms are loose, cupped and the rose has an overall "romantic" look about it. Example: Lamarque, Crepuscule, Reve d'Or and Champney's Pink Cluster.

**Hybrid Tea** – Taller, upright, "V" shaped in growth. Blooms are usually brightly colored, they generally bloom a single, large flower at the end of a very long stem. Known for its prize-winning colors and blooms, Hybrid Teas are NOT known for their hardiness or disease resistance. Example: Lafter, Chrysler Imperial, Mrs. Pierre S. Dupont and La France.