

# Winter Favorites

1997/1998

by Lucille Idom

These are just a few roses that stood out during this mild Winter. Each old rose is special in its own way and are all my favorites at one time of the year or another.

## Madame Berkeley

A Tea rose introduced in 1899 is my favorite any time of the year. She was the first rose I received from a Texas Rose Rustler. We built a rose bed underneath our Pecan tree, not knowing roses weren't supposed to grow under Pecan trees. We planted Madame Berkeley and she must have been as ignorant as we were because a few weeks later she started blooming with fragrant salmon pink blooms and has bloomed continuously ever since. She is a big healthy bush with dark green foliage.

## Monsieur Tiller

A Tea rose introduced in 1891 is an upright shrub with dark green foliage and very beautiful double blooms described as a mix of pale rose, salmon and purple. Monsieur Tiller is a good beginner's rose because he is healthy and very easy to grow. He is very t, never without blooms. and could probably be grown as a small climber here. I usually keep him clipped to 5 feet but this Fall we got behind in our pruning, and he quickly grew to 8 feet. My husband, Mayo, put a Cedar support behind him to keep him in our yard. What a show he put on from October until January and still has blooms at the end of January. We also have him in the backyard and he is just as happy back there.

## Compassion

This rose was introduced in 1973 so is not an old rose but is a fine rose nevertheless. It is a climber with large, Hybrid Tea shaped blooms of salmon pink shaded orange and apricot. It is healthy with dark green bushy foliage. The fragrance is outstanding. It blooms continually all year but from October through December it put on a show that produced many gorgeous blooms.

## Le Pactole

A Tea that is rarely offered at nurseries. It is famous for it's creamy yellow 3" blooms, It is fragrant and blooms repeatedly, Compact and low growing, it is a cross between Lamarque and a yellow Tea. It blooms well even in dry heat and will get about 4 feet tall by 3 feet wide. I kept this rose in a gallon pot for 3 years before planting it in a bed. I almost gave it away several times but something always stopped me. Finally, after seeing that it just kept on blooming in that little pot, I planted it in one of the rose beds and have never been sorry. It is covered with buds and blooms right now and is a lovely little rose. Introduced in 1841.

## Fortune's Five Colored Rose

This is a rare and unusual Rose collected by Robert Fortune in China over 150 yews ago (1840s) It produces blooms of several different color combinations at the same time: red shaded white,

pink and red, white with a red stripe and occasionally a red bloom. I was privileged to find a solitary red bloom on my bush in the midst of all the white and shaded ones in December. It is a bushy rose that keeps its pretty foliage all year and is always in bloom. It's about 6 feet tall and needs very little shaping. This Rose is listed in the Antique Rose Emporium catalog as Smith's Parish.

## Climbing Pinkie

Introduced in 1952, it is a climber with a split personality. I planted two of these roses, took a cutting off one and gave the rooted cutting to my Grandson in Dallas. He planted the rose next to a brick pillar on the back porch of his brick house. It was in the hot sun and wind in the Summer and faced the cold wind in the Winter. A few months later this rose was 8 feet tall by 6 feet wide and very bushy. I looked at my plants and they were 4 feet tall by 2 feet wide and not bushy at all. OK, I just figured the conditions in my yard weren't quite right and let it go at that. About six months later we were sitting upstairs in the house in Dallas and all of a sudden we heard all this squealing and clatter outside the window. I asked my son what all the racket was and he said, "Oh, it's the squirrels who have built a nest in that pink rose you gave my son. That rose is eating my house and that is what you see growing over my roof and up my windows on the second floor." My son did grudgingly admit that the rose was very pretty and bloomed a lot when he wasn't chopping on it. Mayo and I and my son-in-law asked if we could prune his plant while we were up there on Thanksgiving. He said OK so we started cutting. My son kept standing there and with each snip he would say, "Don't butcher my plant, you're cutting off too much!" Finally my daughter-in-law said, "Ron, just go back in the house, finish your cooking and don't even look out the window until they are through." We pruned his plant away from the walk and put it on a support so it would grow around the windows and let the light in once again. My son came out after we were through and was pleasantly surprised - we hadn't ruined his rose at all. That rose just loved the place where it had been planted even though it never got fertilized. Please don't be afraid to plant Pinkie because of my story- it can be controlled. I have never seen another Pinkie that grows like that one in Dallas. The rose has shiny full foliage, is healthy and, of course, easy to grow.

## Darlow's Enigma

Its ancestry is unknown. It has small, pure white semi-double blooms that open flat to show golden centers. The flowers are produced in clusters on an up-right healthy plant. It has a wonderful fragrance that you can smell from 10 feet away. Even without blooms it would be beautiful but it is hardly ever without blooms. After each cluster of blooms fade, it produces a cluster of small orange rose hips which adds to the attractiveness of the bush. We grow ours as a small climber.

## Lamarque

Introduced in 1830 was this rose was named for General Lamarque. It is a Noisette climber with fragrant double white blooms. It is a steady bloomer all year and is in bloom right now, the last week, of January. It is bushy, healthy and easy to grow.

## White Pet

introduced in 1879 it is a nice container plant. It is about 2 feet tall by 2 feet wide. It has clusters of small white double blooms. It makes a bushy plant, blooms all year and is fragrant.

## Safrano (A sport Isabella Sprunt)

Safrano's parents are unknown. Introduced in 1839, it has double fawn colored flowers with long pointed buds. The new foliage is plum colored to contrast nicely with the blooms. Isabella Sprunt, introduced in 1855, is a sulphur yellow sport of Safrano. They both grow 4-6 feet tall and are repeat bloomers.

## Dublin Bay

This rose, introduced in 1969, bloomed quite well from October through December. It is a dark red, fragrant rose with rich green foliage and usually blooms in clusters. It is one of the finest modern red climbers and blooms all year.

## Prosperity

This is a Hybrid Musk that we grow as a climber. In fact, we grow all our Hybrid Musks as climbers. It has t clusters of white flowers and is also growing under the afore-mentioned Pecan tree. It repeats and was introduced in 1919.

## Vincent Godsif

A found rose, Vincent Godsif blooms continually all year. He has semi-double 2" flowers in shades of soft mauve to dusty pink. He is compact and healthy, grows 2-3 feet tall and is also good as a container plant. He's good anywhere we put him.