

# Landscaping With Hybrid Musk Roses

By Anna Davis, Master Rosarian; [annadrose@aol.com](mailto:annadrose@aol.com)

I have been growing roses for over 40 years and am currently in my third and last garden. People often ask me how I became interested in roses. The story is that after graduating from Auburn University, working for Delta Airlines, and later getting married, my husband Verne and I moved into our first home. Along with our two-week-old son Verne Davis, Jr., his grandmother Anna Murray Davis would be moving from her family's home in Commerce, GA, settling into a mother-in-law suite in our new home.

At this point I seriously needed help. Anna Murray Davis was an extremely accomplished woman in everything that she did. I had my strong points but they were not in housekeeping and gardening. I soon realized that I needed to zero in on something that *She* was not an expert in. I chose having a rose garden. As soon as I could I joined the Greater Atlanta Rose Society and the American Rose Society. I visited numerous gardens and nurseries, read gardening books, and took landscaping courses. Little did I know at that time that roses would become the great passion of my life. Each year when the roses first appear it is like seeing them for the very first time. Their beauty never ceases to amaze me.

Through the years I have grown almost every variety of the rose. I especially love and would recommend growing the hybrid musk roses. These include some of the most useful roses for landscape purposes.

The first hybrid musk roses were created by the Reverend Joseph Pemberton, an East Anglican cleric who created a possible hybrid of *Rosa multiflora* with certain hybrid teas and polyanthas. Hybrid musks may be used as shrubs, mannerly climbers, pillars, or hedges. The colors are beautiful pastels and blends, the fragrance outstanding, foliage handsome, and disease resistance good.

There are many, many hybrid musk roses, but I would like to give you an overview of the ones that I have grown and consider to be some of the most important in the class.

**'Ballerina'** [below, on left with 'Carnea' on right], introduced in 1937, is one of the best roses for hedging.



*'Ballerina'* produces clouds of small, single pink roses with white eyes on a compact arching bush with thick foliage. It is wonderful as a cut flower on its own or in an arrangement. It can be pruned to shape or allowed to spill over naturally. When the leaves begin to thin in the late fall, the entire bush is lit up with tiny orange-red hips, like Christmas lights. I have grown *'Ballerina'* as a climber over a large window. I have also grown it as a freestanding bush. I would never be without it.

**'Buff Beauty'** [below right] was introduced in 1939. The Noisette heritage of this charming rose shows up

in both the fragrance and in large, very double flowers of rich, muted, double apricot. It can be grown as a low spreading shrub or the perfect pillar rose. *'Buff Beauty'* has a lovely tea rose fragrance. I have grown *'Buff Beauty'* on a high cedar structure and on an arch over a Monet bench. I have grown the lovely clematis *'Betty*



Corning' with 'Buff Beauty'. This is always a hit!

'**Cornelia**' [below], introduced in 1925, is a delightful hybrid musk of delicate beauty producing arching masses of small, very double, rosette-shaped blooms of coppery-apricot aging to apricot-shaded pink. The flowers are very fragrant. It makes a strong growing plant with glossy dark-green foliage. I have grown 'Cornelia' on an arch over a Monet bench.



'**Penelope**' [below], introduced in 1924, is the most popular of the hybrid musks. 'Penelope' is a dense bush reaching 5 feet high, and is even wider than it is tall. Vigorous and large-leaved, it bears dense corymbs of very pale salmon-pink flowers with strong aroma. It is excellent as a hedge or shrub.

'Penelope' is a good fall bloomer. I have grown 'Penelope' as a freestanding bush. It definitely has a come-hither look!



Photo by Bobbie Reed

'**Prosperity**', introduced in 1919, is one of the great hybrid musks, if not one of the great white roses. The lemon-yellow center on a young bloom gives this white rose a depth not seen in other whites. 'Prosperity' is sweetly fragrant. Red fruits provide an extra color accent. 'Prosperity' is a very robust grower. I have grown it on a high arch and it is always in bloom. Very reliable.

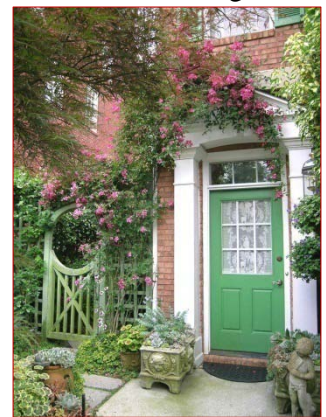
'**Kathleen**' [below], introduced in 1922, is the perfect climber for a trellis by a loveseat or to frame a window. 'Kathleen' has a multitude of five-petaled blooms that look like apple blossoms, pale pink with a darker blush on the backs of the petals and prominent yellow stamens. The musky scent is rich and sweet. The dark-green leaves droop gracefully, creating a soft romantic picture. I have grown 'Kathleen' on a beautiful bay window outside my breakfast room. The fragrance and ambiance of this plant are lovely.



Photo by Bobbie Reed

'**Mozart**' [below right on moon gate], was introduced in 1927. The bright cerise-pink flowers of 'Mozart' make this a cheerful rose. It has the classic hybrid musk

form, arching and graceful. It is a great choice for a freestanding specimen or a waterside accent. It is very showy in spring and fall and very fragrant as well. I first saw 'Mozart' blooming in France and had to have it. I was blown away! I now grow it around the moon gate entrance to my courtyard. I grow it with the clematis 'Viticella Venosa Violacea' and the clematis 'Florida Sieboldiana'.



## Ideas for Landscaping

## **DRAPe YOUR WINDOWS IN ROSES**

The effect of roses framing a window is a lovely one, enhancing the view both outside and inside.

### **LET VINES TWINE INTO ROSES**

While you often see climbing roses growing up into small shrubs and trees, it's possible to grow vines into sturdy shrub roses. Some clematis are fine companions for roses.

## **ROSES ON STRUCTURES**

One of the most delightful ways to use roses in the landscape is to grow them on structures – trellises, arbors, arches, pillars, pergolas, gazebos and fences. Structures, whether built from painted wood, wrought iron, cedar or other material, add a much desired vertical element to the landscape, bringing the color and fragrance of roses to eye level.



### **ATTACHING CLIMBERS**

When growing climbing roses on a trellis, you will get better bloom if you train the canes into horizontal positions. Bring a cane up for the first few feet and then train it diagonally so that the cane receives as much sunlight along its length as possible.

### **ON TUTEURS AND OBELISKS**

Obelisks and tuteurs are forms that can give support to twining roses and work especially well in formal garden designs. Pretty in

their own right, they are exquisite with the right rose. Obelisks are open structures that come to a point on top, and tuteurs – from the French word for trainer – are usually open spiral cylinders, although they can also be cone shaped, triangular, or pyramidal. They generally have round tops and are especially nice for small gardens.



Photo by Bobbie Reed

Adapted with permission from the February 2010 issue of *Georgia Gardening*. All photos by Anna Davis except as noted.

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