

DSD Shares

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Abstract: In this article Connie lists her favorites based on observation over time. She bases these recommendations on roses that (A) Bloom prolifically, (B) Are disease resistant and (C) Roses that show well.

She starts with Old Garden Roses, then her real favorite- David Austin English Roses, followed by Hybrid Tea Roses, then Floribundas, Screaming Climbers, Shrubs, Miniatures and lastly Minifloras.

This article is a 2009 ARS Award of Merit Winner.

My “Screamin” Bloom Machines

By Constance Vierbicky MCR

For most of the last 20 years (my garden’s age), I held a full time job while caring for 150 rose bushes. Last year, I retired from my position as a high school math teacher, which gave me extra time to reflect upon what I liked or disliked about my garden. I have come to the conclusion that even in retirement, my goals are basically the same as they were in the beginning of my passionate hobby: I want to grow rose bushes that: A) bloom *prolifically*, B) are somewhat *disease resistant* and C) *show well* when I choose to exhibit. As a master consulting rosarian, many people ask me for rose variety recommendations. Therefore, this article will be about my top five rosebushes (in each category of roses I grow), which I lovingly call my “*screaming bloom machines.*” The roses on my list are not necessarily my absolute favorites, nor do they smell divine, nor are they listed in abundant bloom priority order. These are the rose bushes that I like to grow in my garden because they allow me to cut lots of bouquets for others, and they make my garden look like a rose garden should...magazine pretty!

Since Old Garden Roses are the oldest (prior to 1867-many subclasses) and have a flower form that can be quartered, cupped, rosette, globular, reflexed or compact, let’s start here. My top five bloom machines in this category are: 1) ‘Kronprinzessin Viktoria von Preussen’ (short, wide bush, rosette, white blooms) 2) ‘Souvenir de la Malmaison’ (medium tall, wide bush, light pink, double bloom) 3) ‘Pink Pet’ (small, wide bush, double flowers, medium pink) 4) ‘Eugene Marlitt’ (also called Maggie, tall, wide bush, deep pink, rosette blooms) 5) ‘Mrs. B.R. Cant’ (tall, wide bush with medium pink, full blooms). Two bushes that could also fall into this category are ‘Eugene de Beauharnais’ (dark red, double, fragrant) and ‘Francis Dubreuil’ (dark red, double, fragrant).

My second category would be English roses (David Austin), since these are a cross between modern roses and old garden roses. They are classified as shrubs, but I have to list them separately as they are so popular nowadays. 1) ‘Abraham Darby’ (huge bush, blooms smell fruity, apricot blend, very double flower) 2) ‘Darcey Bussell’ (medium tall, wide bush, crimson pom-pom blooms which fade to varying red colors while on the bush) 3) ‘Jude the Obscure’ (huge bush, medium yellow, very full blooms) 4) ‘LD Braithwaite’ (huge bush, Christmas red blooms, very double) 5) ‘Heritage’ (huge bush, light pink, shallow cupped blooms). There are many smaller Austin bushes

like 'Tamora' (apricot blend, full), 'Carding Mill' (apricot blend, full) 'Ambridge Rose' (apricot blend, full) 'Belle Story' (light pink, 35 petals) and 'Windermere' (white, very full) that bloom a lot also, but the big bushes naturally produce the most blooms.

Next come the Hybrid Teas, the most popular class of modern roses. Blooms are usually 30-50 petals and flowers are borne singly on long stems. These are usually a problem for me because they are so disease prone, but here are some "bankers" that do exceptionally well. They are: 1) 'Elina' (big bush, light yellow blooms) 2) 'Louise Estes' (big bush, gorgeous pink blend blooms) 3) 'Veterans' Honor' (big bush, dark red blooms) 4) 'Gemini' (tall bush, pink blend blooms which really look sort of like an orange blend) 5) 'Moonstone' (tall bush, white, pristine blooms). 'Hot Princess' (deep pink, double) and 'St. Patrick' (yellow blend, 35 petals) are also pretty good bloomers.

Floribundas come next on my list. They are characterized by the ability to produce profuse flowers in large clusters. This class is unrivaled for providing massive color displays in the garden. My blooming machines are: 1) 'Playgirl' (medium, wide bush with single, hot pink blooms) 2) 'Sunsprite' (short, wide bush with deep yellow, 30 petals) 3) 'Europeana' (medium tall, wide bush with dark red, 30 petals) 4) 'Fabulous!' (medium tall, wide bush with pure white, 30 petals) 5) 'Kanegem' (tall bush, orange red, 42 petals). I also have to put in a good word about 'Our Lady of Guadalupe' (light pink, 30 petals), 'Hannah Gordon' (pink blend, 25 petals) and 'Hot Cocoa' (russet, full).

My fifth category is "screaming climbers," and I use some shrubs as climbers due to their large size. Since rose bushes have no tendrils, they have to be tied to an arbor to climb anyway. My best performers are: 1) 'Prosperity' (classified as a shrub, humongous bush with white blooms everywhere) 2) 'Dortmund' (classified as a shrub, humongous bush with strawberry red, single blooms with a white button eye) 3) 'Altissimo' (actual climber, Chinese red, single blooms everywhere) 4) 'Clair Matin' (medium pink, 15 petals) 5) 'Pink Perpetue' (climber, medium pink, 32 petals). Another prolific climber with very full blooms, smaller bush, 100 petals, is 'Rosarium Uetersen' (deep pink-orange blooms).

Shrubs are easily characterized by their sprawling habit, and there are many popular subdivisions within the class. I will generally list only my best bloomers: 1) 'Lyda Rose' (white, single, incredibly prolific, medium, super wide bush-plant it on a 5 foot center) 2) 'Carefree Beauty' (medium pink, 20 petals, medium sized bush) 3) 'Knock Out' (single bloom, red blend, bionic, medium sized bush) 4) 'Belinda's Dream' (medium pink, very double bloom-looks like an HT, big bush) 5) 'Sally Holmes' (large bush, white single blooms).

Miniatures are primarily used for edging beds or for growing in containers. The average plant is about 30 inches tall, and the flower form is indeed a miniature version of the hybrid tea. My best bloomers are: 1) 'Miss Flippins' (medium red, double) 2) 'Fairhope' (light yellow-white, 28 petals) 3) 'Pierrine' (Orange-Pink, 40 petals) 4) 'Kristin' (red blend, 30 petals) 5) 'Breath of Spring' (medium yellow, double). 'Bees Knees' (yellow blend, full), 'Nancy Jean' (apricot blend, double) and 'Joy' (pink blend, double) are other good blooming minis.

Lastly, one of my favorite rose classes is the *miniflora*. It is a relatively new classification (1999) by the ARS to recognize intermediate bloom size falling between miniatures and floribundas. My five screamin' bloomers are: 1) 'Louisville Lady' (deep pink, full bloom) 2) 'Conundrum' (yellow blend, double) 3) 'Tiffany Lynn' (pink blend, 21 petals) 4) 'Unbridled' (yellow blend, double) 5) 'Show Stopper' (apricot blend, very full)...and for those fans of white, full blooms, I recommend 'Leading Lady' as well.

So there you have it. If you want lots and lots of blooms and bushes that tolerate overwhelming heat, disease, and the blow torch effect of sun in Florida, these are the bushes to own. Perhaps you might have other prolific bushes that grow in your garden....I certainly have not grown all the prolific roses out there as YET! Let me know of your recommendations sometime and I might add them to my collection. Many of us are still looking for those great rose bushes. I invite you to see my screaming bloom machines anytime during the year but especially from November through April (which is why I live in FL). We are about to enter the most wonderful time of the year for rose growing☺

In rose petals always, The Rosequeen