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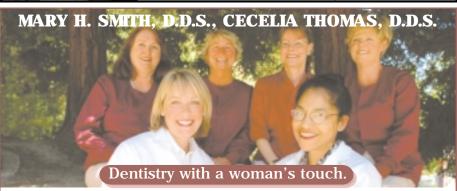
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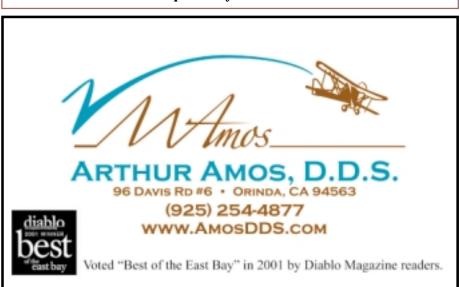
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### ay to Grow in Orinda A Rose, is a Rose, is a Rose... Or is it?

Steve & Cathy Lambert



S ince we began writing our garden column for *The Orinda News* in 2005, we have dedicated the February article to America's favorite flower, the rose. The well-known saying; a rose, is a rose, is a rose . . . may be true but to those of us who know and love roses it seems to be a bit of an understatement.

There is an abundance of classifications, varieties, and species of roses far beyond the commonly known classic hybrid tea or floribunda roses. These include the Carpet Rose, China Rose, Rosa glauca, Oregon Damask/Hybrid Musk, and Shrub roses, to

One of the easiest roses to plant and grow is the Carpet Rose. Some may say this rose is over-planted and over-used but we say, where else can you find a quick-spreading shrub that's covered with blossoms almost year-round? It's no wonder this type of rose

First introduced to America in 1995, the Flower Carpet Rose was the product of more than 30 years of breeding by German grower Noack Rosen. He wanted to create a hardy rose that was easy to grow and care for and resisted diseases and pests. Rosen's Pink Flower Carpet Rose achieved all his goals in a beautiful, two to three-foot-tall shrub that thrives with almost no care and blooms continuously throughout the summer.

Flower Carpet Roses will grow well in any sunny location. They need no special care or feeding aside from moderate watering and occasional hard pruning. Although it's not to our taste, we've even seen these roses successfully pruned into a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Excelenz von Shubert is an eye-catcher with its full, double blooms in colors ranging from violet to purple.

low hedge.

Since their introduction, new varieties of Flower Carpet Roses have been released nearly every year. There are now six colors available including coral, red, apple blossom, white, pink, and yellow. For an incredible color combination, try planting the bright pink Flower Carpet Rose with Salvia "Victoria" and/or purple-leaved Chinese fringe plant (Loropetalum rubrum in Sizzling Pink.)

For a larger show of almost year-round color, try one of the China Roses. Our favorite of the China Roses is the Butterfly rose (Rosa Mutabilis). We still had a few blooms on our China Rose in mid-December after many frosty mornings. This spectacular rose got its name from the multitude of blooms which go through a myriad of color changes as if the bush is

[SEE ROSES page 18]

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#### **CLASSIFIED**

#### ◆ ROSES from page 10

covered with butterflies. Pointy buds first emerge in a reddish-purple then turn a coppery, honey-yellow as they open, finishing off with a gorgeous orange and pink blossom. The Butterfly Rose is often covered with all of these colors at once as the buds are at various stages of their bloom. It is almost like having three roses for the price of one.

The Mutabilis Rose is usually tall and spreading but can easily be kept rounded in its growth habit with proper pruning. This China Rose can be an outstanding shrub, depending on where it's planted and how it's trained or pruned, and can be an excellent climber. As a bush, it will grow to anywhere between three to eight feet tall and two to six feet wide. An early and continual bloomer, this rose has been a popular choice since the 1800s. It can also handle a good amount of shade. A planting

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I Buy 1950's Furniture Danish modern, Herman Miller, Knoll wanted. 1 item or entire estate! Call Rick at (510) 219-9644. Courteous house calls. tip that will really make the blooms on your Butterfly Roses come alive is to plant them with or behind lower growing purple foliage plants.

If any rose can compete with Mutabilis for the number and range in colors of its blooms, it would be the Flutterbye variety. This is another great China Rose that is a child of the Butterfly Rose. As with Mutabilis, Flutterbye is adorned with everchanging colors — blossoms of yellow, coral, tangerine, and pink bloom together.

Flutterbye produces large clusters of single blooms that carry a spicy fragrance. Its foliage is so glossy and shiny that it mirrors the flowering colors of its blooms. This versatile rose may be grown as a shrub, climber, or pillar, is disease resistant and requires only light pruning, making it an attractive rose for anyone to try in their garden.

For something really unusual, try Rosa Glauca, or the Blue Leafed Rose. This rose is simply, unequaled for its unique, dusty foliage, which appears a bluish-gray in full sun with shimmering overtones of burgundy and mauve, while in part shade it appears to have an icy, silvery, gray-green look. We've planted Rosa glauca mixed with the moody, purple leaves of smokebush (*Cotinus*), the airy, lavender flowers of meadow rue (*Thalictrum*), and the steely, blue spikes of blue oat grass (*Helictotrichon*).

Rosa Glauca has clear pink petals and a white center studded with prominent yellow stamens. Its blossoms are simple, single, and open-faced, less than two inches across and held in small flat clusters along the plant's arching frame. In late summer, the flowers give way to bunches of orange rose hips that quickly fade to a brownish-red, not prominent enough to scream out from a distance but a welcome ornament all the same.

If you like a rose with an unbelievable fragrance, the Oregon Damask or Hybrid Musk rose are great choices. We have two top picks in this category. First, is Excelenz von Shubert - one of our favorite roses. This rare rose is an eye-catcher in the garden with its full, double blooms, violet to purple in color and very fragrant. These pompomshaped blooms are born in large clusters. We often plant Exelenz von Shubert as a small scale climber mixed with purple clematis. If left unpruned, its canes will reach five feet tall by five feet wide. It is remarkably disease resistant and shade tolerant. This rose would be a great choice

for use in a container or in a mixed border.

Cornelia is another Oregon Damask/ Hybrid Musk Rose with a vigorous spreading habit. It has a delicate appearance and produces arching trusses of small, double rosette shaped blooms. The clustered flowers bloom in shades of apricot-copper aging to a creamy, apricotpink and possess a sweet musky scent. Cornelia is a strong-growing plant with glossy, dark green foliage. This longblooming rose makes a great climber or focal point plant with its graceful display of long, arching canes.

There are many roses classified as shrub roses. Our favorites in this category include Distant Drums, Knock Out, and Out Of The Blue. Distant Drums grows like a Floribunda, drumming out clusters of pointed brunette buds that swirl open to reveal ruffles of petals washed with orchid pink. Other positive attributes of Distant Drums are its dark green foliage which contrasts the pale bloom color beautifully, true rose fragrance, and repeat blooming ability. We've planted the Distant Drum Rose next to Canna Tropical Sunrize in our yard, and the colors of both the flowers and foliage make them excellent garden companions.

A rose called Knock Out was the 2000 All American Rose Selection winner. This rose is absolutely beautiful and probably the best landscape shrub rose ever to hit the market. Knockout won our hearts with its color alone. It has deep, almost fluorescent, cherry-red blossoms and dark, moss green foliage on a compact and bushy plant. Its flowers bloom three to three-and one-half inches in diameter with clusters that carry anywhere from three to 150 blooms per truss. The fragrance of this large, bright red bloom is, however, surprisingly light, similar to that of a tea rose. The cycle of bloom and growth on this rose seems never ending as it provides a show of color from the early spring, well into the hard frosts of winter.

Another shrub rose we use a lot here in Orinda is Out of the Blue. This rose blooms in hues of blues ranging from a rich magenta spiked with yellow to a deep wine and warm lavender. It is free-flowering, super vigorous, and disease resistant. It produces large, three-inch double blooms with a sweet scent of rose and clove. The growth habit is medium, upright to slightly rounded, three to five feet in width, and three to four feet in height. For a unique combination, plant this rose behind

Miscanthus Morning Light grass. The blue roses seen through a curtain of silvery green blades of grass are a stunning combination of color and texture.

What a Peach is a shrub rose that grows in a unique column shape reaching four to five feet in height. When in bloom, this rose is covered with small, brilliant peach blossoms with a yellow heart. What a Peach has many uses. When planted in rows, it can form a screen, or hide a drab wall or fence. We've also used it as a container plant to anchor the corners of a deck.

We can recommend all of these roses because they have been proven to thrive in our Orinda climate, they resist disease, are moderately drought tolerant, and almost maintenance-free.

The saying "A rose, is a rose, is a rose..." while true is so limiting. We prefer "A rose is a multiple choice plant, a shrub, a climbing vine, a hedge, a container plant, and a cut flower offering blooms in a rainbow of hues with a range of scents from faint to make you faint." If you have any specific questions about roses, please drop us an email at gardenlights@comcast.net.

#### ◆ BACKYARD from page 9

water to shaving with a combination blade/vacuum to capture drifting stubble.

For those who want to test their knowledge, several computer quizzes are stationed throughout the exhibit and an opinion station allows visitors to share their thoughts and questions about whether humans should be sent into space. Selected comments are posted on a bulletin board.

While the Beyond Blastoff exhibit is certainly a fascinating one, the Chabot Space and Science Center offers many other educational and fun exhibits. Focusing on educating students of all ages about Planet Earth and the universe, the center includes: a world-class, digital dome planetarium; giant-screen megadome movies about a variety of natural phenomena such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions; and a hands-on discovery lab. Once a month, the center features the Lunar Lounge Express – a party under the stars with the Eyewitness Blues Band. The space center is also a unique place to hold a children's birthday party, anniversary celebration, or a wedding.

For more information, call (510) 336-7373 or go online www.chabotspace.org.

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