Low Maintenance Roses for Florida

Dr. Sydney Park Brown

Earth-Kind® Rose Program

• Began at Texas A & M University in 1996
• Own-root roses
• Tolerant of alkaline soils
• No sprays, fertilizer, pruning – minimal water
• Rigorously evaluated
• 23 roses selected (2001-2010)
• Now a national and international program

National Earth-Kind® Rose Research Study

2014 dwarf rose evaluation – Earth-Kind Trial
LSU-Hammond Research Station
Florida Research
Low Maintenance Shrub Rose

• Goal: develop recommendations of low maintenance rose varieties for north, central, and south Florida.

The World Federation of Rose Societies’ Classification System

Genus Rosa

- Species
  - Old Garden Roses (OGR) Before 1867
    - China
    - Tea
    - Bermuda Mystery
    - Noisette
    - Bourbon
  - Modern Roses (MR) After 1867
    - Hybrid Tea
    - Floribunda
    - Polyantha
    - Shrub
12 Rose Varieties – 6 replicates of each

6 Modern Roses
- Knock Out® - Shrub
- Home Run - Shrub
- Belinda’s Dream* - Shrub
- Carefree Beauty* - Shrub
- Bailey Red - Floribunda
- Perle d’Or* - Polyantha

6 OGR / Heritage Roses
- Louis Philippe - China
- Old Blush - China
- Mutabils* - China
- Duchesse de Brabant* - Tea
- Mrs. B. R. Cant - Tea
- Spice* - Bermuda Mystery

Louis Philippe’ versus ‘Cramoisi Superieur’

FL Low Maintenance Rose Study
- Not grafted – own root
- Rows amended with Black Kow & mulched
- Fertilized 2x/year; 15-9-12 Osmocote (6 month)
- Drip irrigated 1 gall/plant 1-2x week
- No pesticides; weeds hand-pulled
- Pruning : dormant season 1x/year
November 2008
10 months later...
9/9/2014

11/08 – Ten months later
Carefree Beauty - Quincy

11/08 – Ten months later
Carefree Beauty – Ft. Pierce

11/08 – Ten months later
Carefree Beauty – Plant City
Why the Differences?

Regional Differences

• Soil type
• Winter low temperatures
• Length of the growing season
• Rainfall
• Pests

Average Annual Rainfall
Quincy = 60+"
Plant City = 53"
Ft. Pierce = 53"

Rainfall Comparison
Texas versus Central FL
Leafspot Diseases of Roses

- **Black Spot**
  - [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp268](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp268)

- **Cercospora Leafspot**
  - [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp267](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp267)

**Blackspot**
Brown to black spots with fringed edges. A yellow margin or halo develops around each spot. Spots may grow together and form large blotches. Yellowing and defoliation follows.

**Cercospora Leafspot**
Maroon to purple spots; center turns tan to almost gray in color; margin remains maroon to dark purple. Yellowing and defoliation follows.

**Disease Susceptibility – Plant City**

- **Black Spot**
  - Least to Most Affected:
    - Home Run®
    - Knock Out®
    - Perle d’Or
    - Carefree Beauty
    - Mrs. B. R. Cant
    - Spice
    - Duchesse de Brabant
    - Belinda’s Dream
    - Old Blush
    - Bailey Red
    - Mutabilis

- **Cercospora Leaf Spot**
  - Least to Most Affected:
    - Old Blush
    - Mutabilis
    - Bailey Red
    - Mrs. B. R. Cant
    - Belinda’s Dream
    - Spice
    - Knock Out®
    - Perle d’Or
    - Duchesse de Brabant
    - Carefree Beauty
    - Home Run®
Poll
Chilli Thrips in your County?

Chilli Thrips Tolerance – Plant City
Most to Least

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultivar</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Class</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Mrs. B. R. Cant’</td>
<td>OGR</td>
<td>Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Old Blush’</td>
<td>OGR</td>
<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Bailey Red’</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>Floribunda</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Belinda’s Dream’</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
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<td>‘Spice’</td>
<td>OGR</td>
<td>Bermuda (China)</td>
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<td>‘Duchesse de Brabant’</td>
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<td>Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Mutabilis’</td>
<td>OGR</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of 2-year Trial
December, 2009
### After two years - Quincy

**Modern roses**
- Knock Out*
- Home Run†
- Belinda’s Dream*
- Carefree Beauty*
- Bailey Red
- Perle d’Or*

**Old Garden Roses**
- Louis Philippe – China
- Old Blush – China
- Mutabilis* - China
- Duchesse de Brabant* – Tea
- Mrs. B. R. Cant - Tea
- Spice* - Bermuda

Highlighted=Best Performers  
Moderate Performers  
* Declined the third year

### After two years – Ft. Pierce

**Modern roses**
- Knock Out*
- Home Run†
- Belinda’s Dream*
- Carefree Beauty*
- Bailey Red
- Perle d’Or*

**Old Garden Roses**
- Louis Philippe - China
- Old Blush - China
- Mutabilis* - China
- Duchesse de Brabant* – Tea
- Mrs. B. R. Cant - Tea
- Spice* - Bermuda

Highlighted=Best Performers  
Moderate Performers  
* Declined the third year

### After two years…Plant City

**Modern roses**
- Knock Out*
- Home Run†
- Belinda’s Dream*
- Carefree Beauty*
- Bailey Red
- Perle d’Or*

**Old Garden Roses**
- Louis Philippe - China
- Old Blush - China
- Mutabilis* - China
- Duchesse de Brabant* - Tea
- Mrs. B. R. Cant - Tea
- Spice* - Bermuda

Highlighted=Best Performers  
Moderate Performers  
* Kept in garden for further observation  
**Dead or dying** - removed
After 3 years...Plant City

Number of Months/Year with Plant Quality Rating of 3 or Greater

Low-Maintenance Roses

- Best performers state-wide from study:
  - Mrs. B. R. Cant – OGR/Tea
  - Spice – OGR/Bermuda
  - Louis Philippe – OGR/China
  - Knock Out – Modern (chilli thrips/Cercospora)
- Remember OGRs “Sleep, Creep, Leap”
- Prune lightly – especially Teas
- Mulch well

‘Mrs. B. R. Cant’

- Tea - 1901
- Parentage – unknown
- Medium pink color
- Double blooms 3-5”
‘Mrs. B. R. Cant’ – Pros/Cons
• Intermediate susceptibility to black spot and Cercospora leafspot
• Low susceptibility to chilli thrips damage
• Minimal yellowing and defoliation
• Good cut flower
• Light fragrance
• Sprawling bush to 8-10 ft

‘Spice’
• Bermuda Mystery
• Introduction – unknown
• Parentage – unknown
• 3” double flowers
• White to light pink
• Growth 4-6’

‘Spice’ Pros/Cons
• High susceptibility to black spot
• Intermediate susceptibility to Cercospora
• High susceptibility to chilli thrips
• Despite pest problems - defoliation was low; maintained fair quality
• Continually flowers; peppery fragrance
• Compact form-4’; nice foliage
‘Louis Philippe’
• aka “Florida Cracker Rose”
• China - 1834
• Parentage – unknown
• Rose crimson
• Double blooms 2-3”

‘Louis Philippe’ Pros/Cons
• Resistant to Black Spot
• Resistant to chilli thrips
• Fragrant
• Gangly; 7-8’

Knock Out®
• Modern: Shrub
• Introduced in 1999
• Seedling ‘Carefree Beauty’ × Seedling ‘Razzle Dazzle’
• Cherry color
• 3”, single-petaled, single or clusters
Knock Out® - Pros/Cons

- Low susceptibility to black spot
- High susceptibility to Cercospora leaf spot
- Intermediate susceptibility to chilli thrips
- Continuous flowers; good cut
- A true “shrub-type” rose; 4’; new foliage maroon

2014 Update

Today in Quincy

- 2014 – Rose garden renovated
- Replanted *recommended* roses from study...
- ...and Star roses evaluated since 2008.
- From study: Mrs. B. R. Cant
  Louis Philippe
  Knock Out® EK
  Mutabilis EK
  Spice EK
- See hand-out on low maintenance roses
**Today in Plant City**
- Survivors reduced to two replicates (2012)
- All Knock Outs removed
- Replaced with OGRs (numerous BMRs), the Drift® series, and a few other Star varieties.
- ‘Spice’, ‘Louis Philippe’, and ‘Mrs. B. R. Cant’ still good performers; others wax and wane.
- White ‘Smith’s Parrish’ very good.

**Today in Ft. Pierce**
- Roses were transplanted at end of trial and neglected.
- Survivors — best to worst in appearance:
  - Mrs. B. R. Cant
  - Louis Philippe
  - Spice
  - Knock out

**Poll**
*Your recommendation(s) for easy-care roses?*
“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.”

- Abraham Lincoln