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.
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
- Mutabilis* - 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...
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**
  

- **Cercospora Leafspot**
  
  [Link to info] http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp267

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**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.

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**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®
Chilli Thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis*

Chilli thrips adult (left) compared to flower thrips adult (right)

Chilli Thrips Damage
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Mrs. B. R. Can'</td>
<td>OGR</td>
<td>Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Old Blush'</td>
<td>OGR</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Bailey Red'</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>Floribunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Belinda's Dream'</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
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<tr>
<td>'Spice'</td>
<td>OGR</td>
<td>Bermuda (China)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tea</td>
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<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

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

After two years… Plant City

Modern roses
- Knock Out*
- Home Run
- Belinda’s Dream*
- Carefree Beauty*
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- Louis Philippe - China
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Best Performer
Moderate Performers
Kept in garden for further observation
Dead or dying–removed

Highlighted=Best Performers
Moderate Performers

9/9/2014
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® EX
  Mutabilis EX
  Spice EX
- 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