

Roses have a long and colorful history.

As one of the world's oldest and most popular flowers, roses are rich with symbolism. Known as the 'Queen of Flowers' the rose has been used to symbolize love, beauty, purity, charm, innocence, sympathy, spring and the triumph of good over evil. But the complex rose is also a symbol of royalty, war, leadership, distinction, political factions, secrecy, sorrow and delusion. They have been used as currency and medicine through out history.

Scientists believe they come from a group of plants that lived 250 million years ago. Fossilized rose leaves dating back to the Paleolithic era, 35-40 million years ago, (that's when humans started making stone tools), have been found at various sites in Scandinavia, Europe and the Americas. The genus Rosa has some 100 to 150 (depends on who you ask) wild species found on several islands and most continents except Australia and Antarctica. Today there are well over 30,000 varieties of roses grown world wide in every country where the climate allows. One was even taken into outer space, Overnight Scentsation. Which when you talk to people who have grown it ehh... they're not big fans. But hey at least it went where no other rose has gone before.

Rose are divided into 3 main groups: Species (wild) roses & their hybrids, Old Garden roses and Modern roses.

Species roses are typically large climbing or shrub-like roses with single, flat flowers blooming in late spring or early summer followed by hips (seeds) in autumn. They are the parents of the roses we have today.

Old Garden Roses include the following classes: Alba, Ayrshire, Bourbon, Boursault, Centifolia/Cabbage, China, Damask, Gallica, Hybrid Perpetual, Moss, Noisette, Portland, and Tea.

Modern Roses are a broad mix which include the following types: Climbing, Floribunda, Grandiflora, Hybrid Musk, Hybrid Rugosa, Hybrid Tea, Landscape (including Groundcover) or Shrub, Miniature, Mini-flora and Polyantha. The American Rose Society currently recognizes 37 classes of roses.

The earliest known gardening for the rose was the planting of it along the most travelled routes of early nomadic humans in Asia, some 5,000 years ago, making them the oldest flower in cultivation. Hips have been unearthed in early European homes and petrified rose wreaths have been found in ancient Egyptian tombs. Painting of roses were even found in the tomb of the pharaoh, Thutmose IV, who ruled Egypt in the 14th century BC.

Roses have been traveling the globe for thousands of years. In the 24th century BC, the Mesopotamian King, Sargon of Akkad, led an expedition across the Taurus mountains. A catalogue of his loot includes grape-vines, figs and rose trees.

The Chinese philosopher Confucius claimed to have grown roses in the Royal gardens of China, he even wrote that during his life (551-479 B.C.), the Emperor of China owned over 600 books on the culture of roses. The Zhongguo Huajing (China Floral Encyclopedia) specifically indicates widespread rose culture in the 4th and 5th centuries AD. By the Song Dynasty (960 to 1279 AD), references exist to "Yuejihua," or perpetual-flowering roses that were extensively cultivated in large cities with ever-increasing numbers of varieties (41 were recorded in Luoyang alone). By the Ming Dynasty (1368 to 1644), Yuejihua and Qiangwei (rose culture) were common, with many varieties in cultivation. Considering this far-reaching history, rose culture in China was doubtless the most advanced in the world until at least three hundred years ago, in regard to cultivars developed and cultivation techniques.

In 1st century B.C. India, roses are within the medical treaties of Charaka and Susruta, founders of the Indian system of medicine called Ayurveda. By the 2nd century B.C. Rose garlands were being hung in Buddhist temples, and Statues of the Buddha would show him sitting on lotuses or five petalled roses. In 1244 AD India was trading rosewater back and forth with China and when Marco Polo arrived around 1288 it was obvious to him by his writings that roses were very much part of the social, medical, cultural and religious fabric of India. In 1300 A.D. a Muslim traveller and chronicler, Rashid – ud - din, who visited Gujarat state in Western India remarks that "the people were very wealthy and happy and grow no less than 70 kinds of roses".

Domingi Paes and Fernaz Nunis, two Portuguese travelers who came to this kingdom around 1537 mention seeing plantations of roses, bazaars where baskets laden with roses were sold, both as loose flowers and made up as garlands, and gardens of the nobility which had rose plants growing in profusion. Both men and women from all walks of life used roses in great quantities as ornamentation. Abdur Razzak, a Muslim diplomat from Persia, who visited the same royal court in 1443, writes, " Roses are sold everywhere. These people could not live without roses and they look upon these as quite as necessary as food ".

Rose perfume making was known and in fact was exported to other countries. In the 16th century when the Muslim Mughal emperors came from Persia and Afghanistan to rule India, they brought camel loads of roses. In fact the first Mughal emperor, Babar, is said to have brought the damask rose into India. This royal dynasty had a great interest in art and architecture, poetry and music and the Mughal style of gardening - a very formal plan with geometrical beds, fountains, paths etc. all done on a grand scale, were part of the edifice they built, like the Taj Mahal, and roses were lavishly planted. The finest of rose liquors was distilled for emperors and royalty. About 20,000 rose flowers were distilled in order to get one bottle of rose liquor. Practically every painting of this period, of royalty and aristocracy, show the person holding a rose in their hand. Indeed, roses are considered so much a part of the Mughal period of Indian history that most Indians believe that roses came to India only with the advent of the Muslims - 10th century onwards.

Roses are also prominent in Legends

One Hindu legend is about a discussion between the two Gods, Brahma, the creator and Vishnu, the protector, on which flower was the most beautiful. Brahma favoured the lotus and Vishnu the rose. After seeing the arbour laden with fragrant roses in Vishnu's celestial garden, Brahma acknowledged the supremacy of the rose over all the flowers, including the lotus.

In an Arabic legend, all roses were originally white until one night when the nightingale met a beautiful white rose and fell in love. At this stage nightingales were not known for their melodious song they merely croaked and chirped like any other bird. But now the nightingale's love was so intense that he was inspired to sing for the first time. Eventually his love was such that he pressed himself to the flower and the thorns pierced his heart, coloring the rose red forever.

After Alexander the Great introduced roses to Greece, from his conquest in Persia the ancient Greeks came up with their own mythology, that was latter adopted by the Romans. When Venus's/Aphrodite's son Cupid was stung by a bee he accidentally shot arrows into a rose garden. It was believed to be the sting of the arrows that caused the roses to grow thorns. When his mother walked through the garden and pricked her foot on a thorn, it was the droplets of her blood which turned the roses red.

And some stories can almost be legends

It's said that Cleopatra had her living quarters filled with the petals of roses, 30cm (1 foot) deep, so that when Marc Antony met her, he would long remember her for such opulence and be reminded of her every time he smelt a rose. Her scheme worked.

The Romans outdid her when Nero, the hedonistic emperor, 1st century AD, dumped over a ton of rose petals on his dinner guests. During the Roman period, roses were grown extensively in the Middle East. They were used as confetti at celebrations, for medicinal purposes, and as a source of perfume. Roman nobility established large public rose gardens in the south of Rome. Women of high society used petals much like currency, also believing that they could banish wrinkles if used in poultices. Rose petals were often dropped in wine because it was thought that the essence of rose would stave off drunkenness. Romans also wore roses as necklaces or coronets. Rose petals were thrown as confetti to welcome home conquering heroes and victorious armies from the civilians that crowded the balconies above the streets. Pools and Fountains were filled with rose water, Anything spoken "under the rose" was considered secret or confidential. Newly married couples were often crowned with roses. Eventually roses became synonymous with the worst excesses of the Roman Empire when the peasants were reduced to growing roses instead of food in order to satisfy the demands of their rulers. The Rose they are most famous for cultivating is Rosa Gallica.

Rosa Gallica

aka the Rose of the Persian Magi, the Gallic rose, french rose, rose of Provins, the apothecary rose, Old Red Damask or Red rose of Lancaster

Truly a rose of many names.

Native to southern and central Europe eastwards to Turkey and the Caucasus. It was one of the first species of rose to be cultivated in central Europe. Possibly grown by the Persians (a symbol of love and commitment), first officially domesticated by the Greeks and Romans. It was used by the Median Fire Worshippers in the 12th century BC, and Pliny, in the 1st century AD, describes it as a vivid red with up to 12 petals. It was also known to the Arabs in Spain during the 12th century.

In the 13th century, *Rosa Gallica* was the foundation of a large industry near the city of Provins, France. These medicinal roses were used to make jellies, powders and oils for a variety of therapeutic purposes and believed to cure a multitude of illnesses. The monks were on the right track.

Modern-day pharmacological tests show extracts from *R. damascene* (the damask rose) have hypnotic, anticonvulsant, anti-depressant, anti-anxiety and analgesic effects. Despite its positive medicinal values, the Apothecary's rose is primarily used as a vehicle for other agents to provide flavor and odor to prescriptions. Petals contain aromatic oil, tannic and gallic acids, quercitrin, coloring matter, and other salts. The tannic and gallic acids make it an effective astringent, although the mechanism of action is not known.

During the fifteenth century, the rose was used as a symbol for the factions fighting to control England. Known as the War of the Roses, it was a civil war in England that lasted from 1455-1487. The House of York adopted a white rose (*R. alba*), the House of Lancaster decided to take a red rose (*R. Gallica*). The war started when the nobles of York rose against Henry VI of Lancaster who was a feeble ruler. Edward IV, of York, replaced Henry as king. Later, Henry again became king, but lost his crown once more to Edward after the battle of Tewkesbury in 1471. The Yorkists held power until Richard III lost his throne to the Lancastrian Henry Tudor. Henry Tudor VII merged his Lancastrian rose with the white rose of his York bride and thus created the Tudor Rose, now known as the Rose of England.

In the 17th century the Dutch started to breed new varieties, and later the French continued their development on a very large scale. In the 19th century it was the most important species of rose to be cultivated, and most modern European rose cultivars have at least a small contribution from *R. gallica* in their ancestry.

As a class, Empress Josephine's famous rose garden at Malmaison was mainly comprised of Gallicas. Even though they bloom only once a year in early summer, they give an amazing show. They are heavy bloomers and almost all Gallicas are fragrant. They are fairly hardy, and quite tolerant of poor soils. They have a strong, dense and upright growth habit of 4 to 5 feet. However, they are quite prone to mildew and have a tendency to spread by underground

suckers. This can be annoying for the smaller garden; growing a variety that has been grafted onto a rootstock will alleviate that problem. Gallicas cultivars come in many shades of pink, deep red, purple, marbled and striped with white. In the fall you will be rewarded with beautiful, round, red hips. Mature Gallicas will benefit by pruning out some of the old wood to encourage new growth, and by shortening all the other canes by 1/3. Gallicas are pruned after flowering.

Rosa Alba aka the White rose of York

The Alba rose is a variety of ancient rose that still exists today. These roses date back to antiquity, even before the Roman Empire was formed. We know this because there is a mention of white roses in texts of 23-79 A.D. and these have been confirmed by botanists to be the Alba roses. Starting from its arrival in Europe with the Romans it has been shown to be one of the hardiest and most pest resistant varieties amongst all of the other old roses. Hence they are used to create new varieties for subarctic climates like northern Scandinavia and Canada. These magnificent shrubs can withstand shade, semishade, poor soil, and are easily found abandoned in semi-wild situations.

The Alba class parentage is unknown but with six sets of chromosomes in each cell they are unlike most other roses and are hard to cross breed with other varieties because of that. However it is generally agreed that Rosa Gallica is a likely ancestor. Another possibility is that it is a cross made between Rosa canina and Rosa damascena and thus it is a hybrid variety of rose.

The original Alba is a large rose with elegant white flowers, in the late spring and early summer. It is prone to sprawling and can be tied to posts or trellises to help keep it in check.

While Alba means white, today these flowers can be found in white to pink to even red and light yellow. The foliage is blue-grey green with leaves which are so soft that they droop. The leaves are also serrated at the edges. Most cultivated forms have many petals and add a delicious fragrance to the air when they flower later than other roses, therefore providing grace to your garden when other blooms are fading. Formally known as "Tree roses", they often reach 6 feet in height and can be trained to climb

*Albas are a type of old garden rose that does not do well from a prune

Damask

The Damask rose also dates back to ancient times. The original Damask probably originated in Syria or thereabouts, and was introduced to the Europeans by the Crusaders. Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, and Romans all grew this extraordinarily fragrant rose. The oil of rosa damascene is utilized in the perfume industry. Although Damasks are thought to have a

mixed parentage, it is likely that they originated from a natural hybrid between the Gallica rose and a wild rose species. They are quite hardy, very thorny and have a rather lax and arching growth habit reaching 3 to 7 feet. To show off the lovely pink or white blooms of the Damask rose, staking may be necessary. Most varieties only bloom once a year, and require good fertile soil if they are to look their best. Damask roses are pruned after flowering.

Centifolia/Cabbage

Centifolias have a history that can be traced back thousands of years. The botanical name for these roses is centipetala and they are also known as 'Great Holland Rose', 'Cabbage Rose' and 'Rose des Peintres' amongst others. Records of a "hundred-petalled rose" date back to 300 B.C. so it is generally inferred that R.centifolias are a kind of species rose that existed from that time. Strangely and interestingly enough, there has been no record of a centifolia growing in the wild, although there are a few reports of wild Centifolias from various sites in Europe and Asia. So apparently older variations of this rose did well enough in the wild, being untouched for long periods of time.

And it has also been discovered, thanks to the latest chromosomal investigations into roses, that these roses are likely the product of four separate kinds of roses: R.gallica, R.phoenicia, R.moschata and R.canina. The prevailing theory is that the Centifolia, as we know it today, was first cultivated in Holland somewhere during the 16th century. During the 18th and 19th centuries they were very popular with painters, including Redouté.

The Centifolias are really an extraordinary marvel of the evolutionary process as they have double blooms. Now days these roses are rendered sterile because of the double blooms, the extra petals are really stamens converted into petals. So initially, these sterile roses were sports, and the extensive breeding of these roses only began when a semi-double sport was found.

When the rose begins to open, the flowers are cupped - their shape is perfect and their smell is heavenly. The shrub itself is very slender and forms an arch. The inner petals are small and often quartered or imbricated, and the function of the larger outer petals is to protect these delicate inner ones. The whole structure and many petals are arranged in such a manner, however, that it reminds us inevitably of a cabbage.

You have to take care of these roses, they are fragile, they need adequate nutrition, if possible they should be sprayed from time to time. They also need props for support, because the flowers are large and heavy and often the stems bend under the weight. The shrubs are capable of withstanding cold, but dislike hot and humid areas. The flowers mainly bloom in June and are very fragrant. The size of the flowers varies, as does the colour, from white to pink to purple.

Often flower extracts are taken from these roses and used as perfumes particularly in the Grasse region of France, the perfume capital of the world. Rosa Centifolia Flower Extract or

Cabbage Rose extract is a completely organic substance and is used for skin conditioning. This is a water based extract and does not contain oil. There is a slight variation depending on the variety of Centifolia used to create the extract due to the difference in the chemical properties between each rose. But overall the extracts contain tannin, which is known to help tone and tighten the skin.

Moss

A close relative of the Centifolia rose is the Moss rose. Resulting from a mutation around 1700 they are similar to Centifolias in their lanky growth and flowering habit. However, they have a unique characteristic that sets them apart from all other roses. Covering the stems, sepals and calyx of the rose is a sticky moss-like substance that when rubbed between the fingers releases a pine scent. This mutation was hybridized and many new varieties were introduced. They bloom once in early summer and come in shades of white, pink, red and purple. Moss roses should be pruned back by 1/2 after flowering. Some are repeat blooming. Many are not particularly robust and are primarily grown for their unusual beauty.

Roses were in such high demand during the seventeenth century that European royalty considered roses or rose water as legal tender, and they were often used as barter and for payments. With no wonder, when true rose oil also known as 'attar of roses' or 'rose otto' takes about 113 kg or 248 pounds of petals to make just 2 tablespoons of oil. No wonder perfume is so expensive. Today there are rose farms in the aptly named Rose Valley of Bulgaria, famous for producing 85% of the world's rose oil. Though quick note rose oil was first documented in use in Persia in the 10th century.

In the nineteenth century Napoleon's wife, Josephine established an extensive collection of roses at Chateau de Malmaison, an estate seven miles west of Paris. This ambitious woman's dream was to establish a rose garden containing a collection of all the roses of the world. Sadly her dream was never completed but she did her best to try. Her rose garden became the setting for Pierre Joseph Redoute's work as a botanical illustrator. In 1824, he completed his watercolor collection "Les Rose," which is still considered one of the finest records of botanical illustration. The world's largest rose garden is in Aezzo, Tuscany, Italy. The garden boasts over 7,500 varieties of rose.

Ayrshire

Ayrshire rose is a variety that has been in the market for over hundreds of years. The origin of this rose is somewhat ambiguous because there is a discrepancy as to whether it belongs natively to England or not. It seems that the variety was developed from *Rosa arvensis* in Scotland and from there various hybrids were produced. But it has been proven that even if it is not native to England, it is surely native to the British Isles. A cold-hardy, vigorous rose (no doubt due to its parentage).

Often named "ramblers", the rose plant is quite long and flexible with fountaining canes, can be turned into impressive climbers or be prostrated and made into ground cover. Ayrshires

grow to a minimum of 15ft but can reach heights of 20-30 feet and are covered with thousands of blossoms. Generally produce a single flush of fragrant blooms in late spring/early summer. The blooms are semi-double and colors range from white to pink to yellow. The foliage is dark green and glossy.

Ayrshire roses can tolerate bad soil conditions, shade and are usually more tolerant to drought than other rose varieties. Pruning Ayrshires should be undertaken with care and should be done very rarely as the flowers bloom on the old shoots. Remove only the dead, diseased parts. They are disease and pest resilient. Ayrshire roses are generally used to create the fountain of roses in gardens, grow as ground cover or to prevent soil erosion on hillsides.

Bourbon

The natural result of hybridization between two native hedge roses in the early 1800s. Bourbon roses were the first of the Old Garden Roses to have a repeating bloom period, and the wide range of the form (long and arching too small and shrubby) and variety of color (white to pink to purple reds) made this fragrant rose with its full cupped flowers very fashionable to have in your garden.

In spite of the bourbon roses' susceptibility to blackspot or mildew diseases, their characteristics of repeat blooming, dense growth habit and beautiful fragrance made them much admired and Bourbon roses are still widely grown to this day. Though the actual glory days of the Bourbon roses extended from 1830 to 1850 and very few new varieties were introduced after 1900. They are however very popular amongst the current old rose growers, due to their easygoing charms.

It's easy to see that the arching growth inherited from its Damask ancestors is a distinctive feature of the Bourbon. Bourbon roses also received their heady fragrance and the lush flowers from the same ancestral connection. The keen inclination to bloom repeatedly is likely a throwback to Chinese ancestry. In fact, the subtle influence of a Chinese ancestor is also evident in the flower form. Since their emergence, many stories certainly have emerged about their origins. The most authoritative and credible derives from the custom of the inhabitants of the Indian Ocean island of Reunion (then called the Ile Bourbon) to grow certain varieties of roses as hedges. A contemporary botanist, Monsieur Breon, said that the hedges comprised of "one row of the Common China Rose (this is probably 'Old Blush'), with the other row of the Red Four-Seasons (probably the red 'Tous-les-Mois' Damask Perpetual common at that time)." From this account, Bourbon roses are believed to be the result of a cross between the Damask Perpetual and the 'Old Blush' China rose.

The Bourbons continue to be seen as a rose of Old World charm and beauty, a vigorous producer needing little care once established. They are highly fragrant and do make lovely hedges and garden separators, growing up walls and trellis, preferring full sun, however a modest amount of shade is tolerated. Bourbon roses are not heavy feeders and once trained to their location, require only gentle pruning to help encourage new blooms and prevent overly

sprawling habits. When the rose lies dormant, you can prune lightly or if need be, you can prune aggressively back by up to 1/3.

Noisette

This classification originated in the United States by Philippe Noisette of Charleston, SC, sometime around 1811. Noisette later introduced them in France when he moved there in 1817. Cultivated from a cross between the China rose and a climbing Musk Rose, they were the first hybrid rose group to originate in North America. Blooming in shades of white, pink, red, and yellow they are large sprawling climbers, growing to a height of 20 feet or more. They are not very hardy but they are repeat blooming through the summer and into the fall and have a nice tea rose fragrance. You can also train them to grow in trees.

Portland

This class was named in honor of the Duchess of Portland, Margaret Cavendish Bentinck. This small group of roses was derived from crosses involving hybrid gallica, damask, centifolia and hybrid china. It was this crossing that gave the Portland Rose the distinction of being the first family of roses that had a repeat flowering habit. Portlands opened the door to the hybridization of modern roses. They have a bushy, upright and compact growth habit of about 4 feet, with characteristically short-stemmed fragrant blooms. They are the perfect size for today's smaller garden. Similar in many ways to the Bourbons, they are not quite as vigorous, but are more floriferous with darker and richer colored blooms. They are summer flowering and like to be pruned back by about 1/2 in the spring to encourage heavier blooming.

Tea

Tea roses are the forerunners of our modern Hybrid Teas, originating from a cross between a China rose and various Bourbons and Noisettes. Characterized as variable in height, with some of the best cultivars being Climbing Teas. Teas have large blooms on weak stems, resulting in drooping, or nodding, flowers with relatively few thorns. These very cold tender roses that bloom throughout the summer and into the fall and as one might imagine have a distinctive tea fragrance. The full, urn shaped large flowers come in shades of white, pink, yellow and apricot. They only like to be pruned lightly and may take a few years to get going.

Hybrid Perpetual

No one really knows who the parents of these roses are, but it is most likely a mixture of Noisettes, Bourbons, Teas, Chinas and Portlands. They were very popular during the later part of the 1800's, during Queen Victoria's reign. Considered to be the precursor to the modern rose, Hybrid Perpetuals are hardy and vigorous plants with large, fragrant blooms in shades of white, pink and maroon. They are repeat flowering, blooming in late spring or early summer and again in the autumn. They are not the best garden performers, losing popularity to hybrid teas because of being a little too tall and upright to be very attractive in the garden. They are heavy feeders and do need to be pruned vigorously to about 1/2 of their size.

China & Hybrid China

The “China rose” is actually a complex of natural and cultivated hybrids that have evolved over more than a thousand years in Chinese gardens. With more than 93 species and 144 varieties native to China, most of which are endemic. It wasn't until the late eighteenth century that the “china roses” were introduced into Europe, causing quite a sensation to the rose world. Until then, the autumn repeat-blooming Damasks were the only roses known to have a second flush of blooms. China roses offered many new exciting variances to the rose gene-pool including: reliable repeat-bloom (In fact, China roses were sometimes referred to as “Monthly Roses” for this trait), new scents and color changes (such as a deepening of color as the rose matures and shades of yellow and dark red which were not yet present in European roses.) The blossoms, which are high/centered and unfurl when opening are the predecessors of today's modern roses.

The China rose was crucial to the birth of the Noisette, Bourbon, and tea rose varieties.

Hybrid China roses started to appear around 1815 as a product of the China/Noisette/Bourbon roses crossed with various summer-flowering varieties, in particular the R. Gallica and Damask varieties. Though all Hybrid Chinas were strictly summer-flowering, many popular varieties were developed, and by 1830 several superior cultivars appeared which, through crosses to Portland/Noisette/Bourbon lines, becoming the parents of the hybrid perpetuals. Hybrid perpetuals crossed with Tea roses gave rise to the hybrid tea.

They even gave rise to the Polyanthas when a China rose was crossed with the white climber R. multiflora of Japan.

This group's most important characteristic is its ability to repeat bloom. The plants are variable in height, with relatively few thorns. They are generally winter-tender, not surviving well below USDA zone 7. They like a moist, humus soil and have a light and twiggy growth habit. The blossoms, which are high/centered and unfurl when opening are generally small with mild to low fragrance. Most Chinas are not fond of being pruned.

The first four “Stud” plants were:

Slater's Crimson China - imported by Gilbert Slater of Knot's Green, Leytonstone in 1792, and by 1798 the French, who dominated rose breeding efforts at the time, had begun hybridization experiments. Within a couple of years, material had been distributed to Austria, Germany, and Italy. (A very closely related form is actually believed to have existed in Italy since the mid-17th century.) Descriptions of this rose, as well as drawings by Willmott from 1911, indicate a close similarity to Henry's discovery of its wild progenitor in 1885, yet differ in regard to the perennial flowering, dwarf habit, and semi-double flowers displayed by Slater's Crimson. Additionally, this hybrid's extremely low fertility rate of 14 percent, as determined by Hurst, argues for its status as a facilitated hybrid, only able to have survived and evolved in cultivation.

Parsons' Pink China - introduced in 1793 by Joseph Banks, the Director of Kew Gardens in England, having most likely been collected near Canton by Sir George Staunton, a member of Lord Macartney's embassy to China, in 1792. It may very well be identical to the rose brought to England in 1751 by Osbeck. James Colville propagated and sold it under the name of Pale China Rose and later it acquired the name Old Blush. It made its way to France in 1798, as well, to become the subject of successful breeding efforts and a source of many hybrids to come. By 1800, it had also appeared in North America and would eventually give rise to a wide array of popular descendents, including Noisette roses, Tea roses, Hybrid Teas, and Hybrid Perpetuals.

Hume's Blush Tea-Scented China - introduced by Sir A. Hume from the " East Indies " (then including China) in 1810. It was originally named *R. indica odorata* and later *R. indica fragrans*. Hurst estimates that its Tea rose characteristics predominate by a 2:1 margin over those of its *R. chinensis* parentage. It is known for its large, elegant, pale pink flowers that continually bloom. It is said to have survived arduous conditions upon importation, with only 1 in 1,000 plants surviving first the voyage from China, exposed on the ship's open deck, and then an English blockade of French ports during the Napoleonic Wars.

Park's Yellow Tea-Scented China - brought to the Royal Horticultural Society in 1824, having probably arrived from China in 1823. John Reeves (1774-1856), chief inspector for the East India Company at Canton from 1812 to 1831, was most likely responsible for this import and played a vital role in the introduction of many Chinese plants into Europe at that time. It was given the name *R. indica sulphurea* in France, where it was quickly introduced. Like Hume's China rose, it was more heavily influenced by the Tea rose parent, featuring large yellow flowers with thick tea-scented petals and bright green leaves. It was an important ancestor to many yellow Tea roses of the 1800s.

Most modern-day roses can be traced back to one of these four roses in it's ancestry. These introductions were repeat bloomers, making them unusual and of great interest to hybridizers, setting the stage for breeding work with native roses to select for hardiness and a long bloom season. Many of these early efforts by plant breeders are of great interest to today's gardeners. Sadly when the communist revolution happened the rose was seen as a symbol of the old dynasties and fell out of favor. Many of the old china roses have been lost but recent interest has sparked a revival of the rose in China.

Similarly in India many of it's heritage roses have been lost, renamed or miss named, falling to the side in favor of the European roses and hybrids. But as with China a revival of their historic roses has begun.

Welcome the modern Rose

La France and The first Hybrid Tea

When you hear the terms Old Garden Roses and Modern Roses do you ever wonder how to know which is which? Old Garden Roses are roses varieties bred before 1867

'La France' is a pink rose cultivar found in France in 1867 by the rosarian Jean-Baptiste André Guillot (1827–1893). It is generally accepted to be the first hybrid tea rose* (recognised as a class in the 1880s). Its introduction is therefore also considered the birth of the modern rose. As the cultivar was not systematically bred, its hybrid parentage can only be speculated, but tea rose "Madame Falcot" is considered as a possible parent as are tea rose "Madame Bravy" and Hybrid Perpetual "Madame Victor Verdier"

While most old garden roses are one time bloomers, this new hybrid gave us blooms throughout the growing season. Hybrid Teas are said to be the most popular class of roses, much of that popularity comes from their being commonly used as "florist" roses with their long stems and high centers.

There are two other roses that contend for the first hybrid tea title

Cheshunt Hybrid (Lost/EX) - This was produced accidentally in a house where Prince Camille de Itohan was growing. Just below this plant was a rose much resembling the Bengal rose, and the result of the cross between the two now known as Cheshunt hybrid. It was a medium red climber with moderate fragrance.

Madame Lacharme (Lost) - Blush, ages to white with a strong fragrance. Parents - Jules Margottin (Hybrid Perpetual, Margottin, 1853) x Mademoiselle de Sombreuil. Both parents can still be found.

Instead of going into all the modern roses I'm only going to bring up two that got their start in ancient times.

Musk & Hybrid Musk

Rosa moschata is a species of this rose which has been cultivated for centuries with origins most likely in the Middle East. It's habit can be that of both a shrub and a climber with white, 5-petaled single flowers bearing a strong musk-like scent. Musk roses and their hybrids emit their fragrance through their styles (not the petals as most roses) therefore they belong to the *Synstylae* group of roses as identified by Graham Thomas. Thomas described the scent as that of the rare musk deer of Asia; a true musk scent which is light and sweet. The group of hybrid musk roses is relatively young and many were developed (by way of the Noisettes) by Reverend Joseph Pemberton of England between 1912 and 1939 who appreciated fragrance in a rose. Hybrid musk roses do not create many basal breaks and it's best to prune with a light hand if at all. Colder winter regions may experience a lot of winter dieback with their Musk hybrids.

Rugosa & Hybrid Rugosa

An ancient rose that has grown in popularity in modern times, *Rosa rugosa*, the species, is native to Japan and forms a dense thicket-like shrub with single-petaled blossoms followed by cherry tomato sized hips. Rugosa roses are incredibly hardy and easy to naturalize.

Rosa rugosa has naturalized on the shores of the eastern US coast and helps with dune erosion as well as offering habitat and food for wildlife. They are characterized by their strongly scented blossoms and wrinkled, leather-like leaves. *Rugosa* hybrids have retained the rugged traits of the species but now include more colors and blossom forms (such as doubles). *Rugosa* roses are relied upon in breeding programs for roses that are being developed to withstand less than ideal growing conditions and colder temperatures (such as the *Kordesii* roses). They are repeat flowering and easy to grow, *Rugosa* roses dislike being sprayed with any chemicals and may drop all of their leaves in protest. They do well in sandy soil. They need minimal pruning only to remove old and weak wood.