



The Rose Window



The Science of Rose Investigating the Chemical Components of Its Sweet Scent

BY PETITE HISTOIRE

A plant-based perfumery based in NYC

June 15, 2023 Newsletter

Chemical Symphony of Roses

Enshrined in the velvety petals of a rose lies a symphony of over 400 chemical compounds. Each participating in the intricate orchestra that is the rose's signature scent. A melody so divine, it's been admired and replicated for centuries.

For centuries, the enigmatic fragrance of the rose has been a symbol of love and beauty, inspiring countless poets, artists, and perfumers. In the velvety petals of a rose lies a symphony of over 400 chemical compounds, each participating in the intricate orchestra that is the rose's signature scent. A melody so divine, it's been admired and replicated throughout history.

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A Whiff Of History

The art of capturing the rose's scent began in ancient India, and quickly spread to other parts of the world. In the fragrant gardens of the Mughal emperors, roses were cultivated for their precious scent, used in elaborate rituals and royal ceremonies. This tradition continues even today, with the town of Kannauj in India being a renowned producer of rose attar, a natural perfume oil derived from roses.

From India, the allure of the rose made its way to Morocco, where the Damask rose, known for its intoxicating fragrance, found a bountiful home in the Valley of Roses. Year after year, as the valley blushes pink with roses, the process of distillation takes place, transforming tons of petals into precious rose oil and rose water.

The romantic nation of France, too, fell under the rose's spell. In the 16th century, the town of Grasse became the epicenter of rose perfume production. To this day, Grasse remains the world's perfume capital, its fields of roses contributing significantly to the global perfume industry.

The process of rose harvesting is a labor of love. Perfumers say that the best time to pick roses is early in the morning, just as the dew settles on the petals. This is when the roses are at their most fragrant.

The Complexity Behind the Fragrance

But what makes the scent of a rose so unique? It's all about the complexity of its chemical composition. To obtain just a drop of pure rose oil, it takes approximately 60,000 roses. That's nearly 30 roses for every milliliter of oil. This process unveils the intricate and elaborate nature of the rose molecule, making it a marvel in the realm of perfumery.

Unraveling the molecular complexity of the rose, scientists have discovered that the scent of a rose is a marvelous cocktail of diverse compounds. From geraniol, which gives roses their characteristic rosy smell, to citronellol, which adds a touch of lemon, and phenylethyl alcohol, which brings in a subtle honey note, the chemistry of a rose's scent is a labyrinth of delight.

So, the next time you stop to smell a rose, remember the centuries of history and the complex chemical composition that contribute to that divine melody. A melody that continues to inspire, captivate, and enchant.



Rosa Damascena
PC: Naturopataonline Benessere Naturale

The Star Performers

Among this vast ensemble of compounds, three stand out for their leading roles - geraniol, citronellol, and nerol. These are the maestros of the rose's olfactory symphony, lending their unique tones to the overall composition.

A Scent Shaped by Nature

Yet, the scent of a rose is neither uniform nor static. The concentration of these compounds can vary greatly depending on the species and variety of the rose. Just as a jazz musician might improvise a solo, so too does nature improvise the scent of each rose.

The Varied Bouquets of Roses

Like the cadence of a symphony, each type of rose sings its own olfactory song. The diversity in their scents is as wide and varied as the colors they bloom in. Let's take a stroll down the rose-scented path and explore some of the most popular types of roses that are harvested.

- **Rosa Damascena:** Also known as the Damask rose, this species is admired for its intense, rich aroma that can be described as a happy marriage between fruity and floral notes.
- **Rosa Centifolia:** The Cabbage rose, as it's commonly referred to, boasts a sweet and honey-like scent with subtle hints of spicy clove.
- **Rosa Rugosa:** This species, known as the Rugosa rose, is revered for its unique, potent fragrance that carries a delightful blend of sweet and spicy tones.



Rosa Centifolia
PC: Cascina Vicentini



Rosa Rugosa
PC: The Spruce

The Rose World Map

The aroma of a rose doesn't just depend on its type, but also where it's grown. Different climates, soil types, and sunlight exposure can all play significant roles in shaping a rose's scent.

"Just as a jazz musician might improvise a solo, so too does nature improvise the scent of each rose."

Bulgaria: Known as the "Land of Roses," Bulgaria's unique climate, with its warm and sunny summers, combined with the rich, loamy soil, creates the perfect conditions for growing *Rosa Damascena*. The result? An intensely fragrant rose with a robust, full-bodied scent.

France: In the fertile lands of France, *Rosa Centifolia* thrives. Here, the temperate climate and abundant sunshine give rise to roses with a more subtle, honey-like aroma.

Japan: Home to *Rosa Rugosa*, the Japanese climate, with its cool summers and well-drained, sandy soil, contributes to a rose fragrance that is distinctly sweet and spicy.

Indeed, the world of roses is a fragrant tapestry, woven with threads of diverse scents. It's a testament to nature's ability to create an array of olfactory experiences, each as unique and delightful as the last.

Savoring the Dawn Symphony

And then there's the curious case of when a rose smells its best. The scent of a rose is most intense during the early morning. As dawn breaks, the quiet whisper of the nocturnal bloom intensifies into a full-blown melody. This is when the rose breathes its richest, most intoxicating fragrance into the world.

The Role of Terpenes in Rose Fragrance

Oh, the fragrance of a rose! That lovely, intoxicating aroma that greets our senses like a familiar friend. But have you ever wondered what makes this perfume so enchanting? Let's delve into the scientific nitty-gritty. The secret, my friends, lies in a group of organic compounds known as terpenes.

Terpenes are the life and soul of a rose's fragrance, and roses are particularly rich in these aromatic compounds. They are tiny, volatile molecules that evaporate easily, wafting up from the heart of the rose to reach our noses, and stimulating our olfactory receptors with their delightful scent.

Monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes are two types of terpenes found in abundance in rose petals. Monoterpenes are lighter and evaporate quickly, contributing to the heady top notes of the rose scent. On the other hand, sesquiterpenes are heavier and linger, making up the deep, full-bodied base notes. Citronellol, geraniol, and linalool are the primary monoterpenes in a rose, each lending its unique fragrance note. Citronellol brings a sweet, rosy smell; geraniol contributes a more citrusy, green aroma; and linalool adds a touch of spicy, floral scent. Imagine all these scents mingling together, creating the multifaceted perfume that we associate with a rose.

Every time I catch a whiff of a rose, I marvel at the complex chemistry at work. It's a symphony of terpenes, playing a melody that our noses interpret as the sweet, intoxicating fragrance of a rose. So, the next time you stop to smell the roses, remember the tiny terpenes working their magic, and perhaps that rose will smell even sweeter.

Why Do Roses Smell Different from Other Flowers?

Have you ever wondered why roses smell so different from other flowers? The answer lies in the bouquet of chemical compounds, specifically monoterpenoids, phenylpropanoids, sesquiterpenoids, and flavonoids, that roses unleash as they bloom. These compounds are like the rose's signature perfume, a blend only it can create.

Monoterpenoids, the smallest of these compounds, are responsible for the sweet, citrusy notes in the scent of a rose. They're like the top notes in a perfume, the first scents you catch as you lean in for a sniff.

Phenylpropanoids lend a spicy, clove-like hint to the scent, adding depth and complexity. They're like the heart notes in the perfume, emerging as the top notes begin to dissipate.

As Jean-Claude Ellena, a renowned perfumer, once said, "The beauty of perfume speaks at once of the primitive and the refined."

Then, you have the **sesquiterpenoids**, which add a woody, balsamic undertone to the scent, grounding the light, airy notes of the monoterpenoids and phenylpropanoids. They're like the base notes of the perfume, anchoring the scent and making it last.

Finally, **flavonoids**, while not directly contributing to the scent, play an essential role in protecting the rose from pests and diseases. They ensure that the rose can continue to produce its beautiful scent.

Compound	Scent Note	Role
Monoterpenoids	Sweet, Citrusy	Top Note
Phenylpropanoids	Spicy, Clove-like	Heart Note
Sesquiterpenoids	Woody, Balsamic	Base Note
Flavonoids	N/A	Protection

So, the next time you lean in to sniff a rose, take a moment to appreciate the complex chemistry that's working to create that sweet, intoxicating scent. It's a little science, a little art, and a whole lot of nature's beauty.

The Future of Rose Scent Research

In a world perpetually evolving, it's hard not to marvel at the potential future of rose scent research. Imagine, if you will, a time when the exquisite fragrance of roses permeates every aspect of our lives, from the perfumes we wear to the smell of our homes. A time when every whiff of rose scent carries with it the promise of sustainability and conservation. A future where the biochemistry of roses is harnessed and optimized to its full potential.

The Perfumery of the Future

The perfume industry has always been enthralled by the intoxicating scent of roses. But what if our future held more than just rose-based perfumes? What if we could capture the essence of a rose in its entirety, its every nuance, and subtlety? The possibilities are as endless as they are exciting.

- The crafting of entirely new, unique fragrances that encapsulate the rose's scent in ways never before experienced.
- Perfumes that are not just inspired by the rose, but are essentially a rose in a bottle, capturing its allure and charm in every drop.

Sustainability and Conservation

When I think of roses, I'm reminded of their delicate beauty and how it must be preserved for future generations. The future of rose scent research holds great potential for sustainability and conservation efforts. Imagine a world where roses are not just a symbol of love and beauty, but also of our commitment to preserving the environment.

"The rose's scent is not just a delight to our senses, but also a testament to nature's ingenuity. It's our responsibility to protect and preserve it."

Conclusion

In the grand tapestry of nature, the rose, with its intoxicating scent, is a masterpiece of evolutionary artistry. Each petal, each thorn, each wafting fragrance is a testament to the exquisite complexity of life on Earth. As we unravel the secrets of why roses smell so good, we delve deeper into understanding the intricate interplay of chemistry and biology.

The science of scent is as multifaceted as the rose itself, involving a harmonious symphony of volatile organic compounds that evoke emotions and memories. This intricate dance of molecules is not just confined to the laboratory; it is a part of our everyday lives, subtly influencing our behaviors, feelings, and even our relationships.

Perhaps, the underlying beauty of the rose lies not just in its visual appeal or its sensorial delight, but also in the scientific marvel it represents. The rose is a living testament to the power of evolution, the mystery of chemistry, and the unending quest for knowledge. Through the lens of science, we come to appreciate the rose in a new light - not just as a symbol of love and beauty, but also as a sublime expression of nature's complexity and finesse.

In the end, it's not just the rose that smells sweet, but also the pursuit of knowledge. For every mystery we unravel gives us a deeper appreciation for the world around us, adding a new layer of complexity and wonder to an already awe-inspiring universe. So next time you stop to smell a rose, remember, you're not just experiencing a simple pleasure, but a complex scientific phenomenon.



Director's Note

A Message From Our Yankee District Director



HELLO FELLOW YANKEE DISTRICT ROSARIANS,

HERE WE ARE ON THE CUSP OF SPRING. I HOPE YOU HAVE BEEN PERUSING CATALOGS AND HAVE YOUR CHOICES IN MIND.

NEXT UP, WINTER DOLDRUMS IN WESTPORT, MA ON MARCH 29TH. HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE A FEW RAFFLE ITEMS TO BID ON AND I KNOW WE WILL HAVE ROSE CUTTINGS. CANNOT WAIT TO SEE YOU ALL THERE. WE WILL HAVE OUR BUSINESS MEETING DURING LUNCH SO WE DON'T TAKE UP YOUR SUNDAY MORNING AND YOU CAN SLEEP IN OR GO HOME THE NIGHT BEFORE. IF YOU STAY OVER, I'M SURE YOU WILL HAVE FUN WITH YOUR ROSY FRIENDS.

THEN IT'S ON TO ROSE SHOW SEASON. RHODE ISLAND ROSE SOCIETY KICKS IT OFF ON JUNE 7TH. NEW ENGLAND ROSE SOCIETY WILL HOLD THEIRS ON JUNE 21ST. IF YOU HAVE ROSES AND ARE AMBITIOUS, THE LONG ISLAND ROSE SOCIETY WILL HOLD THEIR ROSE SHOW ON SUNDAY JUNE 1ST AT THE CLARK HOUSE IN CLARK BOTANICAL GARDEN IN ROSLYN HEIGHTS, NY ON LONG ISLAND JUST OUTSIDE OF NYC. BALDO VILLEGAS AND I WILL BE JUDGING THERE.

HAPPY, HAPPY SPRING!

AS ALWAYS,

JACQUI NYE
YANKEE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



The Yankee District Presents

ESCAPE THE DOLDRUMS

MARCH 29, 2025

WHITES OF WESTPORT - 66 STATE ROAD, WESTPORT MA

Is your garden under snow? Are you anxious for spring? Join the Yankee District, **March 29th** for their one-day convention.

Catch-up with friends
Meet new people
Get excited for spring &
Fight off the winter blues!



Event Schedule

9:00AM - Register & Drop off for Photography Contest

10-12:30PM - Horticultural Seminars

- Miniature/Miniflora - *Baldo Villegas*
- Understanding Organic Gardening - *Becky Martorelli*

12:30-1PM - Included Lunch

1-2:30PM - Yankee District Meeting

2:45-4:45PM - Fun Arrangement Workshop

- Bring a container & your clippers

5-8:00PM - Included Dinner

- A Tribute to Oz Osborn - *Irwin Ehrenreich*
- Live & Silent Auction

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

SEND CHECK: \$75/PERSON, MADE OUT TO YANKEE DISTRICT ROSE SOCIETY TO
PAUL RAYMOND 69 SEAVIEW AVE., SWANSEA, MA 02777

FOR HOTEL RESERVATION: TOWNE PLACE SUITES
Reach out to Paul Raymond for potential discounted rates

**VISIT THE YANKEE DISTRICT WEBSITE FOR THE
REGISTRATION FORM & MORE INFO**



Miniature & Miniflora

Wholesale Group Order

Our Yankee District Director, Jacqui Nye, has arranged a special opportunity with Burlington Nursery in California, allowing our district to order miniature and miniflora roses, not commercially available anywhere else, at a discounted price.

The list of available roses have been emailed to the various local society google groups. If you're interested in ordering, please email Jacqui directly by **March 24th**. Once she has collected everyone's orders, she will announce the per-rose price and shipping costs.

This is a rare chance to purchase unique varieties that may not be available in our region, as well as compact roses perfect for smaller spaces.

More information is included in the announcement email.

ROSE ARRANGING BASICS: (& A MAJOR UPDATE ON OASIS)



BY PATSY CUNNINGHAM

Yankee District Webmaster

Adapted and updated from a version in the February 2025 RI Rose Review edited by Angelina Chute

Mechanics seems an unnatural term to use when talking about making beautiful flower arrangements, but it is an important topic. The mechanics of a flower arrangement includes anything that is used to assist in the placement and hydration of your floral material. If you are entering a design class in a rose or other flower show, it is important to understand that an arrangement is not the same thing as a bouquet. A bouquet is a group of flowers and foliage inserted into a vase of water or perhaps grasped in the hand and bundled together. An arrangement on the other hand requires mindfulness. Each stem is inserted at the point, angle and height needed for the design.

In order to do this, you must have some sort of support system for all your flowers and foliage. The most common one used in Western flower arranging is floral foam, usually known by its most common brand name of Oasis. These green bricks are 3 x 4 x 9" and can hold 2 quarts of water when saturated. They are easily shaped with a knife and hold stems securely where they are placed, while providing hydration. It is super easy and reliable to use and is reasonably priced.



Oasis Pin Holder



Taped Floral Foam



Clear Waterproof Tape



Orchid Tubes



Should Oasis alternatives be explored?

There are some important things to know when working with Oasis. First, it must be soaked by placing it in a bucket or sink of water and letting it sink on its own ie do not push it down in the water and do not run a faucet over it. If you do either of those things, the foam block will have a big pocket of dry foam inside it rendering it useless to keep your flowers alive. Second, while you can cut the block either wet or dry, I find cutting the block dry produces irritating and hard to clean dust: it certainly can't be good to breathe it. Third, you want the foam block to be secure in the vessel you intend to arrange in. Often you just cut it very slightly larger than the vase and firmly insert it. In low bowls, it needs to be secured with tape, like Oasis clear 1/4" waterproof tape. It can also be secured with a little pronged plastic piece fastened in the bottom of your vase (it looks like the little protectors they would put in a pizza box to keep your pizza from being smushed.) Oasis does come in a variety of shapes and even different colors. For roses, which are heavy and thick stemmed, I'd recommend Oasis Instant Deluxe Max Life, which is denser and will secure them better than standard Oasis and is said to be biodegradable in the right landfill conditions.

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Oshun Pouch



Agrawool



Chicken Wire Supports



Moss & Wire



Moss with Chicken Wire

Since the “right” landfill conditions rarely exist, this single use product made from phenol and formaldehyde polymers usually just breaks down to microplastics. Not a good thing! Folks looking for similar alternatives have tried Agrawool and Oshun Pouch. Agrawool may be familiar to those who propagate plants or do hydroponics. It is spun like cotton candy from basaltic rock. It comes in bricks like floral foam but breaks down completely into rock dust which is helpful to your soil. It tends to drip more than and can be fragile. A hole should be poked into it prior to inserting more delicate stems. It can be wrapped with chicken wire to help keep it together and can be re-used. Oshun Pouch is basically dry coconut coir mixed with a gelling compound, sealed in a compostable sack. It expands dramatically when soaked just like coir potting medium. They are single use and they do not keep flowers hydrated more than a day or so. They are also expensive.

So, here is the news! The very next day after I had received my copy of the February Rhode Island Rose Review, I saw news online that a brand new type of Oasis product had just been released on January 28, 2025 called "Oasis Renewal". This new product is NOT petroleum/plastic based but is made from all organic materials. It works very much like the original floral foams in saturation, density and ease of use and actually has an additional advantage besides its organic nature. When it is saturated, it becomes a rich black color, without the use of artificial colorants. They are not yet willing to talk about its composability yet till more testing is done. It's total "carbon footprint" is 56% less than regular floral foam. Because the color black is a "receding" color, this oasis is not as difficult to hide in an arrangement and therefor requires less floral material for good coverage.

I'm looking forward to trying it. It is not yet available for purchase, but you can get a free sample block at

<https://www.oasisfloralproducts.com/cart>

I suppose it was to be expected that Oasis would be feverishly trying to invent a suitable substitute for their widely used product. This looks like it could be a vast improvement over their Terra brick, which is compostable but looks like compressed potting soil and is more fragile than foam. Apparently, the free sample block will take 6-8 weeks to arrive, I hope you will all request one ASAP so we can try it out at the Yankee District "Free for All" arrangement workshop March 29.



So, Oasis was invented in the 50s. What did florists use before that? "Prior to the invention of floral foam, [western] florists used chicken wire and newspaper, clay or cedar greens as a base for floral arrangements". Moss was also commonly used. If I recall from Dean Hole, the original English boxes in the 19th century had their exhibition roses nestled in boxes of moss. Small pieces of chicken wire can be crumpled up to fit into most any vase and can be combined with moss for even more support and to improve the surface appearance. Moss and chicken wire are both reusable as well. As for the clay that was mentioned in that quote, I'm not sure in what way they used it. I've got loads of wet clay, guess I'll have to try inserting flowers into some and seeing if they last at all.



Kenzana



Kubari Branches



Shippo



Coiled Willow for Support

Flower arrangers in China and Japan have traditionally employed reusable or natural materials for their mechanics. The one we are most familiar with is the kenzan or pin frog. Kenzans have a heavy lead base set with brass teeth. Floral material is inserted into the points. Kenzans can be easily used for East Asian arrangements in a low bowl or suiban. To use them in a tall vase, fill the vase with small pebbles to within an inch or two of the

rim and place the kenzan on those. For heavier branches and large material, sometimes a heavy lead shippo is used. A couple of cautions about using kenzans and shippos. The lead can make indelible marks on the inside of your low pottery bowls/suiban. If your kenzan does not have a rubber ring around it, you might want to protect the surface with a small piece of thin rubber. We all know lead is toxic, but you may not know it was used to sweeten wine in Roman times. Keep these out of reach of pets and children.



Rice Straw Kamiwara

Plastic Kamiwara (above)
Multiple Twigs As "Kamiwara" (below)

Long coiled plastic "invisible"
support that was spiral-cut from a
water bottle

Originally, a classic arrangement of Ikenobo ikebana such as a Rikka would be composed by inserting the components into tightly tied bundles of rice straw called kamiwara. Most now substitute the rice straw with plastic. Even bundles of coffee stirrers or drinking straws with a rubber band around them can be used as kamiwara. Multiple short lengths of bamboo, bundles of twigs, and coiled vines and leaves can also be used to place your flowers. In a glass vase, where you might want to hide the stems and the mechanics, you can use a plastic soda or water bottle. Just cut it up into one long skinny spiral of plastic and scrunch it up into your vase. Surprisingly, this trick came from an ikebana instructor.

One of the more difficult mechanics to use is the Kubari, a forked stick. These are forced into the top of a vase to secure the flowers and branches into place. You can find some really simple creative modern variations on this technique on FaceBook. My favorite to watch is Ni Zhixiang, he is well worth following.

Now, inspired by ikebana traditions, modern arrangers are using all sorts of floral and branch materials as supports, vessels and armatures for the arrangement material. I've seen bamboo for all three of these purposes. Since it is unwise to grow most bamboo in suburban yards, I thought of the hollow stems of Japanese Knotweed. I found that lots of folk have used this plentiful "resource" in their designs. Bamboo can be bought at garden centers and online. Fresh bamboo can be obtained from unfortunate homeowners who have let it spread on their property.



Reusable constructed bamboo armature



Japanese Knotweed supports/armature



Driftwood armature with roses

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Bamboo armature - Mark Pampling

Armatures are a type of support which most often becomes a significant part of the actual design. The word armature has automotive and zoological meanings, but in artistic endeavors it means a support or framework for a design. In sculptures, armatures are often internal and not meant to be seen, and indeed there are black metal supports made for that purpose for elevated or tall floral designs. Metal, bamboo or wood constructions have the advantage of being reusable. In your home, you can just replace the floral material with fresh new plants keeping the basic design intact.



Grouped Branches support/armature

One of the most useful ways this is done is with frames. Even old picture frames from a second-hand store can be transformed into a unique modern arrangement. A commonly used metal frame is a metal circle mounted on a stand, much like what is used for a wreath. The design can be completely contained within the frame or extend well beyond it. The frame not only supports the arrangement but also helps keep the design focused.



Tinted plexiglas/plastic armature



Cinder block armature



Plastic grid armature



Copper pipe armature

In the last couple of years, I have seen instances where even ikebana practitioners are making use of frames in their designs. In the three designs I've seen, they used a simple frame with a low container for the floral material hidden behind it. These were all by arrangers who belong to the Sogetsu school of ikebana. The frame could be as simple as foamboard cut into a frame shape and supported by more foamboard in back (see rear photo from an Ikebana International display at Tower Hill) I'll finish by talking briefly about covering and hiding mechanics that don't contribute to the beauty of the design. Oasis is the most common offender.

The blocky green material really detracts from the appearance of the design when it is bare and visible. When we had our first rose arranging workshop under the late Donna Fuss, she taught us how to “fern” the oasis before starting to build the form. Her simple method bears repeating. She would take the common ferns you get at a florist and cut them into little winged “piks”. Each would have a stout little stem with 2 fern leaves attached. These piks would then be placed into the oasis, particularly near the edges of the vase where the oasis tends to be more visible. This method of covering up the oasis also works with rose leaves with a bit of stem attached.



Frame behind the arrangement

Kenzans are not necessarily hidden in East Asian arrangements. Some styles of ikebana do like to obscure the kenzan with shorter leaves and flowers at the base, or with pebbles or by placing a rock or piece of interesting wood into the low vase in front of the kenzan. In tall vases, covering the kenzan with water is adequate.

In modern arrangements where the material is in more than one place, little orchid tubes are used to hold the materials in water. These can be glued behind the supports or covered by judicious placement of foliage. They can also be wrapped with a bit of wire and tied to or hung from branches. A clever way I’ve seen them hidden is by camouflaging them with colored tape or paint or even brushing them with glue and covering them lightly with bits of bark, gravel or sand so they blend in.

One important point about rose show arrangements in general: roses must be the dominant feature. It’s easy to go overboard by adding other beautiful flowers or by making a striking support or an unusual vase. These are all okay only if the first thing you see when you look at the arrangement is the roses.

Just want to remind you that you can find the American Rose Society’s Handbook for Judging Rose Arrangements online on the Yankee District website’s Resources page

<https://arsyankee.org/PDF/JudgingRoseArrangements2021>

It is loaded with information on rules as well as definitions of various types of designs.

If you’d like to see more examples of framed arrangements and other kinds of modern arrangements, come take a look at the photos I saved on Pinterest at

<https://www.pinterest.com/cunningham0578/arrangementsmodern-types/>

Finally, please sign up for the Yankee mini convention “Escaping the Winter Doldrums” on March 29 in Westport, Massachusetts. Information on the day’s events and the registration form are on our website

<https://arsyankee.org>

Paul Raymond has gotten us special prices on the meals and the hotel rooms if you want to stay. The afternoon will be spent together with an arrangement workshop. It won’t be a typical focused workshop but “Footloose and Fancy Free”. Our District Director Jacqui Nye plans to obtain free flowers from Trader Joes. We want everyone to feel comfortable making any sort of arrangement: traditional, East Asian, Modern or Freestyle. It can be beautiful or ugly. Creative or traditional. Some of the more experienced arrangers will be helping you out. Hopefully the free glass of wine or beer will help loosen non-arrangers to give it a try!



AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY'S

The Fragrant Rose

FREE E-NEWSLETTER

The Fragrant Rose is an e-newsletter for folks interested in roses chock-full of rose growing tips and information. Delivered free to your inbox! Get a glimpse of some of the great rose-growing information from the American Rose Society.



Head to the American Rose Society's website to sign up!

New Horizon Roses 2024

REVIEW OF AMERICA'S NEWEST EXHIBITION ROSES

By: Suzanne M. Horn

National Editor

Now in its 42nd year, the 2024 edition contains 1,601 reports by 110 reporters from 28 different states.

The reports comment on the exhibition potential of 379 roses introduced in the last five years including hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, polyanthas, minifloras, miniatures, shrubs, and climbers.

Supplementing the comments are color photographs of 320 roses. The reports are presented alphabetically and include information on known sources for the reviewed varieties. This edition also contains a new section on "Sneak Peeks" of new roses from some of our top hybridizers.

- A DOWNLOADABLE PDF IS AVAILABLE ON THE ARS WEBSITE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

[PDF FILE](#)

- A LARGE GLOSSY PAPERBACK BOOK EDITION IS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON FOR \$31.37 (22% OFF) BY TYPING "NEW HORIZON ROSES 2024" INTO THE SEARCH BAR OR CLICKING ON THIS LINK:

[PAPERBACK EDITION](#)

- A KINDLE EDITION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON AMAZON FOR \$9.99 BY TYPING "NEW HORIZON ROSES 2024" INTO THE SEARCH BAR AND THEN CLICKING ON THE KINDLE OPTION.

Anne Belovich

Rambler Collection



Status of the Save The Ramblers Initiative

BY CLAUDE GRAVES

*ARC Committee Chair
Reposted from the ARS Website*

THE FUTURE IS LOOKING BRIGHT for the Collection of Anne Belovich's Ramblers growing at the American Rose Society's headquarters in Shreveport, Louisiana. Three hundred different varieties are growing well in the two specialized rambler nurseries and the first 100+ varieties of a three-year renewal rotation have been rooted and potted to provide replacements for varieties that have grown too large to be maintained in the limited nursery area.

In recent years however, heritage rose enthusiasts in the U.S. have been rediscovering the value of these majestic roses and the spectacular beauty of their late spring or early summer bloom. Not every garden has the space for a rambler, but those that do, would be hard pressed to find a more spectacular specimen plant, and there are varieties available that do not grow to huge, unmanageable sizes.



The ARS collection of Anne Belovich's ramblers at the ARC was duplicated from the collection at Chambersville Tree Farms in McKinney, Texas and donated to the ARS by Dean and Carol Oswald prior to their closing their nursery and gardens in 2021. Over the 10 years at Chambersville about 40 varieties of the original 350 variety collection were lost, some from Rose Rosette Virus, but most were lost due to the 100-year freeze in February, 2020 which devastated the container grown portion of the inventory.

The good news is that Teddie Mower (Anne Belovich's daughter in law) is conducting a heroic restoration effort in Anne's original garden in Washington state. Teddie has been able to supply me with cuttings of 17 of the lost varieties to fill in the ARS collection. Teddie is continuing the process of locating and confirming the identities of the ramblers still growing in Anne's gardens and is confident that she will also be able to supply cuttings of most the remaining missing ramblers over the next few years.

Additional good news is that Teddie recently sent me a listing of all the very rare ramblers Anne received in her last group of roses imported from Europa-Rosarium in Sangerhausen, Germany. This was possibly the last major importation of roses by an individual into the U.S. because of the extremely stringent new regulations of the U.S. government. Upon their arrival in the U.S., they were sent to her home in Washington and placed in the standard two-year quarantine. This was during the time when Anne was gravely ill and unable to take care of them. When the roses came out of quarantine her son Rick Mower delivered them to me at Chambersville.

When I compared the list of roses that went into quarantine against my list of roses Rick delivered, I discovered there were 15 roses delivered to Anne that I never received. When I questioned Teddie about this she was delighted, it seems that in her identification efforts, she had discovered many ramblers in the old quarantine area that she could not identify. These may be the roses I never received that she had assumed were sent to me! We may have discovered some very rare roses that we thought were lost.



General Testard
PC: American Rose Society

The ARS recognizes the significance of these historic roses and true to its mission of rose education, rose preservation and promotion of roses for America's gardens, the ARS is founding an initiative to re-introduce ramblers into American gardens. The ARS is creating, the "Save the Ramblers Initiative" which will combine the assets of the ARS accreditation as the world's largest floral society, the extensive Rambler Collection and the American Rose Center's extensive media and publication capabilities with the efforts of participating own-root nurseries, heritage rose organizations, public gardens and historic garden and historic plant preservation societies to reintroduce ramblers to American gardeners and back into America's gardens.

The "Save the Ramblers Initiative" to re-establish Ramblers back into frequent usage in Americas gardens will be a multi-faceted endeavor, requiring the participation of heritage rose enthusiasts and own-root nurseries working together in coordination with a comprehensive promotional and marketing plan. The strategy is simple, re-educate gardeners (amateur and professional) on the many positive attributes of ramblers as magnificent specimen plants. Plants which can add dramatic impact, a vertical element, and breathtaking seasonal color to a landscape. But, also to educate them on the fact that these roses are typically very disease tolerant, and most require no spaying, and to top it all off, are beautiful foliage plants even when not in bloom. The 12' towers at Chambersville were strikingly beautiful throughout the summer and fall with the long trailing canes hanging down, swaying in the gentle breeze. Ramblers are truly just beautiful, healthy large trailing plants that can be used in all manner of ways and then annually in late spring or early summer surprise you with an outrageous burst of colorful bloom.

The "Save the Ramblers Initiative" has been approved by the ARS Board of Directors, its form is being finalized at this writing. The final details are being negotiated with Heirloom Roses of St. Paul, Oregon regarding becoming the major partner with the ARS in the "Save the Ramblers Initiative." Once the agreement is in place for a major partner, the "Save the Rambler Initiative" will be announced to the public and we will be seeking to establish additional partnerships with other own root nurseries wanting to participate in the project to re-introduce these amazing, rare roses. No one nursery can possibly introduce hundreds of new varieties of roses into their catalogs, so, many nurseries will be needed to introduce back into commerce a significant number of the many beautiful varieties of ramblers.



PC: American Rose Society

Although not completely finalized at this point, here are the general concepts of the proposed "Save the Rambler Initiative," they are subject to changes and modifications:

- The ARS will maintain a collection of 300 plus varieties of ramblers from the Anne Belovich Collection at the American Rose Center:

- The American Rose Society, a 501c3 non-profit educational organization, will create a restricted account to assure all income from the "Save the Ramblers Initiative" will be restricted and applied only to maintaining the rambler nurseries, promoting and advertising the initiative and administering the "Save the Ramblers Initiative."

Ramblers: Sustainable Plants

The buzz word in the rose world is "Sustainable." It is a catch word for easy care or minimal maintenance, especially regarding disease tolerant and "no spray" roses. The ramblers in general would be near the top of any list in this regard.

Ramblers are species roses (hybridized by God) that have grown happily for thousands of years, with absolutely no assistance from mankind, crossed with a modern rose. Happily, the strong genetics of the species rose mostly offsets the questionable genetics of the modern rose. In my 10 years of growing ramblers, I have found them to be very tolerant, if not resistant, to most common fungal roses diseases. The exception being some hybrid multiflora ramblers that are susceptible to powdery mildew. In Texas and Louisiana, we have minimal problems with powdery mildew, I have only needed to spray selected ramblers 1 time over ten years at Chambersville during a very unusual spring weather pattern. However, it can be a significant problem in some areas of the country. If powdery mildew is prevalent in your area, I suggest you grow the wichuraiana or other species varieties.

Ramblers are also very adaptable to almost any soil conditions. At Chambersville, in our heavy clay, 7.8 pH soil we planted them in small, improved soil beds to be able to water them to get them started. After a year the irrigation could be turned off and the roots would be well into the native soil. We never fertilized the ramblers, and they grew vigorously into beautiful, heavy-blooming plants.

The only maintenance required is pruning and training, and the secret here is to prune hard and concentrate on taking out major canes low or at the ground with one cut where possible, instead of "nibbling" around cutting multiple small canes higher in the plant. And the real secret is to prune in the winter, when you can see what you are doing on the defoliated plant. Don't worry about "cutting off next year's bloom", you will still have abundant bloom in the spring (and on a much tidier plant!)



PC: American Rose Society

- The ARS will make cuttings of the ramblers in the Anne Belovich Rambler Collection available to own-root rose nurseries for them to propagate mother plants for roses to be sold in their catalog. The cuttings will be free, the only cost will be for packing and shipping the cuttings. Quantities of cuttings will be determined by availability.
- Initially each nursery will receive different varieties ramblers to introduce as many varieties of ramblers as possible into the market. The selection of varieties will be on a first come, first served basis (don't be concerned, there are 300 + varieties to choose from). Many of the best you have probably never heard of.
- Participating nurseries will add a donation of \$5.00 to the "Save The Ramblers Initiative" to the retail price of each rambler sold.
- The nurseries' collected donations for the "Save The Ramblers Initiative" will be accumulated to be sent to the ARS on an annual schedule.

- The ARS will create promotional materials and media for the participating nurseries and the public to promote the virtues of ramblers.
- Promotional materials (digital and printed) will be furnished by ARS to all participating own-root nurseries for the nurseries to use in their advertising and catalogs.
- Promotional materials will stress the fact that the added cost of the "Rare Ramblers" is due to their rare status and extremely limited availability, and that a donation will be made by the selling nursery to the "Save the Rambler Initiative" for the conservation and preservation of the ramblers and possibly to keep them from extinction.
- A "Register Your Rare Rose" plant tag with a QR code, furnished by the ARS, will be attached to each rambler shipped. Voluntary responses to the QR code will generate a database at the ARC recording the location of that specific variety in the event it might ever be needed in the future to preserve that variety.
- An important part of the "Save the Ramblers Initiative" will be to encourage public gardens to grow and display ramblers in their gardens so they can be seen by the public as part of the educational aspect of the Initiative.



PC: American Rose Society

To entice public gardens to grow ramblers, ARS will offer public gardens free large ramblers for display in their gardens (the gardens would be responsible for shipping costs).

- Public gardens typically do not grow ramblers as there is no source for securing very large, mature plants which are preferred for new garden plantings. ARS is in a unique position to supply large ramblers as a by-product of the plants in the collection in the ARC nurseries growing too large to maintain, so they eventually will need to be removed and replaced with a new, smaller plant of the same variety. The removed large ramblers can provide a source of mature plants for instant gratification for public gardens.

ARS will hold a reception at the American Rose Center on April 26, 2024, during the ARS International Rose Trial. Celebrity Judging. Personnel of own root nurseries, public gardens and individuals wanting to participate in the "Save The Ramblers Initiative" are invited to attend. The evening's program will be to introduce the "Save The Ramblers Initiative" and the plan to donate mature large ramblers to public gardens. Large ramblers from our first annual rotation of one-third of the collection will be available at that event. Ramblers will be available for free to public gardens and for a donation to the Save The Ramblers Fund to individual collectors. For more information on attending the April 26th reception scan the code on the last page of this article.

PC: American Rose Society

Own-root nurseries, large or small, interested in participating in the "Save the Ramblers Initiative", and wanting more information can contact me. I will send out invitations to participate in the "Save the Ramblers Initiative" as soon as it is finalized and released for implementation.

We anticipate a large segment of the Old Garden Rose community, individually and corporately, will get behind the "Save the Rambler Initiative" and support the effort to preserve these wonderful giant roses and restore them in many American gardens. We have designed the "Save the Ramblers Initiative" to conform to the widely recognized minimal 3-3-30 criteria necessary to save an endangered plant:

- Grown in three nurseries;
- Displayed in three public gardens;
- Grown in 30 private gardens.



“Rare Ramblers”

Frequently in this, and previous articles, I have referred to the ramblers in the Anne Belovich Collection as “rare roses.” My criterion for using this term is based on the availability of that rambler variety in worldwide commerce. Fortunately, we have a well-accepted reference source for this information, the Combined Rose List, an annual publication created by Beverly R. Dobson and compiled and edited by Peter Schneider (www.combinedroselist.com). This annual publication is an extremely useful, international listing, of the availability of rose varieties from retail, wholesale, and specialty nurseries worldwide.

In my listing of the Ramblers in the ARC Collection of Anne Belovich’s Ramblers accompanying this article I have included a column “Availability” which is the information as listed in the 2022 Issue of the Combined Rose List. The key to my listing of availability is:

- U.S.A.: available in commerce in four or more nurseries.
- U.S.A. Limited: available in three or less nurseries, maybe custom rooted or nurseries that do not ship.
- Europe* : available in commerce in four or more nurseries
- Europe* Limited: available in three or less nurseries, maybe custom root only.
- Not in commerce: Variety name not listed or listed with no sources shown.

* Importing roses into the U.S. is now extremely difficult per current USDA regulations The total number of varieties in each category and percentage of the collection of 299 Ramblers at the ARC is shown in the table below.

Availability Category	# of Varieties	% of Collection
U.S.A.	37	12.4%
U.S.A. Limited	85	28.4%
Europe	35	11.7%
Europe Limited	54	18.1%
Not in Commerce	88	29.4%



PC: American Rose Society

Note From the Editor:

The New England Rose Society is thrilled to announce that Teddie Mower will be the keynote speaker for their 85th annual Founders Day on October 18, 2025. Lauren Gisel, NERS President, goes into how NERS got involved in her article, listed in the Local Society Spotlight section. If you are interested in participating in this initiative, please email:

newenglandrosesociety@gmail.com

for more information.

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SUNDAY - BARNSTABLE

- PROPAGATION PARTY & YANKEE DISTRICT MEETING IN THE EHRENREICH'S GARDEN

*** MORE INFO TO FOLLOW**





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Monthly Webinar Program

The American Rose Society offers numerous educational opportunities including monthly webinars on a variety of topics. Pat Shanley, Chair of the Webinar Committee, has put together an exciting line up with speakers from around the world. These webinars are provided free of charge for all American Rose Society members. There is a \$5 fee for all others interested in attending a webinar. Questions about registering for webinars should be directed to Tanya Cole at Tanya@rose.org or 318-938-5402, ext.108.

- **March 22, 2025 · 11:00am – 2:00pm: “Special Roses!”**

- Speaker: Christian Bedard, Research & Licensing Director, Weeks Roses
- “Special Roses!” Join us for a webinar presentation by Christian Bedard, Research and Licensing Director for Week Roses. This program will feature the wonderful varieties that are come from Weeks Roses and what you can look forward to for your garden!
- *CR CREDIT APPROVED*

- **April 26, 2025 · 11:00am – 2:00pm: April 26, 2025 – “Celebrating American Garden Rose Selections™ (AGRS™) Award-Winning Roses!”**

- Speaker: Chris VanCleave, The Redneck Rosarian, RoseChat Podcast, Marketing & Publicity Director American Garden Rose Selections™ (AGRS™)
- Join us for an engaging webinar dedicated to exploring the fabulous roses recognized by the American Garden Rose Selections™ (AGRS™). This event promises to be a delightful journey into the world of extraordinary blooms that have earned prestigious honors for their beauty and resilience. The webinar will feature expert speaker, Chris VanCleave who will share insights on the remarkable varieties recognized by AGRS™, discussing the criteria for selection and the unique qualities that make these roses stand out in gardens across the country. Whether you’re a seasoned rose enthusiast or a newcomer eager to learn, this session will provide valuable information for all gardening levels. Attendees will gain practical tips on how to incorporate these stunning varieties into their own gardens, ensuring a vibrant and rewarding gardening experience.
- *CR CREDIT APPROVED*

CHECK OUT THE ARS WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL WEBINAR DATES



Bringing the Ramblers Home

NERS Joins the "Save the Ramblers" Project

BY LAUREN GISEL

NERS President



Anne Belovich, a revered rosarian, cultivated the largest private collection of rambling roses in North America. Her passion for these vigorous climbers led to a garden that became a living testament to her dedication. Over the years, she not only amassed an extraordinary collection but also took on the mission of repatriating American-bred roses that had become rare or lost in the United States. She meticulously tracked down these forgotten roses and outlined a conservation strategy in her blog—the “3, 3, 30” plan—placing three plants in commercial nurseries, three in public gardens, and thirty in private gardens to ensure their survival.

To continue her legacy, the "Save the Ramblers" project was launched, safeguarding and propagating her extensive collection. Today, over 300 rambler varieties are growing at the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, with cuttings being distributed to nurseries and rosarians across the country.

Regan and I first learned about "Save the Ramblers" at the ARS National Convention, where then-President Diane Sommers highlighted its importance. Sitting in the audience, we realized this was the perfect project to feature for NERS's 85th Annual Founders' Day. Though we had heard of ramblers—particularly the Walsh Ramblers in Woods Hole, MA—we had never fully appreciated their disappearance from the rose market. Inspired, we set out to learn more.

Our research led us to Teddie Mower, Anne's daughter-in-law and the driving force behind the preservation effort. After reaching out to her, we connected via video call, where she warmly welcomed our interest. Not only did Teddie agree to speak at our Founders' Day event, but she also offered something extraordinary—cuttings from Anne's collection, free of charge, to help introduce these lost roses to the East Coast.



Diane Sommers & ARS Gold Medal recipient, Claude Graves at the 2024 National Convention. Claude, along with Teddie Mower, is leading the "Save the Rambler Initiative" and is responsible for getting 100s of ramblers into the ARS's rose garden, as well as many other public and private gardens.

PC: Chu Jung

This spring, NERS will receive our first shipment of cuttings from the Anne Belovich gardens, and we need your help! We are looking for rosarians to root these cuttings and establish them in public and private gardens throughout New England. Regan and I will bring the cuttings to the NERS monthly meeting on May 31 in Cranston, RI, where we invite members to assist in getting them started. If there are particular varieties you'd like to grow, please let us know so we can include them in our request by May 1, 2025.

Since announcing our involvement in this project, we've seen an outpouring of enthusiasm from the NERS community. Many of you have expressed excitement about participating, and we are thrilled to see such strong interest in preserving these historic roses. In addition to distributing and rooting the cuttings, we will be tracking their performance to learn which varieties root well, flourish in New England gardens, or struggle in our climate. We ask participating rosarians to report back on their roses' progress so we can maintain a database in the NERS records, helping guide future conservation efforts.

Anne's legacy is one of passion and preservation, and thanks to Teddie and the "Save the Ramblers" project, these historic roses have a chance to flourish once more. We are excited for NERS to be part of this important mission, ensuring that these beautiful, once-forgotten roses find new homes in New England gardens.

Join us in this effort—let's bring the ramblers home!



First page of the 15-page list Teddie Mower has of Anne's roses. First step of the NERS initiative will be combing the list, researching which roses - prioritizing the rarest ones - will do well in New England. From this list, we will put together our order for cuttings.



LOCAL EVENTS

CONNECTICUT ROSE SOCIETY

March 1: Everything You
Need to Know About
COMPOST!
The Congregational Church
Plainville, CT

NEW ENGLAND ROSE SOCIETY

March 15: Irrigation Conversation
Lead By: Lauren Gisel
Norwood Library
Norwood, MA

April 26: NERS Community Service
Lead By: Mary MacDonald
Rest-Stop-Ranch
Topsfield, MA

May 31: From Garden to Head Table
Lead By: Various Judges
Jacqui Nye's Garden
Cranston, RI

June 21: NERS Rose Show
"A Midsummer Night's Dream"
The Botanical Gardens at
Tower Hill
Boylston, MA

July 19: NERS BBQ
Maria Connell's Garden
Salem, MA

August 2: Soil Health &
Understanding Your Soil Test
Lead By: Sam Glaze-Corcoran,
from UMASS Amherst
Mass Horticultural Soc. at Elm Bank

September 20: Garden Party
Valentina Nardini's Garden
Stow, MA

RHODE ISLAND ROSE SOCIETY

March 8: "Gardening is Murder"
Lead By: Neal Sanders
Shepherd of the Valley Church
Hope, RI

April 12: Rose Pruning
Lead By: Lynn Harrington
Shepherd of the Valley Church
Hope, RI

May 10: Rose Show Prep
Lead By: Patsy Cunningham &
Laurel Curtis
Shepherd of the Valley Church
Hope, RI

June 7: RIRS Rose Show
"That's What Friends Are For"
Shepherd of the Valley Church
Hope, RI



Yankee District Rose Society

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Audrey Osborn

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Maria Connell

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