

Heritage Rose Hints

1. Shrubs, Climbers, Hybrid Musks, Polyanthas, and Old Garden Roses are fun. Grow Them.
2. Heritage roses are heavy bloomers and many are capable of producing several hundred blooms per bush. Feed them and feed them heavily and twice as much as the average hybrid tea as a minimum guideline.
3. **Feed once blooming roses throughout the year. Do not starve them.**
4. Some roses (most of the rugosas and “Austrian Copper”) cannot be sprayed as their immediate response is to completely defoliate. Others are very sensitive to certain spray materials. If you spray, test a small section of a plant first.
5. Many Heritage roses do not have a rigid upright bush shape that bedding subjects such as Hybrid Teas possess. Many varieties that have similar blooms may have different bush shapes. Find out as much about the shape of the bush before planting. Portlands can be planted in Hybrid Tea beds as can some of the Moss roses and several of the Bourbons.
6. Think about using once blooming roses or fence/boundary subjects instead of evergreens or other once blooming shrubs. Gallicas, Albas, and damasks serve very well under such duty. Use Gallicas when excessive height may be an issue. Use Albas when some screening may be desirable.
7. Many repeat blooming lax Heritage roses can be pegged to provide, more blooms with better continuity throughout the season. Louise Odier, Baronne Prevost, Mme. Isaac Pereire are but a few.
8. Many of the upright Heritage repeaters will have sparse bloom if not pruned after their first bloom. English Roses such as Gertrude Jekyll that are first generation crosses of Portlands exhibit. With Portlands and repeat blooming mosses especially remember, “**Don’t hesitate, decapitate!!**”
9. Many groundcover roses are coming into commerce in the US from Europe. Many of them are flashier than Flower Carpet and highly disease resistant. Use them as replacements for edging standbys.
10. **Capture the third dimension!!** Many of the Explorers, Kordesii, Bourbons, Hybrid Perpetuals, Romanticas and English Roses make excellent climbers. Consider older Barbier climbers such as Paul Noel, Paul Transon, Gardenia, as subjects ,perhaps paired with clematis, for very tall displays