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FOR THE GARDENER

ROSE (Rosaceae)

The Rose in one form or another is to be found in almost every country in the world. Historically it is mentioned as far back as 600 BC. Homer and Sappho write of this plant, the latter alluding to the plant as the Queen of Flowers. It is also recorded that during the time of Roman Emperor Domitian it was a practice to force roses into flower during the winter months.

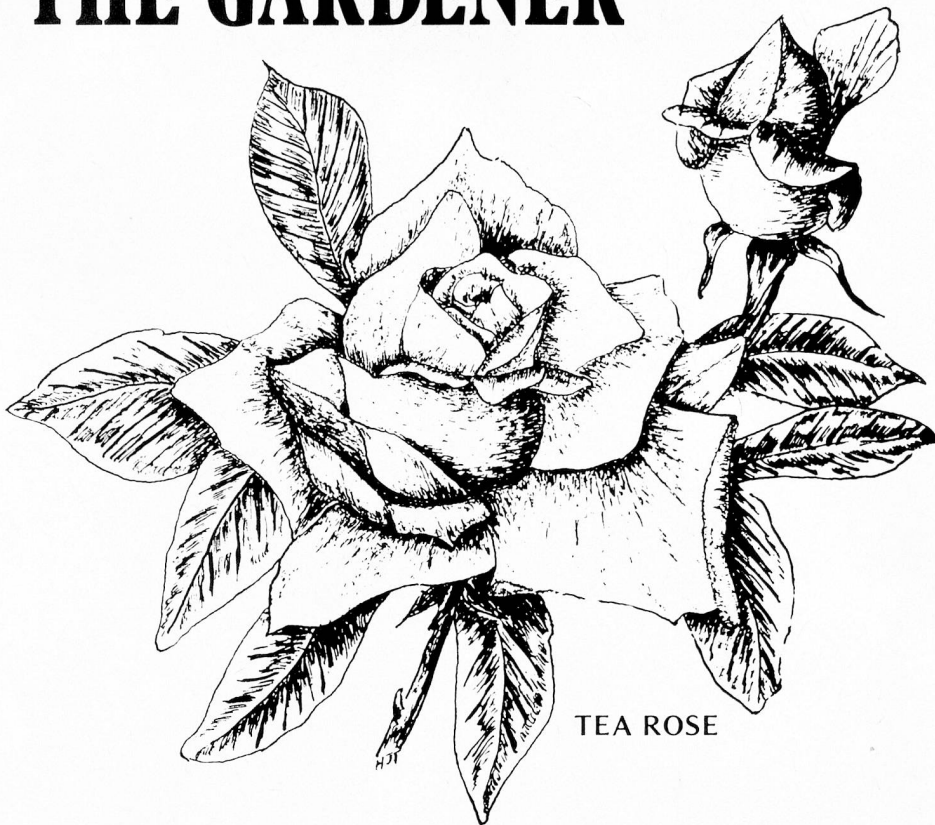
The Cabbage or Provence Rose and Austrian Briar Roses were first recorded in Britain in 1560. These species still survive and are very attractive comprising in the former reds, yellows and striped and in the latter copper and yellow single blooms.

There are so many species of rose that it would be quite impossible to deal with them all in this short article. So concentration will be on the popular Hybrid Tea.

When buying young bushes care should be taken to inspect carefully to ensure that the stock is healthy and undamaged. This particular species does not necessarily need a particularly heavy soil to be successful, a good loamy firm soil, well drained. These roses are grafted on to a selected stock and depth of planting should be to the point where the graft joins the stock. Thus a suitable hole should be dug, large enough to allow the roots to be spread out to their full extent. The sub-soil should be well broken up to improve the drainage. Manure or compost can be worked into this sub-soil, cover the roots with the soil previously removed and well tread it to get good anchorage.

The plant, if obtained from a nursery, will have been cut back to about a foot or eight buds, but when planted the branches should be further shortened to about three buds from the ground, this may seem rather drastic but it does the bush a great deal of good. Planting should be carried out in November.

When the plants are established, quite hard pruning is necessary each year, otherwise they will become very "leggy".



TEA ROSE

The writer always cuts back the bushes to about knee height in October, this prevents excessive wind rock during the winter months and the possibility of neck rot which can be caused by the plant swaying and causing a hollow to be formed where the plant enters the ground and the consequent collection of water. This winter cutting is followed by careful pruning to an outside bud on each branch in April, at the same time thinning out the centres to allow light and air to get right into the middle of the bush, the endeavour being to obtain a roughly cup-shaped bush. This treatment seems to keep the bushes good and healthy.

The plants also need to be mulched during the summer, compost or peat are good for this, the idea being to retain moisture in the upper inches of the soil as there are many surface or near surface roots.

Hybrid Tea Roses will normally

bloom twice in a year and in exceptionally good conditions a third blooming will occur. As a flower dies the twig or branch should be cut back to a lower bud, usually found in the axel of a leaf and the stem, this is called "topping". On no account should dead roses be left on the bush and it does not do any good to just pull the flower off as the bush will be left with a lot of unsightly dead stalks.

Remember also that frost-damaged shoots should be pruned right back, if necessary to within an inch or two of the ground.

Close watch should be kept for the first signs of greenfly and necessary spraying should be carried out accordingly. Likewise "blackspot" and "mildew" must be tackled at first signs. There are many proprietary spray mixtures available to control both insect and fungoid diseases and care and control will be amply rewarded to a display of great beauty.

BELLINZONA. — *Il caldo e la siccità.* — In un incontro svoltosi il 30 giugno presso gli uffici del Dip° dell'economia pubblica e presieduto dall'on. Flavio Cotti, s'è preso atto dei primi risultati dell'azione sin qui svolta nel C. Ticino per attenuare i danni causati dall'eccezionale calore e siccità e che concerne l'impiego, in ordine d'urgenza, dei mezzi della protezione civile, e di quelli dei pompieri (compatibilmente con l'esigenze di spegnimento che sembrano crescere d'ora in ora) ed in ultima analisi dei mezzi a disposizione dell'arsenale cantonale. Il coordinatore dell'azione di promozione dell'*irrigazioni*, ing. Guglielmo Chiesa, ha riferito sulle richieste presentate dagli agricoltori; il sig. Tonino

LA VOCE DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA

Borsa, capo ufficio protezione civile, ed il sig. Italo Balzaretto, vicedirettore dell'arsenale cantonale, hanno a loro volta dato delucidazioni sulle modalità d'impiego dei loro mezzi. Alla seduta

hanno presenziato i rappresentanti del ceto agricolo sigg. Adelio Melera, presidente dell'UCT, Angelo Frigerio, segretario cantonale, nonché il sig. Mario Guscetti, direttore della Federazione ticinese produttori di latte. Per quanto riguardava l'aspetto finanziario, lo Stato oltre che fornire gratuitamente il materiale necessario, ha assunto integralmente le spese pel carburante ed il personale che renderà funzionanti le diverse pompe d'aspirazione. — Il 2 luglio, 2 brevi ma *violenti temporali* hanno portato un poco di frescura e una preziosa innaffiatura a orti, campi e giardini nel locarnese. I 2 temporali tuttavia non hanno determinato alcun miglioramento nella grande situazione di magra dei corsi