

# Hardy Canadian Roses



MASTER  
GARDENER



Prince Edward County

Advice Sheet

## Explorer Series

The Winter of 2003 was particularly hard on roses in Prince Edward County, but those gardeners who grew hardy Canadian roses did not need to worry about the survival of these tough, but beautiful plants. They were bred to bounce back from the coldest winters and then to bloom all summer. For example, The Explorer Series roses are exceptional for their hardiness in Canada. They require minimal care, most seldom need spraying. They are hardy down to -35 C with snow cover; they are disease

resistant, flower repeatedly throughout the summer, most requiring only minimal pruning, and they come in a variety of colours and sizes.

These Explorer roses were specially developed to survive the Canadian winters by Agriculture and AgriFood (AAFC). They were originally developed at the Ottawa research station about 25 years ago by Dr. Felicitas Svejda who named the first 13 cultivars after Canadian explorers. The government has since dropped this program but that has not been the end of these extraordinary roses. Nurseries will continue to carry those already in

the marketplace as long as they remain popular with the rose buying public. \*1. Some of the Explorer stock has been saved and incorporated into a new breeding program underway as a joint venture with the private sector. This new series, which will be named for Canadian artists, is focusing more on roses with flowers in the white, yellow and orange colour ranges. Canadian rose enthusiasts are waiting impatiently for these new hardy roses to be available.

• \*Some information taken from the Internet, Laura Robin, Ottawa Citizen, February 25, 1996

## Parkland Series

Another very hardy series of Canadian roses was developed in Morden Manitoba also at a Agricultural and AgriFood Canada Research Station. The Parkland Series are beautiful

roses capable of surviving winter temperatures as low as -35 C with a minimum of snow cover, and then blooming all summer. Like the Explorer roses they also are perfect for northern gardeners and

are popular not only in Canada, but in the northern US and Scandinavia as well. Neither of these rose series need any winter protection.

over →

## Hardy Canadian Roses

### Some Favourite Explorer Roses

Name	Height	Colour	Type	Comment
Alexander Mackenzie	3 1/2	med. red	shrub	profuse bloomer
Champlain	2 1/2	dark red	shrub	profuse bloomer
Charles Albanel	1 1/2	med. red	rugosa	orange/red hips in fall
David Thompson	3 ft.	med. red	rugosa	profuse bloomer
Frontenac	3 ft.	deep pink	shrub	profuse bloomer
George Vancouver	2 1/2 ft.	med. red	shrub	highly disease resistant
Henry Hudson	2 ft.	white	rugosa	very fragrant
Henry Kelsey	8 ft.	med. red	climber	fragrant/profuse bloom
J.P. Connell	5 ft.	light yellow	shub	fragrant, thornless
Jens Munk	3 ft.	med. pink	rugosa	very fragrant
John Cabot	8 ft.	med. red	climber	waves of fragrant flowers
John Davis	8 ft.	light pink	climber	long blooming
John Franklin	3 1/2 ft.	med. red	shrub	large clusters/ profuse
Lois Jolliet	2 ft.	med. pink	shrub	blooms continuously
Quadra	8 ft.	dark red	climber	large blooms in clusters
Simon Fraser	2 ft.	med. pink	shrub	long blooming
William Baffin	10 ft.	deep pink	climber	profuse bloomer
Lambert Closse	3 ft.	med. pink	shrub	hybrid tea type blooms
Roberta Bondar	6 ft.	med. yellow	climber	reliable repeat blooms

### Some Favourite Parkland Series Roses

Name	Height	Colour	Type	Comment
Adelaide Hoodless	3 1/2 ft.	med. red	shrub	profuse bloomer
Morden Amorette	1 2 ft.	deep pink	shrub	profuse bloomer
Morden Blush	2 3 ft.	light pink	shrub	blooms continuously
Morden Centennial	4 5 ft.	med. pink	shrub	profuse bloomer
Morden Fireglow	2 1/2 ft.	med. red	shrub	blooms continuously
Morden Ruby	3 1/2 ft.	red blend	shrub	masses of large, long-lasting blooms
Morden Sunrise	3 ft	yellow w/pink blush	shrub	ruffled blooms
Prairie Joy	3 ft.	med. pink	shrub	lush, very full blooms
Winnipeg Parks	3 ft.	med. red	shrub	profuse bloomer

*submitted by Sandra Dowdes*

### Where Hardy Canadian Roses can be purchased

Look for these hardy Canadian roses at local nurseries, or, to be sure of a much wider selection, order them bare root from rose specialists such as Rambling Rose in Bloomfield, ON, contact Tim Bucknell at **613-393-1828**.

or, Pickering Nurseries ([www.pickeringnurseries.com](http://www.pickeringnurseries.com)) or Hortico Nurseries ([www.hortico.com](http://www.hortico.com)).

*For more gardening advice contact us at: [pecmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:pecmastergardeners@gmail.com)*

Or visit our web page at: <http://pecmastergardeners.com>