

# First step in Rose Growing – Selection of Varieties

M.S. Viraraghavan

Souvenirs of the HYDERABAD ROSE SOCIETY

Hyderabad is endowed with an excellent climate for growing roses. With proper care beautiful blooms can be had both In the rainy season as also in winter. i.e from about June till the end of February. Even through our winter roses cannot attain the perfection which is possible in North India, the longer season gives us a distinct advantage, which should be emphasized to all those who are thinking of growing roses for the first time. In this. article an attempt is made to list out some of the varieties which are suitable for growing in Hyderabad conditions so that the beginner is not put off by a wrong selection and the inevitable disappointment which follows.

The two most popular groups in modern roses are the HYBRID TEAS (large flowered, shapely and producing flowers one to stem) and FLORIBUNDAS (producing flowers in clusters, which make up their masses of colour for lack of form). There are many other types of roses but I deal with only those two classes in the selection given below which are grouped colour wise make choice easier.

VARIETY	CLASS	REMARKS
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## RED

1. Papa Meilland	Hybrid Tea	Very shapely. exceedingly fragrant, flowers of lovely dark crimson.
2. Mr. Lincoln	Hybrid Tea	Large fragrant flowers of crimson scarlet on a very vigorous plant. Very tall and bushy.
3. Christian Dior	Hybrid Tea	Light crimson, perfect exhibition form but no fragrance.
4. Alec's Red	Hybrid Tea	Cherry red flowers borne freely on a vigorous healthy bush

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### RED

5. Europeana	Floribunda	Huge trusses of dark crimson scarlet, set off by reddish foliage.
6. Rob Roy	Floribunda	Small clusters of perfect H.T. form in a clear shade of crimson.

### PINK

1. Confidence	Hybrid Tea	Lovely shell pink shaded yellow. Flowers freely on a vigorous bush. Very fragrant.
2. Chicago Peace	Hybrid Tea	Enormous flowers of rose pink and yellow. Queen of the show at the first Hyderabad Rose show 1977.
3. Fontainebleau	Hybrid Tea	One of the largest and most vigorous of roses, in a rich shade of magenta pink.
4. Maria Callas	Hybrid Tea	Huge dark pink flowers on a vigorous bush.
5. Traumland	Floribunda	Large clusters of single salmon pink flowers, Enchanting.
6. Pink Parfait	Floribunda	Small clusters, H.T. form in a shade of pink suffused.

### ORANGE

1. Montezuma	Hybrid Tea	A very vigorous and healthy plant with large well formed flowers of vermillion.
2. Summer Holiday	Hybrid Tea	Lovely clear vermillion.
3. Vicky	Hybrid Tea	One of the newer varieties in an attractive shade of dark orange red. Exhibition form.

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## ORANGE

4. Independence	Hybrid Tea	Intense vermillion. The first in this colour range but still is one of the brightest. Does very well in Hyderabad.
5. Zorina	Floribunda	One of the most beautiful. Lovely coral orange flowers are borne in large sprays on a healthy plant.
6. Annabelle	Floribunda	Small clusters of H.T. shaped blooms vermillion with a hint of yellow. Very vigorous.

## YELLOW

1. King's Ransom	Hybrid Tea	The best yellow for Hyderabad. Well shaped, vigorous and good colour stability.
2. Summer Sunshine	Hybrid Tea	Exquisite flowers of dark chrome yellow. Borne on a very vigorous plant. Breathtakingly beautiful at the bud stage.
3. Raja Ram Mohan Roy	Hybrid Tea	Lovely large flowers of golden apricot are borne freely on a very vigorous bush with distinctive plum coloured stems and dark foliage. A most decorative rose, raised by India's pioneer, hybridizer Bhattcharji.
4. Illumination	Floribunda	Large sprays of bright yellow, edged pink, single flowers. Most attractive.
5. Gold Topaz	Floribunda	Small clusters of lovely copper and gold lightly edged pink H.T. form.

VARIETY	CLASS	REMARKS
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### **WHITE and CREAM**

1. White Christmas	Hybrid Tea	Very well shaped flowers of great perfection borne on a vigorous bush. Many outstanding blooms of this variety were seen at the First Hyderabad Winter Rose Show.
2. White Master Piece	Hybrid Tea	The Largest white set-off by very healthy foliage on a vigorous plant.
3. Diamond Jubilee	Hybrid Tea	Perfect H.T. Form, straw Yellow to cream.
4. Iceberg	Floribunda	Well shaped flowers of white slightly edged pink, are borne in small clusters, still the best of the white Floribundas.
5. Grace Abounding	Floribunda	White shading to cream the flowers are well shaped and borne in small trusses on a vigorous plant.

### **MAUVE**

1. Lady X	Hybrid Tea	One of the most beautiful shaped of all roses in a shade of silvery lilac. Vigorous.
2. Godfrey Winn	Hybrid Tea	Rounded flowers of dark lilac mauve, borne freely.
3. Angel Face	Floribunda	Lovely orchid mauve with pink edges. Flowers are borne in small clusters and are richly fragrant.

### **MULTI COLOURS**

1. Granada	Hybrid Tea	A lovely blend of red, yellow and pink. The flowers are moderately well shaped but borne with utmost freedom.
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VARIETY	CLASS	REMARKS
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### **MULTI COLOURS**

2. American Heritage	Hybrid Tea	Perfect H.T. form the flowers are cream edged pink. Particularly attractive at the bud stage.
3. Inge Horstmann	Hybrid Tea	Very shapely flowers of cherry red with white reverse. Exceedingly fragrant.
4. Suspense	Hybrid Tea	Huge flowers of clear ruby red with creamy yellow reverse. Very successful in Hyderabad. Won the KING OF THE SHOW AWARD 1977 AT WINTER ROSE SHOW.
5. Banjaran	Floribunda	A Charming blend of yellow orange and red Flowers are of H.T. form. Shining attractive foliage. Raised in India by Dr BP Pal.
6. Charleston	Floribunda	The flowers are borne in small clusters. yellow shaded red, and change dramatically to pink and red. The best of the colour changers.
7. Belinda	Floribunda	A very lovely shade of golden vermillion with centers of pure gold. One of the brightest and most eye catching of roses.

Those who are trying out roses for the first time are fascinated by some of the unusual colours which are available, One of the questions asked most often is who-the there is a black rose. To be precise, black is not a colour, but the absence of colour, it is therefore, not possible to have a black rose. But there are a number of roses of a dark red which may look black, particularly when the weather is sufficiently cool. Among these the darkest is NIGRETTE, with medium sized flowers of dark maroon, larger than NIGRETTE pro MIRANDY, with exceedingly well shaped flowers of crimson shaded purple, and the more recent OKLAHOMA and CRIMEAN NIGHT

Another popular question is whether there is a blue rose. Here must confess that the rose breeders have been leading us astray and describing lilac and mauve roses as blue. As yet there is no true blue roses and all that we have are those described in the MAUVE section of the list of varieties given earlier.

There is also considerable interest about fragrance in roses. But it should be clarified that the general Impression that modern roses are not fragrant is not correct. On the other hand, owing to the wide genetic variation in the garden roses of today, there is a tremendous diversity of fragrance available ranging from the damask fragrance of the red roses the intense fruity perfumes of some vermillion and yellow roses, and the distinct spicy fragrance of varieties like Lemon Spice, or the lemon fragrance of mauve roses. My personal choice of fragrant roses would be FRAGRANT CLOUD (H.T Mauve). TIFFANY (H.T. Pink suffused yellow) apart from CONFIDENCE (Pink), Mr. Lincoln and PAPA MEILLAND (dark red) ANGEL FACE (Mauve) and INGE HORSTMAN (red reverse white), which are already described in the list given above.