

FOUR ROSES EARN EARTH-KIND® HONORS

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Gardeners are celebrating the addition of four more roses to the growing collection of low-maintenance roses known as “Earth-Kind®”. The designation by Dr. Steve George and his colleagues at Texas AgriLife Extension (part of the Texas A&M system) comes after years of randomized, replicated scientific research studies followed by multi-year field trials at test sites throughout the South. While one would never consider trying to grow modern roses without applications of pesticides, fungicides or fertilizers and greatly reduce supplemental irrigation to the plants, these are exactly the criteria the roses were required to meet to even be considered for the Earth-Kind® study.

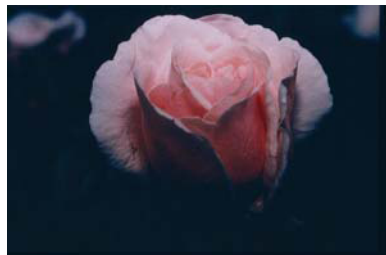
In addition to the above, test roses had to perform in the unlikeliest of soil conditions – unimproved heavy alkaline clay with a pH as high as 8.0. “That these roses thrive and are beautiful flowering landscape plants even when subjected to our grueling research conditions is a testament to their strong genetic make-up,” says Dr. George. “They embody traits that few other roses share – beauty, toughness and easy maintenance...and that has earned them the highest distinction a rose can achieve.”

Souvenir de St. Anne’s - This sport of the famed Bourbon rose, Souvenir de la Malmaison, was discovered at St.

Anne’s near Dublin.

It was bred in the United Kingdom by Thomas Hilling and released in the 1950’s. Souvenir de St. Anne’s produces

beautiful blush pink blooms that exude a heady spice fragrance on an upright bushy shrub with an average mature size of 5 to 7 feet high by 4 feet wide. This rose that has all of the wonderful attributes of its parent (manageable size, color, fragrance) without the susceptibility to disease seen in Souvenir de la Malmaison. Souvenir de St. Anne’s is an excellent choice for mass plantings and for use in borders. When planted near walkways and doorways one is constantly enveloped in its wonderful fragrance.



In my test gardens and in the field trial gardens in Addison (Texas) the fragrance of this rose can be detected up to 15 feet away from the plant. It is suited for gardens in Zones 5 to 9.

La Marne - La Marne is a Polyantha rose that was introduced in 1915 and is best known for its use in hedges. It is a very erect bushy plant with glossy leaves, few thorns and clusters of single pink cup-shaped flowers having a white eye. La Marne is a heavy bloomer and produces flowers throughout the growing season. The average



mature bush has a neat, well-groomed appearance of a medium shrub 4 to 6 feet high and 4 to 5 feet wide. I tested this rose as part of an Earth-Kind® field trial in Navasota (Texas) and it was the most floriferous of all the roses at my test site. It was not uncommon for flowering cycles to include hundreds of blooms and the plant to bloom continuously from February to the first freeze in the fall. La Marne is one of a few roses that will tolerate shaping with an electric hedge trimmer and is suitable for gardens in Zones 4 to 9.

Cecile Brunner - (the “Sweetheart Rose”) is a Polyantha shrub-type rose dating back to 1881.

It produces waves of light pink clusters of fragrant near-perfect blossoms having true rose form on bushes that average 4 foot tall and 3 foot



wide. While Cecile Brunner will tolerate some light dappled afternoon shade, it does best in a location that receives at least 6 hours of full direct sunlight.

A climbing version of Cecil Brunner is available at some nurseries. The shrub variety is the one tested and the one that received the Earth-Kind® designation. Cecile Brunner is suitable for gardens in Zones 5 to 9.

Reve d'Or - According to Dr. George, Reve d'Or is “The healthiest yellow rose we have ever tested.” Bred in France by Joseph Pernet-Ducher and introduced in 1869, it's name means “Dream of Gold” – an appropriate description for this beautiful repeat blooming, almost



thornless, climbing Noisette rose that produces buff yellow semi-double flowers with a fruity fragrance. Reve d'Or has the ability to quickly reach its mature size of 10 to 18 feet with a spread of approximately 8 feet, but also retain its mannerly habit. It is well-suited for pillars, arbors and landscape structures. This climber is suitable for gardens in Zone 7 to 9, but prefers warmer climates.

All four of the new cultivars are repeat blooming.

These cultivars bring the total number of roses holding the Earth-Kind designation to 21. “There is more to these roses than just good looks,” says Dr. George. “Earth-Kind Roses are robust and thrive in really tough conditions. Our testing demonstrates that they are roses that are easy to grow and maintain,” he adds. Own-root roses having the Earth-Kind® designation are long-lived and are so environmentally responsible that almost never will you need to apply harsh pesticides or commercial fertilizers when maintained according to Earth-Kind® landscape management principals (including a year-round protection of a 3-inch layer of mulch).

See <http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu> for more information on Earth-Kind® Roses and landscape management.

Earth-Kind® research is what separates good roses from exceptional roses for the landscape!

Photo Credits: Souvenir de St. Anne's, La Marne and Cecile Brunner by Gaye Hammond. Reve d'Or by Mark Chamblee of Chamblee Rose Nursery, Tyler, TX

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