

Hybrid roses bring color, excitement

With much excitement and yes, hard work, one property is now beautiful with roses, roses, roses. Along the back fence is a row of Meidiland (pronounced may-d-land) hybrid shrub roses that will soon form a lovely area that can be enjoyed from the vantage point of our deck.

The lowest growing, 18-24 inches, are already sporting double white blooms and will continue to produce them until frost. Pruning isn't recommended.

Next in line is red, the same height, with single red flowers with white centers. These too, will continue to flower until frost. Alba, which has small white blooms in large clusters, so delicate and pretty, will reach a height of 24-30 inches.

These three can be used on slopes and banks and/or as a groundcover. We may need to move them at a later time, but for now they are happy with enough sun and water.

The ones with pink blossoms are simply gorgeous. They are clear pink, single blossoms with a white center. These will grow to 3-4 feet. A bonus with this one will be the bright orange-red rose hips for winter beauty. (I can have them for my craft projects without much effort.)

LAST IN the row are the scarlets. They have double, small blooms in clusters, and grow to 3-4 feet. They are another bright spot in the garden.

A hedge of Bonica, blooming from spring to frost, is encircled along the front walk. The everblooming pastel pink blossoms are fully double and the entrance to our home is already improved. Bonica was a 1987 award winner and again the hips will enhance the fall landscape. These will need shaping in early spring.

One nice thing about these shrub roses is that they are fast-growing,



down to earth

Marty Figley

July: Good garden tip

A dose of fertilizer may be just what the garden doctor ordered at this time of year. For flowering plants use a 5-10-5; for leafy plants, use 10-6-4; and for root

crops, 10-10-10 is recommended. One more pinch of the chrysanthemums in early July will help them spread into bushy specimens for fall bloom.

only need a fungicide application once or twice a year and they are disease tolerant. All of these plants are very winter hardy and low-maintenance. These are qualities we look for in shrub roses and other garden plants.

Among the nurseries that carry them are Bordines, English Gardens, Golden-Walsh in Pontiac, and The Plant Station in Birmingham.

Roses can be used formally or informally in the garden. There are no set rules, but there are four facts to remember: Roses should receive at least six hours of sun a day, morning

is preferred over very hot afternoon sun; wind can damage blossoms and can cause rapid water evaporation, so a protected area is beneficial; well-drained soil that retains moisture is very important, the roots should never stand in water, but the soil around them should soak up some of the water for use by the roots; and roses should be planted so that they don't have to compete with nearby large trees and shrubs for water and nutrients.

If these requirements are met, your roses will benefit from your thoughtful placement and will thrive.

Hybrid Meidiland shrub roses make excellent fences. Garden writer planted here as a hedge along her front walk as well as in a row along her back fence.

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