

Missing Buck Roses

Dr. Griffith Buck hybridized nearly 90 rose varieties, 15 varieties of geraniums, and a heliotrope. He was frequently very generous with his work, giving away many cuttings. After Dr. Buck retired, his breeding nursery was destroyed. Yet, his generosity has proven fortuitous, as many of his friends and colleagues have been able to supply Reiman Gardens with cuttings of hard-to-obtain varieties. These returned gifts, and the Buck family's personal collection, have allowed us to bring together nearly all of his rose varieties, which now comprise the Dr. Griffith Buck Rose Collection. This collection is now recognized through the American Public Gardens Association's North American Plant Collection Consortium.

Today, the search continues for these few Buck cultivars, missing from any known collection:

Andante (1962) - a salmon-pink shrub rose with small clusters of double, cupped 4 to 5-inch blooms with a slight sweetbrier fragrance.

Dr. Buck's notes indicate this cultivar was sent in 1962 to Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, Mrs. Dorothy Stemler, Mr. Thomas – Sunningdale Nurseries, and Melvin Wyant.

Cantabile (1962) - a light pink shrub rose with clusters (3 - 5) of fragrant, double, medium-sized blooms of light camellia rose with darker shading.

Dr. Buck's notes indicate this cultivar was sent in 1962 to Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, Mrs. Dorothy Stemler, Mr. Thomas – Sunningdale Nurseries, and Melvin Wyant.

Kissin' Cousin (1979) - a shrub rose with clusters (1 - 5) of coral pink buds with a medium rose color on the reverse, opening to fruity-scented, double, high-centered, 4 to 4.5-inch blooms that develop orange-pink tones with age.

Dr. Buck's notes indicate this cultivar was sent in Feb. 1978 to Pat Wylie, in June 1979 to Weston Gardner, and in 1980 to Mrs. Burke.



Rosa 'Kissin' Cousin'

Pizzicato (1962) - a light pink shrub rose with clusters (1 - 6) of slightly cupped, double, 3 to 4-inch salmon-rose blooms with a moderate "wild rose" fragrance.

Dr. Buck's notes indicate this cultivar was sent in 1962 to Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, Mrs. Dorothy Stemler, Mr. Thomas – Sunningdale Nurseries, and Melvin Wyant.

Polka Time (1984) - an orange-pink shrub rose with clusters (1-10) of salmon buds that open to fragrant double, cupped 4 to 4.5-inch blooms of salmon-tinted, yellow-veined, flamingo pink petals.

Dr. Buck's notes indicate this cultivar was sent in Fall 1978 to Eldon (probably Eldon Curtis), in May 1982 to DeNess', in October 1981 to Joe Burks, JB Roses, Wasco, CA, in May 1985 to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and at an unknown time to Pat Wylie.



Rosa 'Polka Time'

Prairie Heritage (1978) - an orange-pink shrub rose with clusters (1-10) of fragrant, double, cupped and quartered, 4 to 4.5-inch coral pink/peach blooms, which become tinted with orange-gold as the flowers age.

Dr. Buck's notes indicate this cultivar was sent in February 1978 to Mrs. Pat Wylie, in July 1978 to Conard-Pyle, and in 1980 to Mrs. Burke.



Rosa 'Prairie Heritage'

Red Sparkler (1967) - a hybrid tea with double, cupped-to-flat, 4 to 4.5-inch blooms of dark wine red with a lighter reverse; striped with varied widths of pale red, pink and white, with an intense damask fragrance.

Dr. Buck's notes indicate this cultivar was sent in July 1976 to Reimer Kordes in Germany.



Rosa 'Red Sparkler'

Plants that may represent the following two cultivars have recently been located, but their true identity has not yet been confirmed. It would be extremely useful to find a second source for these two:

Paraglider (1984) - a shrub rose with clusters (1-10) of orange-red buds opening to fragrant, double, cupped, 4 to 4.5-inch blooms of orange pink, with deep apricot on the petal reverse.

Dr. Buck's notes indicate this cultivar was sent in Fall 1978 to Eldon (probably Eldon Curtis), May 1983 to Gordon Bivens, in May 1985 to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and at an unknown time to Pat Wylie and Conard-Pyle.



Rosa 'Paraglider'

Pippa's Song (1984) a medium pink shrub rose with ovoid-pointed buds, which open to double petals, and have a light, pleasant fragrance. The abundant, medium-sized, leathery foliage is dark green and has good tolerance to black spot and powdery mildew. The thorns are tan and awl-shaped.

Dr. Buck's notes indicate this cultivar was to be sent to Pat Wylie.



Rosa 'Pippa's Song'

As it was Dr. Buck's practice of sending roses to family and friends, not just in Iowa but around the country, do you have a Buck rose in your garden? Could a rose that you admire (or care for) be one of the cultivars that we are looking for? Send us an email at reimangardens@iastate.edu if you think you might have one of these missing Buck roses.