EARTHKIND™ ROSE VARIETY DEMONSTRATION

Victoria County Master Gardeners, Cooperator, (2007 - 2008)
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SUMMARY:

Five EarthKind™ trial rose cultivars or varieties were planted April 3, 2007 and managed under the EarthKind™ production minimal management system. They were visually evaluated with Carefree Beauty (the control rose) and Winter Sunset varieties performing the best in the first year (2007). In 2008, actual monthly evaluations with numerical ratings started in May. Carefree Beauty again held an edge with Souvenir St Anne second closely followed by Winter Sunset.

OBJECTIVE:

To evaluate the characteristics and adaptability of new trial roses to earn the EarthKind™ rose distinction for home and commercial landscapes. To identify roses that can be grown with minimal inputs yet possess a high level of landscape performance and outstanding disease and insect tolerance/resistance. For further information, see the following website: http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu/.

MATERIALS and METHODS:

Six rose varieties were randomly planted April 3, 2007 in three blocks or replications (one of each variety in each block) for the EarthKind™ rose trial. One variety, Carefree Beauty, already an EarthKind™ rose, was used as a control or standard to establish a base for growth and production performance. Prior to planting, the existing turfgrass was sprayed with Roundup to kill vegetation. Seven to ten days after spraying, the soil was tilled with a rotor tiller and 2-3 inches of compost was incorporated over each site.

Varieties are monitored and evaluated by Victoria County Master Gardener volunteers. Varieties will be evaluated on foliage health - quantity and quality, flower - quantity and quality, and growth habit – form and shape. Reports will be made monthly during the active growing season with a annual report and a final report at end of the three year program.

Actual monthly ratings via a two-person team's evaluation began in May 2008 after the plants had a year's time for establishment. A monthly rating scale of 0 to 10 based on corresponding characteristics with specific additions and deductions for

intermediate aspects was assigned as specified by the National Earthkind™ Rose Trials Data Collection Forms procedure prepared by Dr. Steve George on May 4, 2006. See Table 1 for 2008 ratings.

A description of the trial varieties/cultivars are:

Carefree Beauty – A shrub type rose from 1977. It is a cross between a seedling x 'Prairie Princess' and is a repeat bloomer from spring till frost. It grows 3 – 4 feet, is adapted to zones 4 – 9, has a mild-apple fragrance, and has a 4 inch light rose blossom.

Winter Sunset – A shrub type rose cross from 1997 between 'Serendipity' x ('Country Dancer' x 'Alexandra'). It is a repeat bloomer, growing 3 – 4 feet, adapted as far north as zone 4, has moderate fragrance, and has a yellow blend with an orange base colored flower.

Malaguena – A shrub type rose cross from 1977 between 'Tickled Pink' x 'Country Music'. It is a repeat bloomer with single and clustered flowers. It grows 3 - 4 feet, is adapted to zones 4 – 9, has a mild-apple fragrance, and has a 4 inch light rose blossom.

Pipe Dreams – A shrub type rose from 1984. Buds of crimson-carmine open to double, cupped, open, 4.5 - 5 inch two-tone blooms of dark spinel red on the petal reverse and light spinel red on the petal ace. The blooms are borne in clusters of 5 - 10 and have an intense cloverose fragrance. The abundant, leathery foliage is medium olive green with good tolerance to foliar disease. The compact, 2.5 - 3 feet plant is bushy and blooms from early June until killing frost.

Soncy – A shrub type Bermuda, found rose of unknown introduction year. It is a repeat bloomer with nice tea fragrance flowers of pale yellow to ivory. It rarely produces thorns on its stems and grows to 3 - 5 feet

Souvenir de St. Anne – A Bourbon type rose from prior to 1916. It is a semi-double sport of 'Souvenir de la Malmaison'. It is remontant (flowering more than once in successive bursts), grows 3 – 4 feet, adapted to zones 6 – 9, and has a fragrant, light pink blossom.

RESULTS and DISCUSSIONS:

2008 – Based on seven monthly evaluations and ratings, the Carefree Beauty control cultivar held an overall rating average lead (7.22) closely followed by Souvenir St Anne (7.18) which really came on strong the last two months. Souvenir St Anne also exhibits a strong pleasing fragrance which based on the just received revised rating standard will get an additional +1.0 and which wasn't fully reflected in 2008 ratings. Winter Sunset which is seen as a very promising candidate from the trial beginning was ranked third with a 6.81 average rating. See Table 1 for results.

In fairness to Malaguena which had the lowest average score of 5.61 it should be noted that its plants when received were very small and did not seem as much removed from the propagation tray. At the time, these were the only plants available as we understand this Buck rose's plant stock was still in the pre-market release stage. This could be seen as a handicap when thrust into the planted field environment especially in the early summer of 2007 shortly after planting when considerable and record rainfall was received (July, 2007 itself had 20+ inches).

Overall, for 2008 these trial garden plants experienced growth and maturity. Most of the plants bloomed well into December and drew many raves about their beauty. 2009 is expected to be a banner season and we expect this trial garden to really be a show place during the planned October 17 EarthKind™ Rose Symposium at its location.

2007 - Overall appearance ratings of the roses were what could be expected given that these had just been plant in April 2007. Several were just freshly grown and released by the grower for the test trial and not yet even offered to the commercial trade. These were quite small. In fact, according to the EarthKind™ rose trial program, no performance rating or progress evaluations were called for the first year so that the plants could first get established. Unofficially, the best looking roses so far are: Carefree Beauty (the control cultivar) and Winter Sunset.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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Special thanks to Jerome and Mary Janak, and Lesa Bowers for coordinating the EarthKind™ rose Demonstration as well as to contributing Master Gardeners – Charlie Boren, Brice Pavlish, Carmen Price and Virginia Ruschhaupt.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE:

Trade names of commercial products used in this report are included only for better understanding and clarity. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M University System is implied. Readers should realize that results from one experiment do not represent conclusive evidence that the same response would occur where conditions vary.

Table 1. Evaluation of rose cultivars for potential EarthKind™ designation as compared to the approved cultivar standard, Carefree Beauty. Victoria County Master Gardeners, Jerome and Mary Janak, Cooperators, Victoria County TX. 2007 – 2008.

Cultivar	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Averages**
Carefree Beauty Block 1					6.6	6.8	6.5	8.0	7.0	7.0	7.5	7.0	7.04
Carefree Beauty Block 2					7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	7.0	7.0	7.38
Carefree Beauty Block 3					7.0	7.0	6.8	8.0	8.5	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.25
Overall Average													**7.22**
STDEVP													0.61
Souvenir de St. Anne Block 1					6.6	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.5	7.0	9.0	8.5	7.17
Souvenir de St. Anne Block 2					7.0	7.0	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	9.0	8.0	7.19
Souvenir de St. Anne Block 3					7.0	6.7	6.5	6.0	8.0	7.0	8.5	7.8	7.18
Overall Average													**7.18**
STDEVP													0.86
Winter Sunset Block 1					6.6	6.8	6.0	8.5	7.5	8.5	7.5	7.0	7.29
Winter Sunset Block 2					6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.0	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.69
Winter Sunset Block 3					7.0	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.0	8.0	6.5	7.0	6.81
Overall Average													**6.93**
STDEVP													0.68
Soncy Block 1					6.5	6.5	6.5	6.0	6.5	8.8	7.0	6.5	6.78
Soncy Block 2					5.5	5.5	5.5	6.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.3	6.09
Soncy Block 3					6.3	6.3	6.5	7.0	6.0	8.0	7.5	6.5	6.76
Overall Average													**6.56**
STDEVP													0.75
Malaguena Block 1					6.5	7.0	5.5	3.0	5.0	8.5	6.0	6.0	5.94
Malaguena Block 2					6.3	6.3	5.8	4.5	5.5	9.5	9.5	7.8	6.89
Malaguena Block 3					6.0	6.0	5.0	3.5	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.5	4.00
Overall Average													**5.61**
STDEVP													1.98
Pipe Dreams Block 1					7.0	7.0	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.5	7.3	6.91
Pipe Dreams Block 2					6.0	6.0	6.5	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.5	7.3	6.72
Pipe Dreams Block 3					7.0	7.0	6.5	5.5	7.0	7.0	8.0	6.3	6.78
Overall Average													**6.54**
STDEVP													0.56