

# *THE 2008* **PRAIRIE GARDEN**

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WESTERN GARDENERS

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advancement of horticulture in the Prairie Provinces

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2008 Theme  
Roses

Special 16-page Colour Section

General Gardening Information

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## Parkland and Explorer Roses Cultivar Data

by Arnold F. Pittao  
& Brian J. Porter

The following charts summarize the chief characteristics of both the Parkland and Explorer series of roses as they apply to growing the cultivars on the Prairies.

Please bear in mind that characteristics of plants can vary significantly depending on weather conditions, soil, and micro-climates. The hardiness zones, for example, are generalities and particular cultivars may or may not survive at any given location.

The Parklands and Explorers are the most widely distributed hardy shrub roses for the Prairies, but care should nevertheless be taken in cultivar selection for any given area.

*Editor's note: The plant hardiness zones of Canada can be viewed at <http://nlwis-snite1.agr.gc.ca/plant00>*

### Parkland Rose Cultivar Data

Cultivar	Bloom Colour	Height (m)	Width (m)	Zone	Bloom Characteristics	Year Intro'd	Disease Susceptibility	Comments
Adelaide Hoodless	Bright Red	1	1	2	Clusters; semi-double	1973	Resistance to mildew good, to black spot medium	Tends to droop from heavy clusters if not staked up; excellent en masse; light fragrance.
Assiniboine	Red/purple	1	1	2	Semi double, borne singly	1962	Susceptible to rust	First Parkland. Bred from <i>R. arkansana.</i> ; slight rebloomer; now rarely propagated.
Cuthbert Grant	Crimson red	1	0.8	3	Clusters; semi-double, cupped	1967	Black spot and mildew resistant	Strong fragrance, medium green glossy foliage. Upright growth habit. Fragrant.

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### Parkland Rose Cultivar Data (continued)

Cultivar	Bloom Colour	Height (m)	Width (m)	Zone	Bloom Characteristics	Year Intro'd	Disease Susceptibility	Comments
<b>Hope For Humanity</b>	Deep wine red	0.6	0.5	3	Clusters; double	1995	Mildew and rust resistant; fair to black spot	Buds pointed; medium green glossy foliage; open growth habit. Slight fragrance.
<b>Morden Amorette</b>	Carmin Red	0.3	0.5	3	Clusters; loosely double	1977	Resistance to mildew and black spot medium	Best grown where snow cover is reasonably reliable; dark green foliage.
<b>Morden Belle</b>	Medium to bright pink	0.5	0.75	3	Clusters; semi double	2002	Good resistance to powdery mildew and rust; moderate to black spot	Very floriferous with medium to dark green foliage; flower stems tend to droop.
<b>Morden Blush</b>	Blush pink with deeper centers	0.7	1	2b	Flat and double in clusters	1988	Susceptible to rust; good resistance to black spot and mildew	Has very attractive buds. Very prolific continuous bloomer; foliage medium matte green. Blooms turn to ivory in hot weather.
<b>Morden Cardinette</b>	Cardinal red	0.7	0.7	3	Clusters; double	1980	Moderately susceptible to black spot and mildew	Flowers subject to balling late in season. Medium green foliage.



### Parkland Rose Cultivar Data (continued)

Cultivar	Bloom Colour	Height (m)	Width (m)	Zone	Bloom Characteristics	Year Intro'd	Disease Susceptibility	Comments
<b>Morden Centennial</b>	Medium pink	1.5	1	2b	Clusters; double	1980	Good resistance to mildew, moderate to black spot	Light fragrance. Prolific bloomer; glossy medium. green foliage. Named for Morden's centennial year.
<b>Morden Fireglow</b>	Red-orange	0.7	0.7	2b	Clusters; double	1989	Moderate resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Foliage medium green and matte Shrub compact in growth habit. Balling may occur late season.
<b>Morden Ruby</b>	Ruby red	1.5	1	2b	Clusters; double	1977	Moderate resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Two versions: originally ruby red but most have reverted to deep pink, stippled darker; lightly fragrant.
<b>Morden Snowbeauty</b>	White	1	1.2	2b	Clusters; semi-double	1998	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Free flowering; very slight fragrance. Foliage shiny dark green.
<b>Morden Sunrise</b>	Orange, red & yellow blend	0.7	0.7	3	Single or small clusters; semi-double	1999	Moderate resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Yellow dominant; takes several years to establish. Glossy, dark green foliage. Compact.
<b>Winnipeg Parks</b>	Dark pink/Red	0.7	0.7	2b	Medium red; double	1990	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Leaves medium matte green; red tinge in autumn. Flowers in small sprays or individually.

## EXPLORER Rose Cultivar Data

Cultivar	Bloom Colour	Height (m)	Width (m)	Zone	Bloom Characteristics	Year Intro'd	Disease Susceptibility	Comments
Alexander Mackenzie	Light red	1.5	1.5	2b	Clusters; double	1985	Moderate resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Large glossy medium green foliage. Slight fragrance. Upright growth habit.
Captain Samuel Holland	Medium red	1.8	1.5	3	Clusters; double	1990	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Medium green glossy foliage. Will climb to a certain extent if tied up.
Champlain	Bright, rich red	1	1	3	Clusters; double	1981	Moderate resistance to black spot; good to mildew	Foliage glossy, medium green. Bushy growth. Considerable die-back; needs good snow-cover.
Charles Albanel	Crimson	0.3	0.5	2b	Clusters; double	1982	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Hybrid <i>R. rugosa</i> . Low growing and compact habit. Foliage rugose. Slight fragrance.
David Thompson	Light to medium red tending to mauve	1.5	1.5	2	Clusters; double	1979	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew. Subject to iron chlorosis	Hybrid <i>R. rugosa</i> . Some fragrance; maintains good upward form and growth; medium green foliage.
De Montarville	Med pink becoming mottled when full	1	1	3	Individual blossoms are double	1997	Good resistance to mildew, moderate to black spot	Light fragrance; compact plant; glossy blue-green leaves; reblooming; official name AC De Montarville.

## Explorer Rose Cultivar Data (continued)

Cultivar	Bloom Colour	Height (m)	Width (m)	Zone	Bloom Characteristics	Year Intro'd	Disease Susceptibility	Comments
Frontenac	Deep pink or light red	1	1	3	Clusters; semi-double	1992	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Glossy dark green foliage; noted as a heavy bloomer; reblooming.
George Vancouver	Light to medium red	1	1	3	Clusters; double	1994	Good resistance to mildew, moderate to black spot	Not totally reblooming; upright growth habit; slight fragrance; deep red buds.
Henry Hudson	White with yellow stamens	0.7	0.7	2	Double; may be tinged with pink	1977	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew. Subject to iron chlorosis	Hybrid <i>R. rugosa</i> . Very thorny branches. Re-flowers intermittently throughout season.
Henry Kelsey	Medium red	1.5	1	2	Clusters; double	1984	Good resistance to mildew, moderate to black spot	May be a semi-climber in warmer zones or micro-climates. Spicy fragrance. Glossy, medium green foliage.
J. P. Connell	Pale Yellow; fades to cream	0.7	1	2b	Small clusters; double; resemble hybrid teas	1987	Good resistance to mildew, moderate to black spot	Nearly thornless. Good spicy fragrance. Foliage dark yellow-green, double serrated; Reblooming; considerable die-back.

### Explorer Rose Cultivar Data (continued)

Cultivar	Bloom Colour	Height (m)	Width (m)	Zone	Bloom Characteristics	Year Intro'd	Disease Susceptibility	Comments
Jens Munk	Medium pink	1.5	1.5	2	Double form; long lasting	1974	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew.	Hybrid <i>R. rugosa</i> . Very vigorous plant. Thorny. Very fragrant. Foliage medium green.
John Cabot	Medium red	2	1	2	Clusters; double	1978	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew.	May grow to be a pillar-style rose. Fragrant. Glossy, medium green foliage. Somewhat reblooming.
John Davis	Medium pink	1	1	2b	Clusters; double	1986	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew.	Spicy fragrance. Branches tend to arch. Foliage leathery, glossy, pale green. Reblooming.
John Franklin	Medium red	0.5	0.5	3	Clusters; double. Floribunda style	1980	Moderate resistance to black spot and powdery mildew.	Fragrant. Not reliably hardy in prairie winters. Parentage has a floribunda in pedigree.
Lambert Close	Medium pink	0.7	0.7	2	Very double	1995	Good resistance to mildew, moderate to black spot	Plants take a while to become established. Reblooming. Glossy blue green foliage. Parentage has a floribunda in pedigree.

### Explorer Rose Cultivar Data (continued)

Cultivar	Bloom Colour	Height (m)	Width (m)	Zone	Bloom Characteristics	Year Intro'd	Disease Susceptibility	Comments
Louis Joliet	Medium pink	1	0.7	3	Clusters; double	1990	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew.	Spicy fragrance. Glossy dark green foliage. Does well in a protected area.
Marie-Victorin	Pale peach fading to light pink	1	1	3	Clusters; double	1998	Good resistance to mildew, moderate to black spot	Spicy fragrance. Arching habit. Glossy dark green foliage. Official name is AC Marie-Victorin.
Martin Frobisher	Soft pink	1	0.7	2b	Double; intermittent flowers, small .	1970	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew.	First Explorer rose introduced. Very fragrant. Upright growth habit. Pale green foliage. Reblooming. Few prickles; reddish stems.
Nicolas	Orange to medium red	0.5	0.5	3	Small clusters; semi-double	1996	Good resistance to mildew, moderate to black spot	Dark blue-green foliage. Reblooming. Compact growth habit.
Pink Surprise	Bright pink	0.7	0.7	3	Single to semi-double	ca. 1975	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew.	Not formally released as an Explorer; available through Corn Hill Nursery. NB. Red stems. Non-recurrent, but long bloom period.

### Explorer Rose Cultivar Data (continued)

Cultivar	Bloom Colour	Height (m)	Width (m)	Zone	Bloom Characteristics	Year Intro'd	Disease Susceptibility	Comments
Quadra	Opening deep red; then light	1	1	3	Clusters; double	1994	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Glossy dark green foliage. Should have winter protection for best results.
Royal Edward	Light pink	0.5	0.7	3	Clusters; semi-double, tiny	1995	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Low growing groundcover rose. Reblooming. Medium green foliage.
Simon Fraser	Medium pink	0.7	0.7	2	Small clusters; single to semi-double	1992	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Dwarf habit but upright. Glossy medium green foliage. Reblooming.
William Baffin	Deep pink to medium red	2	2	2	Clusters; semi-double; reminiscent of wild roses	1983	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew. Attractive to rose curculios	Vigorous grower, producing multiple canes. Suitable for a hedge row but not in open areas. Light fragrance. Blooms early and repeats late summer.
William Booth	Medium red fading to light	1	2	2b	Clusters; single petalled and small	1999	Good resistance to both black spot and powdery mildew	Spreading style with arching branches. Reblooming. Foliage medium to dark green.



## Yellow Roses for the Canadian Prairies

by Philip Ronald, Ph.D.

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*Dr. Phillip Ronald is the research and marketing person with Jeffries Nurseries in Portage la Prairie, MB.*

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Yellow is a rare flower colour in our prairie-hardy woody ornamentals. Yes, we do have forsythia and potentilla, but more often we turn to roses to get our fix of this unique colour. After all, what is more lovely than a rose? Unfortunately, yellow roses and prairie cold hardiness are often mutually exclusive. In this article we will look at a number of rose cultivars that offer blooms in shades of yellow including some with a measure of cold hardiness for the Prairie region.

We begin with ‘Morden Sunrise’, a well-known member of the Parkland series. Parkland roses originate from the Morden Research Station in southern Manitoba and are renowned for their consistent blooms, compact stature and excellent cold hardiness. Released in 2000, ‘Morden Sunrise’ continuously produces 8 cm (3 in) semi-double blooms (up to 12 petals) that change from dark orange to creamy yellow with maturity. This shrub rose grows to 1 m (3 ft) in height with shiny dark-green foliage and shows reliable cold hardiness in Zone 3.

‘Hazeldean’ is another yellow rose with true Prairie roots. Developed by the late Percy Wright of

Saskatchewan, this cultivar dates back to 1948. ‘Hazeldean’ originated from a cross between *Rosa spinosissima* and ‘Harrison’s Yellow.’ In June, this cultivar produces an abundance of fragrant, double flowers with medium yellow petals. The plant itself is an upright bush that can reach 1.8 m (5 ft) in height under good growing conditions. ‘Hazeldean’ offers excellent cold hardiness and can be used reliably throughout much of the Canadian prairies.

The other group of Canadian-developed hardy roses is the Explorer series. Among the Explorer roses is a relatively unknown yellow rose known as ‘J.P. Connell.’ Introduced in 1987, this cultivar produces 8 cm (3 in), lemon yellow flowers in clusters of 3 to 8. Young plants are sparse bloomers, but a 3-year old shrub will flower heavily in June and intermittently throughout the remainder of summer. Like ‘Morden Sunrise’, ‘J.P. Connell’ is winter hardy in Zone 3 with snow as it’s only necessary protection.

‘Persian Yellow’ rose (*Rosa foetida persiana*) is a species rose first discovered in 1837 by Sir Henry Willock. Unlike newer rose cultivars, Persian Yellow blooms only

in the spring when it is covered with semi-double, yellow blossoms for several weeks. The plant can be quite large (2 metres / 6 ft) and gardeners claim you can detect the fragrance of a Persian Yellow in full bloom from several houses away. Persian Yellow is considered fully hardy in the southern portions of the Canadian Prairies.

‘Topaz Jewel’ is the first re-blooming yellow rugosa rose. It is a relatively new cultivar, introduced by Ralph Moore in 1987. As a hybrid rugosa (‘Golden Angel’ x *rugosa* ‘Belle Poitevine’), ‘Topaz Jewel’ is characterized by disease free, wrinkled foliage and excellent performance on tough planting sites. It’s fragrant blooms (25 petals) vary in colour from a rich amber yellow in cool weather to a creamy yellow under intense heat. Unlike many rugosas, ‘Topaz Jewel’ produces no rose hips. Unfortunately this cultivar is considered hardy only to Zone 5.

Perhaps ‘Agnes’ is a better choice for a yellow rugosa rose with Zone 3 cold hardiness. This cultivar was developed by William Saunders of Ottawa from a cross between *R. rugosa* x *R. foetida persiana*. Introduced in 1922 and named after Saunder’s wife, ‘Agnes’ produces fragrant flowers that open as apricot and then fade to soft yellow cream. Since this cultivar is difficult to root from softwood cuttings, plants are often propagated by budding, a more tedious method that limits

their availability in the nursery trade. ‘Agnes’ was one of four hardy rose cultivars featured in “A Bouquet of Roses”, a series of stamps released by Canada Post on July 12, 2001.

A stunning non-grafted yellow rose currently available in the Prairie region is ‘Yellow Submarine.’ Introduced in 2005 as part of Bailey Nurseries’ Easy Elegance series, this new cultivar offers clusters of 5 cm (2 in) lemon-yellow blooms (up to 32 petals) that fade to creamy-white with maturity. ‘Yellow Submarine’ is a shrub rose that grows to 1 m (2-3 ft) in size and shows outstanding resistance to black spot and mildew. The Easy Elegance roses were not selected with Zone 3 cold hardiness in mind so additional winter protection will be required.

Finally, don’t forget about the David Austin roses! Cultivars such as ‘Buttercup’, ‘Golden Celebration’, ‘Graham Thomas’ and ‘Molineux’ offer spectacular yellow blooms and wonderful fragrance. Their cupped blooms are characterized by extremely high petal counts. David Austin roses will show consistent winter die-back in Zone 3, but should re-grow from the crown. Numerous prairie gardeners rely on deep planting, some mulch and reliable snow cover to ensure these Austin rose cultivars exist as perennials in our landscape. 🌹