

LONG LASTING AND LUCIOUS LOVELIES

By Maxine Casper

When roses first appeared in my year, I couldn't wait to cut the roses and bring them into my house to enjoy. Now, I enjoy leaving most of them on the bush. They stay beautiful and last so much longer. Since I work at home, any time of day, especially between Suzuki piano lessons, it is so pleasant and stress reducing to stroll around and through the roses. I love to see not only the latest beautiful blooms, but I enjoy seeing the entire plant and how it is growing.

Fragrant roses are my very favorite and first choice if available. It is so wonderful to drink in all the luscious fragrances, even though sometimes they make me sneeze. All the **Peace** roses and the purple roses have a lovely fragrance. Unfortunately, most purple roses don't last very long, but they all have a lovely fragrance. **Moon Shadow** is my best recommendation for a purple rose with staying power. My top choices for fragrance that I grow are:

Ain't She Sweet – HT, large, orange-red blooms with good form. This is a newer rose in my garden, so I'll wait and see if she earns a permanent place.

Dolly Parton – HT, large orange-red long-lasting blooms. Catalogs say this is a tall bush, but mine is low growing and mildew prone.

Double Delight – HT, beautiful, sun-sensitive, red and cream blend on a medium spreading bush.

Fragrant Cloud – HT, dark orange-red blooms that hold their color well and are quick to repeat. Dark olive-green foliage that tends to have a problem with mildew and black spot if crowded, or not in a full sun location.

French Perfume – HT, yellow-blended with pale pink blooms. A tall, upright and spreading plant.

Lemon Spice – HT, light yellow (it reminds me of being in Hawaii). It has a spreading habit of medium height with dark, leathery textured leaves.

Perfume Delight – HT, medium pink blooms on long stems. The scent is variable depending on the weather.

Secret – HT, large, light pink flowers edged with deep pink of exhibition form on a tall and prolific bush of medium to dark green foliage.

Tiffany – HT, cool silvery-pink blooms with a blend of yellow on long stems on a vigorous, upright bush of average height with olive-green foliage.

Working full time doesn't allow for the time or patience for me to exhibit roses. I have even less patience and enthusiasm for picking up petals from the ground. So, the roses that I am enjoying very much are the ones that last the longest and hold on to their petals. The ones in my yard that meet these requirements are:

Brass Band – F, I really love this rose! These brassy apricot blend of colors blare on and on in mass, in clusters of very full flowers. Cooler weather helps bring out deeper apricot tones. It has large bright green leaves on an upright bushy plant.

Caribbean – GR, bright yellow to orange blossoms in small clusters soar high atop a tall thorny bush.

Fame – GR, shocking deep pink blooms last a very long time on a spreading bush.

Ingrid Bergman – HT, Large, deep velvet, clear bright red blooms of perfect form last

and last on a medium spreading bush. This rose just never stops blooming.

Katherine Loker – HT, light yellow flowers cover a short bush with glossy medium green leaves.

Perfect Moment – HT, roses the color of glowing embers (golden yellow on the lower part of the petals with a wide band of orange-red towards the margins) adorn a medium sized bush with lots of thorns. The bloom looks dried as it ages, and doesn't drop its petals.

Pure Poetry – F, orange-yellow-pink blend nice dark green disease resistant foliage. Vigorous growth and a big bush for a floribunda.

Tournament of Roses – GR, medium coral-pink blossoms of contrasting tones – deep coral-pink on their outer surfaces and creamy pink within, on a medium bush with glossy leaves.

Trumpeter – F, clusters of bright orange-red blooms of medium size on a low-growing bush with medium green glossy leaves.

Did you notice that none of these long-lasting roses are on my favorite fragrance list? We all grow different roses for different reasons. There are several that I am running short of patience with in my yard, too. The flowers are beautiful, but the petals are here today and on the ground too soon.

Abracadabra – HT, pink blend. This rose starts out coral and ends up white with purple petal edges.

Angel Face – F, lovely shaped, fragrant, medium mauve, ruffled blossoms on a short spreading bush with dark green foliage.

Fountain Square – HT, vigorous and large bush with dark green foliage and lots of large white flowers.

Miss All American Beauty – HT, shocking deep pink blooms with medium green foliage on a spreading bush.

Pristine – HT, super-vigorous, healthy bush with porcelain china-like light, pink exhibition blooms. Also called the 30-second rose. It has to be picked in the bud stage to get it to last for more than one day in the vase.

Now, look at the rose on the cover of the recently published 2001 ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses, **Ingrid Bergman**. It is the newest addition to the World Federation of Rose Societies Rose Hall of Fame. It joins an elite group of roses selected as a best loved world favorite. It is a fabulous, clear deep red, velvety rose. Last Christmas I picked several buckets of these beautiful blooms from four bushes in my yard. I shared them with special friends on Christmas Day. Reports of appreciation and awe came back to me that those same roses lasted beautifully in vases far into January! This rose stays on the bush while the petals become discolored from the sun and they still hold up their pretty heads and keep on lasting. For an exhibition red rose and garden favorite with a slight spice fragrance, in my experience you cannot beat **Ingrid Bergman**.

If you have favorites that last a long time in your yard or are very fragrant, please share the names with me. I will probably have a few openings in my garden area for more long-lasting luscious lovelies.