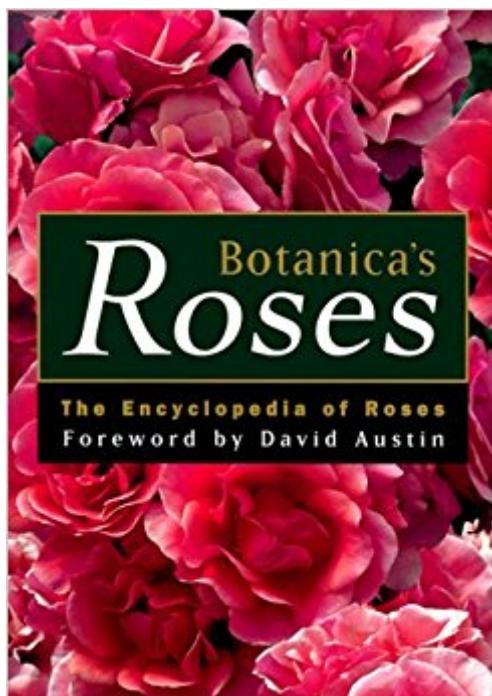


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Botanica's Roses: The Encyclopedia Of Roses



Synopsis

Botanica's RosesR will prove to be one of the greatest rose books of all time.

Book Information

Hardcover: 704 pages

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Customer Reviews

An exceptional reference on one of the world's favorite flowers. After introductory information on the rose's history and culture, there's about 600 pages of terrific photos and accurate descriptions. Aside from the thousands of cultivars listed, there's also an excellent section on wild roses. A very useful reference table summarizes the main features of each rose. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

As advertised

WOW! Was I shocked when this huge bundle of joy showed up at my door! I anticipated a lot of pics but holy cow! I was able to use this hummer to identify 2 roses I had scoured other resources for in no time! (So far I only have 40 roses.) It is beautifully written and the photos--pure eye candy! I adore roses so it was like giving a gourmet dinner to a starving person. Those are the good points. I only have 2 nit-pickies that are hardly worth mentioning because I ADORE this book and recommend it 100% to any and all garden lovers. 1) The Cd-Rom tweeked on my computer--probably because I have version Windows ME..., 2) on the rose descriptions they forgot to share how big the roses would get. They used words like " a medium shrub". I figured that they meant about 5 feet but if you

don't know roses its a necessary tid-bit. So there. if you are unsure of spending the hefty sum on this book, don't think twice...BUY IT TODAY--And BTW has it the cheapest. GO ROSE HAPPY!! Do it...you won't be sorry.

have used this book many time as a reference and it has helped me with the choice of roses for my garden

I bought this book for \$6.99 from goodwill industries and it's great. it's a used library book but you can't even tell it has been used...i got the cd with it too..It has lot of information and wonderful pictures of roses and if you are a rose lover, you will love this book! It could be a great gift too and it's huge!

At one level it is a coffee table book. Its large format, heavy glossy white paper, and crisp photography all put it up there with the best gardening 'picture books.' At another level it is a reference. Only Modern Roses has more entries - but it costs much more and has few if any photos. And it is the photos that make this book a great one. It may be the best single source of rose photos one can get at any price. The entries are spare, but there is very little crucial information missing. Virtually every entry indicates whether the rose is vigorous and which diseases it is prone to suffer. When roses fare better in one climate than another, Botanica tells you so. If a rose has fragrance, it says so. If a rose is spindly and lacks adequate foliage or branching, it will usually be indicated in the entry. The entries have been scrubbed clean of personal bias as one would expect of a good reference. Unfortunately, it is a rosarian's personal connection with a rose that really makes reading about roses fun. Thus, most people who like to read about roses will find Graham Stuart Thomas' Book on roses more engaging, despite the comparative lack of photographs. Most will also find Stirling Macoboy's Ultimate Rose Book more engaging for the same reason. Even Claire Martin's 100 Old Roses and 100 English Roses have a litte more zing. My interest in growing roses started around the time I picked up The Ultimate Rose Book. And it's still a good one to consider. It may be the closest thing to this book; but the photography in Botanica's roses is more accurate, more colorful, and far more exhaustive. If one has to choose the first book to get when starting down the path of growing and enjoying roses, this might be the best.

Although BOTANICA'S ROSES is described as an encyclopedia, the floral entries are more like annotated dictionary entries than encyclopedia articles. Each entry is succinct, ususally a paragraph

or two, and contains pertinent information for the rose grower such as recommended growing zone, but I would have liked more information. ROSES is probably relatively exhaustive, that is it lists most of the extant roses. I was able to find information about two roses I purchased at the garden center last year that I could find no where else. I own several other rose books, and find that no one book has all the information I require. For example, I have just purchased a 'Blanc Double De Corbert' rose. BOTANICA'S tells me the rose is a modern, hybrid rugosa, white, repeat flowering. A paragraph of about 100 words in tiny type tells me something about the doubtful heritage of the plant and that it might produce orange-red hips. The entry also lists the growing zones, the parentage prefaced with "possibly" and awards the rose has received. THE ULTIMATE ROSE BOOK by Stirling Macoboy tells me the double white from the village of Corbert in France is a cross between Rosa rugosa and the Tea Rose 'Sombreuil' according to Cochet-Cochet who raised the rose in 1891. the ULTIMATE entry also tells me the flowers rot in wet conditions and there are no hips. SMITH AND HAWKINS 100 OLD ROSES FOR THE AMERICAN GARDEN says 'Blanc Double de Corbert' will grow and thrive under extreme conditions and produce stongly scented blooms with a bumper crop of tomato-rose hips. "All in all this is one tough customer." In THE ORGANIC ROSE GARDEN, Liz Druitt says 'Blanc Double de Corbert' is a hybrid rugosa introduced in 1892 and wonderful for growing in the upper south. It can withstand heat, probably because it has a little Tea blood from it's 'Sombreuil' ancestor. Blanc even works well in partial shade. In fact, she says, it likes a little afternoon shade. And, Blanc produces successive crops of orange-red hips as it blooms all summer. What is the gardener to believe? Well, Macoboy is English and undoubtedly, Blanc, which comes from a warmer dryier area of France does better in a warmer drier climate--not England. These various entries show you cannot hope to grow roses unless you were born with a green thumb and/or can consult more than one reference. BOTANICA'S ROSES is a pretty good reference book for American gardeners attempting to grow roses.

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