

TOPIC: "HERITAGE ROSES AND THEIR COMPANIONS".

GUEST SPEAKER : LEONIE KEARNEY

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 29 SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT MALENY SHOWGROUNDS PAVILION

Leonie has a big old country garden with Heritage Roses as a backbone. She has been gardening since the age of three. Heritage Roses were brought to Australia by the first settlers to remind them of home. She has found so many Heritage Roses in old gardens reminding us of our heritage.

- Humidity affects them here in February and March. Small flowered roses do better in humidity than large ones
- 'Warwick Unknown' rose is fragrant and about 300 years old. Found in Hughenden and taken to Warwick – hence its name - it flowers 3-4 times a year
- Tea roses were all the rage in France and England when early settlers brought them to Australia. Called Tea Roses due to the Spice Route from India and China taking tea to Europe. Hybrid Teas were bred from these specimens. Roses get a bit tired looking in hot weather
- Heritage varieties have more foliage than hybrid teas and don't need a regular spraying program. Dead heading encourages more blooms
- New Guinea crimson China roses are about 300 years old. Most names are unknown so they are called by the name where they are found e.g. 'Blackwood Inn' in South Australia
- Plant seeds in Autumn of Chocolate Lace Flower – also known as Pink Queen Anne's Lace- with flower colours of beige to pink to burgundy attracting pollinating insects. A perfect companion in the rose garden
- Many years ago Brisbane City Council planted and tended lovely gardens of low growing roses flanking the tram tracks to Chermside
- The 'Straw Rose' was found beside a barn
- Leonie named the 'Hazeldon Rose' after family members. It is a prolific grower with flowers like coconut ice
- Polyantha roses are low growers with sprays of flowers – very sturdy plants
- Tough and healthy 'Lavender Dream' is a good ground cover shrub rose with pink/purple open blooms and grows about knee high
- 'Hybrid Musk Rose' is very fragrant and one of four old fashioned roses that do well in Qld
- 'Buff Beauty' has big sprays of small, fragrant apricot blooms fading to white
- 'Bloomfield Abundance' has a lovely perfume, is easy to look after, responds well to heavy pruning and repeat flowers continuously
- Alstroemeria – Peruvian lily or lily of the Incas – and Cleome (spider flower) are good companions to Heritage Roses
- Single and double red Poppies have bloomed and seeded. Bees love them. Plant seeds in May/June once dried
- Forget Me Nots grow easily and seed prolifically, sticking to clothing
- Cleomes spread rampantly in the garden but will grow in pots ok
- Lemon Abelia spikes look good midst roses - it is a very hardy and tough variegated filler
- Heliotrope, Salvia, Double Dianthus, Spired Blue Campanula, are also good fillers
- Sweet William perennial is a good standby cut flower along with Double Dianthus

- Little Boy Blue perennial aster spreads low on ground. Once you have them they stay in the garden flowering in Autumn and Spring. Michaelmas/Easter Daisies also
- Old Shasta Daisies can grow knee high
- Nicotiana (Tobacco Plant) is tall and covered in fragrant white / pink blooms and doesn't mind dry conditions – magic in the garden
- 'Softie' is a small thornless lemon rose – vigorous. Lavender Dream also. France has a number of thornless roses
- Leonie doesn't have much black spot in her garden as the environment on top of the hill is windy and fairly dry
- Roses love being fed and need fertiliser. Rose or citrus food first – August to November – then blood and bone + 10% potash in January and May followed by dynamic lifter or organic xtra. Organic Xtra also in March. They love manure but it brings weeds. High nitrogen increases the risk of black spot
- Overuse of chemical fertilisers builds up salt residue in the soil
- Smaller varieties of roses are better for pots
- Roses, Hibiscus and Gardenias respond well to Epsom Salts in moderation – not for regular use
- Leonie has written a book on her Heritage Roses "Old-Fashioned Roses in a Subtropical Climate" which is available for \$10 a copy
- Membership of the Heritage Rose Association of Australia based in South Australia entitles members to receive four journals a year covering old roses

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