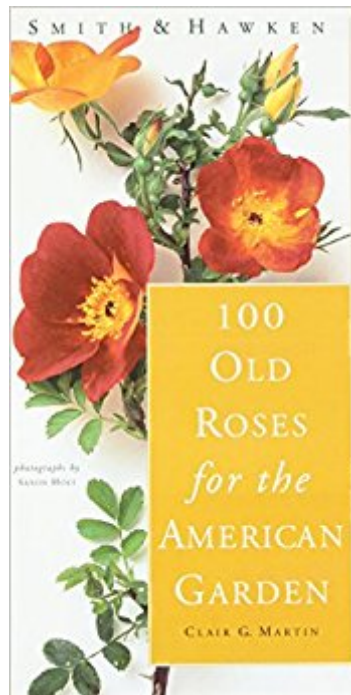




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Smith & Hawken: 100 Old Roses For The American Garden



Synopsis

Grow a rose once praised by Virgil, known today as 'Autumn Damask.' Or the ancient 'Apothecary's Rose,' which Count Thibaut brought back from the Crusades. Or 'Empress Josephine,' enjoyed by the lady herself. Treasured for their mixture of toughness and charm, versatility in the garden, and glorious scent, Old Roses are a revelation to gardeners accustomed to fussy modern hybrids. Suddenly roses don't come in one shape but in a dozen, and don't require a scientific approach but thrive with the basics of sun, water, and soil. Clair Martin, who has over 2,000 different roses under his care, offers enthusiasts a perfect introduction to growing Old Roses, followed by a focused list of 100 cultivars ideal for gardens across America. From 'Alba Semi-plena' an excellent cold-climate survivor and one of the oldest forms of the white rose, to the popular 'Zephirine Drouhin,' with her deep, rich cerise tones--each rose is photographed in sumptuous color and accompanied by history, parentage, culture, and at-a-glance information on availability, stature and habit, hardiness, and time of bloom.

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Customer Reviews

While gardeners often start out with hybrid tea roses, they most often end up growing the healthier and supremely fragrant old roses. Who can resist their crumpled petals in soft watercolor shades and their penetrating fragrance of baby powder and cold cream, let alone their lengthy and flamboyant histories? 100 Old Roses for the American Garden has pulled together a selected

hundred of the best, with stunning color photographs and cultural information. And the names--who could resist 'Alister Stella Gray' (a golden rambler), or 'Enfant de France' (a rose-pink hybrid perpetual dating from 1860)? You might want to track down 'Sydonie,' a shell-pink damask described as having deep, pervasive perfume and generous rebloom. This task will be made easier by the appendices at the back of the book listing mail-order sources for old roses, and public gardens that display them. One reason so many gardeners end up enamored with old roses is that they don't need to be grown in a "rose ghetto" as do hybrid teas, but rather enjoy being mixed into borders with other plants. A chapter on companion plantings suggests perennials that work well as skirting for old roses, enabling the gardener to mix roses seamlessly into the garden picture.

--Valerie Easton

"Richly illustrated, informative and portable, this handy volume introduces you to the grand dames of the rose world." -- San Diego Union Tribune

Clair G. Martin has produced a successful survey of old roses for most gardeners. His prior work, 100 English Roses for the American Garden is the preferred reference work for American Gardeners of the ever popular Austin Roses. This book gives a terrific survey of old roses for those unfamiliar with the subject. The book follows the same easy to use format as its predecessor. The opening section provides a useful review of the old roses and their history. Interesting side bars, such as the biography of Pernet-Ducher, give a lively and informative view of the area. The most popular part of the book will be the field guide. Saxon Holt's lush photographs illustrate each of the roses. The text is clear concise and informative. Again the information below the text provides essential guides to size, as well as hardiness, based on region. All in all, a most useful book for the casual gardener who seeks to begin to grow old roses or even the more dedicated rosarian seeking a concise overview of the subject. For the more serious OGR aficionado, this book will be the source of many arguments based on the field guide choices. For readers of Brent Dickerson's tomes on the subject, or Graham Thomas's seminal works this book will lack the exhaustive information of those works, but should be pleasing because of its convenient size and breezy prose.

Cicero said that all you need is a garden and a library. Buy this book and you've got both! Growers of Old Roses often have a library of books featuring information and (mostly) pictures of roses to help get them through the winter months when they are all alone. Some gardeners have a huge collection (me) mainly for looking up and comparing pictures of specific roses to decide which ones

to grow. Not all pictures are equal. Since a rose is a three dimensional object and pictures can only show one view of a rose you need more than one picture to make up your mind. This book gives you one view but also lets you see the stem, leaves, bud and flower against a white background. The color reproduction system and choice of paper are near perfect, functional and luxurious. Mr. Martin also gives the most amount of comments about each rose I have ever seen in a rose book (and I have about thirty). There is also an introductory essay that gives you the history, romance and growth information - all you need!. You can argue about which plants are left out but that's foolish. Just enjoy those included and look elsewhere for others. After all, it is titled "One Hundred Roses." This, and it's companion on English roses, are the books I turn to in the dark January nights- with a little bit of imagination and memory you can be transported to June in January!

If you are interested in growing roses and want to try some that are not just your basic Hybrid Teas, this is a wonderful book to get. You will drool over the pictures and the text is excellent. The pictures take one page and are a gorgeous shots of the bloom with a long stem and leaves. On the opposite page is text which goes into great detail about the rose characteristics, growth patterns, habits, vigor, etc. It is an invaluable book when trying to decide what old garden roses to introduce to your garden. This format is so beautiful and so useful, that I have purchased all of the gardening books in this "series" by this publisher. It is rare to get such excellent photos in combination with such useful text. I started growing roses about five years ago and became frustrated with Hybrid Teas because of blackspot and their generally fussy behavior and stiff, formal flowers. This book and Liz Druitt's book were instrumental in getting me to try old garden roses, and am I glad I did! I would highly recommend this to both beginning gardeners and experienced, alike.

Beautiful book--a must have for any rose gardener or flower enthusiast. The seller delivered as promised. I'm extremely satisfied!

Having the 100 English Roses For the American Garden, I knew that this book would be no slouch with showcasing excellent old roses for our gardens here in the USA. Clair Martin writes well and describes the characteristics of each rose on one page and a beautiful photo of the rose is on the opposite page of the description. I recommend this book for all rose aficionados whether you grow hybrid teas, English roses, floribundas or old garden roses. This book is a must for your reference library and use it as a wish list when you go into various nurseries looking for something new that is old!

Love this book. Good pics enough info on roses selected for review by author. Right size.Great rosarian.

I purchased this book expecting to find information on one of the best old roses for a beginning grower of old roses to grow...'Marchesa Boccella' (aka 'Jacques Cartier'). It was not included. Since it's the rose I had bought for my garden, in that respect, the book was disappointing, but it is a helpful field guide to the 100 old roses that were selected by the author. If I had been able to see the list of the roses, I would not have bought it.

This wonderful rose pictorial and it's companion, 100 English Roses for the US Garden, are outstanding must-haves. Yes, it's been out for a while, but old roses are just that.... excellent reference for OGR's.

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