



Rose Petals



Short Rose-Related Info-Bits to Stay Connected

August 15, 2023 Edition

Shrub Spotlight: *Darcey Bussell*

By Cathy Matsuzaki

Darcey Bussell is a beautiful red-blend English Shrub Rose bred by David C.H. Austin in the United Kingdom before 2005. It was introduced in 2006 by David Austin Roses Limited.

This exquisite rose is typical of romantic David Austin “English Roses” which combines the gorgeous and delicate rosette form and fragrant perfume of Old Garden Roses with all the attributes of modern-day roses, including a wider color range, the capability to flower repeatedly, grow vigorously and have good disease resistance. The term, “English Roses” was coined by David C.H. Austin himself.

This lovely rose is named after a highly acclaimed English ballerina



Photo by Marsha Yokomichi

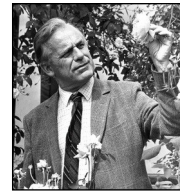
Dame Darcey Andrea Bussell. In 1989 at the age of 20, Bussell became the youngest principal dancer with The Royal Ballet where she remained for more than two decades before retiring in 2007.

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What is an English Rose?

By Marsha Yokomichi
HRS Master Rosarian

What exactly is an “English Rose?” The term “English Rose” was coined by none other than the Father of English Roses, David Charles Henshaw Austin in the 1970’s. It’s important to note that English Roses are not a category of rose itself but rather, they are a subclassification of Shrub Roses.



David C.H. Austin (1926 – 2018) crossed some Gallica roses which were Old Garden Roses (OGRs) - roses bred before 1867 with

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Shrub Spotlight: *Distant Drums*



Photo by Marsha Yokomichi

By Cathy Matsuzaki

Distant Drums is a gorgeous Shrub rose showcasing its unique mauve-blend coloration in every stage of its flowering cycle, making no two blooms alike.

When ***Distant Drums*** first blooms, the petals near the center of the rose are a peachy-orange, with overtones of an unusual creamy brown/warm tan/bronze hue with orchid-pink outer petals that softly transition to a lavender towards its delicately ruffled edges. As the roses mature, the blossoms gracefully fade to a pink-yellowish tone.

Hybridized by Dr. Griffith J. Buck in the United States in 1984, ***Distant Drums*** was introduced by Weeks Roses in 2003. Its parentage stems from *September Song*, an apricot blend Grandiflora rose bred by Dr. Buck and *The Yeoman*, an orange-pink Shrub rose bred by David Austin.

Interestingly, Buck was first introduced to rose breeding while

still a high school student in Rockford, Illinois, and he began corresponding with Pedro Dot, a Spanish rose breeder. Buck went on to become a professor teaching horticulture at Iowa State University and he created over 80 named rose cultivars. ***Distant Drums*** is part of the Griffith Buck Roses Collection, which Dr. Buck specifically bred to be very disease resistant and hardy to be able to withstand the harsh Iowa winter weather.

Although classified as a Shrub rose and borne mostly solitary, ***Distant Drums*** grows much like a Floribunda in habit with its pointed ovoid buds swirling open to clusters of large, cupped, fully double globular blooms, averaging 3-1/2 to 4 inches in diameter. Each

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David Austin English Roses

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modern roses such as Hybrid Tea or Floribunda roses. His goal was to create a “new old rose” by taking the desirable characteristics of OGR roses such as their elegance and fragrance and combining them with the characteristics of modern roses which were much more disease-resistant and had the ability to repeat-bloom.



Graham Thomas
Photo by Myrna Cariaga

David C.H. Austin’s first English Rose he brought to market was the beautiful rose variety *Constance Spry* in 1961. However, it wasn’t until 1983 when he introduced the rose variety *Graham Thomas* to the Royal Horticulture Society’s (RHS) Chelsea Flower Show in the United Kingdom when the world really took notice of the breathtaking beauty of English Roses. David C.H. Austin largely attributed the success and popularity of English Roses to the *Graham Thomas* rose.

Over 30 years of exhibiting at RHS Chelsea Flower Show and the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, have brought David Austin Roses 43 gold medals to date. In his lifetime, David C.H. Austin introduced an astounding 200+ new rose varieties to market. David C.H. Austin was not the first hybridizer of English Roses but he was the most prolific and most successful.



The David Austin display at the 2018 Hampton Court Palace Flower Show
Photo by Myrna Cariaga

In 1990, his son, David Austin, Jr. joined David Austin Roses and together, they expanded their business to Europe, the U.S., and Japan. The legacy continues as David C.H. Austin’s grandsons have also joined in the family business.

Source:

<https://www.davidaustinroses.com/pages/david-c-h-austin>

David Austin photo source: Same as above.

English Shrub Rose: *Darcey Bussell*

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She danced in the title role of numerous ballets around the world and was honored with many awards. Ms. Bussell is widely acclaimed as one of the greatest British ballerinas.

Equally as elegant and graceful as the ballerina herself, the ***Darcey Bussell*** rose flaunts small yet bountiful clusters of large, fully double roses in an old-fashioned bloom form. When the pointed ovoid buds first open, the outer petals of each bloom form a ring around an inner cup, slowly opening further to form a perfectly charming medium to large size rosette in a vibrant deep rich crimson-pink jewel tone that gently fades to a tinge of mauve right before the petals fall.

Each attractive blossom features 65 to 80 petals and averages 4 inches in diameter. It has an appealing medium to strong fruity fragrance.



Ballerina Darcey Bussell
Photo source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darcey_Bussell

The ***Darcey Bussell*** rose is a prolific bloomer and makes an excellent cut rose to enjoy in a vase.

The variety is a vigorous small to medium bushy shrub and its compact and upright growth habit makes it ideal for garden beds, borders and large containers. It can grow to heights of 3 to 5 feet and widths of 2 to 4 feet. Its matte medium green foliage perfectly

accentuates the gorgeous blooms. As with most rose plants, it thrives best in the full sun with good drainage in the soil.

Sources: <https://www.helpmefind.com/gardening/1.php?l=2.41083>

<https://www.davidaustinroses.com/pages/about-us>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darcey_Bussell

<https://www.davidaustinroses.com/products/darcey-bussell>

<https://www.regannursery.com/rose/Darcey-Bussell>

The HRS Rose Petals newsletter is published on a monthly basis. If you would like to submit an article and or photos, please email to:

myokomichi@hawaii.rr.com for possible inclusion in a future edition.

HRS Rose Petals Newsletter
Marsha Yokomichi, Editor

Shrub Spotlight: *Distant Drums*

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stunning blossom features 35 to 40 petals. Its fragrance is intoxicating with a strong spicy and sweet aroma, reminiscent of anise and myrrh.

The exquisite and abundant-blooming ***Distant Drums*** rose provides a spectacular floral display against the hardy and vigorous shrub with its dark green semi-glossy leathery foliage which has very good disease resistance. It has a medium, rounded/bushy and upright growth habit and can reach heights up to 3 to 4 feet and widths of 2 to 3 feet.

With its beautiful and extraordinary ombre (literally "shaded" in French is the blending of one color hue to another, usually moving tints and shades from light to dark coloration and continuous blooming tendency), ***Distant Drums*** will make an attractive addition to your garden in rose beds and borders. Equally, the variety is ideal indoors as a cut bouquet with its amazing scent and long-lasting blossoms on medium-length stems. It thrives best with at least six-hours of full sunlight. It's important to note that if the variety is growing on its own root, it prefers to dry out between waterings. Sources indicate that ***Distant Drums*** also produces beautiful orange rose hips.

Distant Drums is named after a song by James Reeves (1923-1964), an American country and popular music singer and songwriter. This became his only No. 1 hit in the United Kingdom in 1966, two years after his death in a plane crash.

Sources: <https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/1.php?l=2.1538>

<https://www.weeksroses.com/product/distant-drums/roses>

<https://heirloomroses.com/products/distant-drums>

<https://www.regannursery.com/rose/Distant-Drums>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Griffith_Buck

<https://heirloomroses.com/collections/griffith-buck-roses?limit=40>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distant_Drums_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distant_Drums_(song))

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ombre>

Cathy's Note: I could not find why ***Distant Drums*** took so long to come to market. It was hybridized in 1984 and introduced to market in 2003. This means it took 19 years from the time the rose was hybridized to introduce it to market.

Editor's Note: The background story explaining one possible reason why it may have taken so many years to introduce ***Distant Drums*** to market is an interesting one. It may

have been because Dr. Griffith Buck, the hybridizer of ***Distant Drums***, was an independent rose hybridizer not an in-house rose hybridizer from Weeks Roses like Tom Carruth or Christian Bedard.

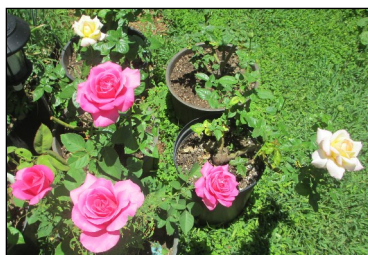
Weeks Roses have numerous in-house rose varieties waiting to go to market at any given year. However, they may only patent a rose when they decide to bring it to market which could be just a year or two after they have multiplied the mother-plant enough times to start large-scale production of the rose variety.

Mr. Buck hybridized and patented ***Distant Drums*** in 1984 but may have not been able to get any of the large-scale nurseries/distributors to introduce the variety to market until much later. Weeks Roses probably showed interest in picking up the rose for distribution about 2-3 years before 2003 which was the actual year the rose was introduced.

The unusual coloring of the rose was probably hybridized before its time (not popular or maybe not as accepting for a color of a rose in the 1980's) so the introduction was delayed to the public until the early 2000's when Weeks Roses agreed to distribute the rose. After that, it took several years to build up enough stock from the ***Distant Drums*** mother plant for Weeks Roses to go into full-market distribution in 2003.

UGC Roses Live On!

Mahalo to HRS members and friends who came to the rescue and adopted orphaned roses in late April to early May 2023. These roses were displaced due to the closure of the UGC Rose Garden in Pearl City in May 2023.

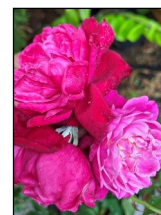


Left: **Linda Hayashi** with Hybrid Tea Roses ***Pink Peace*** and ***Peace***. Also not pictured ***Iceberg***. Photo by Linda Hayashi.



Left: **Aileen Schroffner** with with Floribunda Rose ***Brick House***. Photos by Aileen Schroffner.

Right: ***Iceberg*** & ***Lokelani***



Please send us a photo to let us know what UGC Roses continue to live on under your care. It makes the heartache of closing the UGC Rose Garden a little more bearable knowing that the beautiful roses continue to grow and thrive under your care. Mahalo for your efforts! Please send photos to myokomichi@hawaii.rr.com.

Hana Hou x 2

Rose Care Tidbit: *Chinese Rose Beetles* *Adoretus Sinicus* (Burmeister)

By Marsha Yokomichi
HRS Master Rosarian

Editor's Note:

Excerpts of this article were taken from an article that I wrote in 2005 which appeared in the May 2005 edition of Ka 'Uhane o Ka Loke "The Spirit of the Rose" Honolulu Rose Society Newsletter and also an update that I wrote in June 2021.

Every rosarian living in Hawaii recognizes the telltale signs after **Chinese Rose Beetles** have made a feast out of the foliage on their rose bushes. Left uncontrolled, they can quickly make a buffet out of every leaf on every bush growing in your rose garden.

A close relative of the Japanese rose beetle found on the mainland, the **Chinese Rose Beetle** is probably the most common rose-pest (or resulting damage) to be recognized in our local rose gardens. If you've never strolled in your rose garden after sundown, you probably haven't had a chance to see them as they are nocturnal by nature.

Unfortunately, all you see in the morning is the resulting damage that they have left behind - leaves with so many holes in them that they often resemble "lace" and in some cases, damage to rose buds that have not even had a chance to open.

Chinese Rose Beetles

are most active (feeding and mating) about 30 minutes after sundown (Tsutsumi, et al, 1993). After doing research to write this article, I found several sources that said that like many insects, these beetles are attracted to light at night. Contrary to this fact, I found just the opposite to be true earlier this year when I potted my new bareroot roses and left them coincidentally in



Photo by
Myrna Cariaga



Photo by
S. Muragin

range of my twin bulbed 75-watt (150-watt total) motion-detector floodlights. To my amazement, the bareroot roses leafed-out beautifully without a single bite from **Chinese Rose Beetles**. In my garden, that in itself was truly remarkable. However you'll be even more astonished when I tell you that my rose bushes, just five feet away but out of range of the flood lights, were completely devoured when I skipped spraying them with insecticide for **Chinese Rose Beetles** for about a month!

I theorize that the only logical explanation was that my floodlights were emulating daylight. As nocturnal insects, the **Chinese Rose Beetles** were likely confused by the "artificial sunlight" that cascaded over my bareroot roses. I had heard earlier that some veteran HRS members used lights to help protect their rose plants. But, as the cliché goes, "Seeing is believing."

Unfortunately, my bareroot roses eventually grew too big to leave them where there were - under the protection of my floodlights. After about three months, I moved them into their intended home in my rose beds but not before installing a do-it-yourself garden lighting system. I purchased a 600-watt power pack with a timer and ran a 250-foot electrical line from it. I then installed eight 20-watt wash lights every 5 - 6 feet. The lights are programmed to go on from approximately 6:45pm-11:15pm every night.

It's been about two months since I installed the lights and they seem to be doing their job. Now, on a "bad" night, I find maybe one or two **Chinese Rose Beetles** in my rose garden. Most nights, I find none. Furthermore, the damage that I find is very minor and quite acceptable to me. Besides, I feel it's a small price to pay for the reward of not

having to spray chemicals to keep these beetles away.

Some members also say that street lights and fluorescent lighting are effective but solar-lighting just doesn't seem to be bright enough to keep **Chinese Rose Beetles** away.

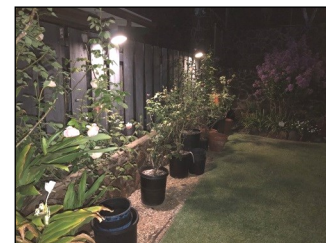
Update June 2021:

In 2019, I was thinking to get some solar lights to install on the side of my home where there isn't a convenient electrical outlet that I can plug into. I was glad to learn that solar lights are now much brighter than the old versions. Unfortunately, cost was still prohibitive at \$75 to \$100 per light.

Fast-forward to June 2021: I was pleasantly surprised to see prices down to about \$20 per light on Amazon! I took a chance and purchased one fixture and I was blown away by how bright and far-reaching the light was! I was so impressed that I quickly ordered two more. They also have a remote and can be set to go on automatically when it gets dark which makes them convenient. If you've been on the fence about using solar lights to protect your roses, now's the time to try them. You'll be amazed how bright they are!



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Sources:

www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/crop/type/adoretus.htm. *Adoretus Sinicus* (Burmeister).

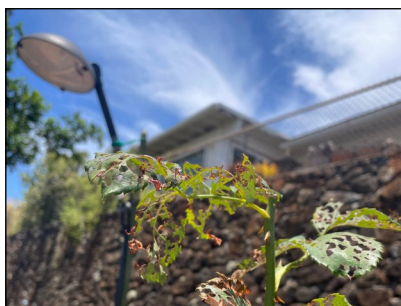
Tsutsumi, L.H., S.C. Furtani, M. Nagao, V. Sworts and A. Vargo. 1993. An Integrated Approach to *Adoretus* Controlling Hawaii and American Samoa.

An Update on Chinese Rose Beetles

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Update July-August 2023:

Last month, I wrote that several HRS members contacted me saying they were seeing damage from **Chinese Rose Beetles** on their rose plants in their gardens.



Photos by Marsha Yokomichi

Coincidentally, I was also having major problems with **Chinese Rose Beetle** damage in my garden at the very same time. This was unusual for me because I'm still using my 600-watt electrical power transmitter with 20-watt light bulbs and several solar-powered lights that go on every night at sundown in my garden.

Electric-Powered Lights

I had forgotten that there was a power-outage in my neighborhood in early July. The power was off for a little over two-hours before it was restored. This means that my automatic timer was turning on my electric-powered lights over two-hours late every night! I discovered the problem in late July when I noticed the severe damage to my rose leaves on plants that were growing right under the garden lights. Not a single leaf remained untouched and most resembled lace.

I corrected the current-time on the timer and just waited until things got better but to my surprise, I was still seeing damage on my newly emerging leaves. I then recalled something I read years ago regarding a theory that **Chinese Rose Beetles** were attracted to the scent that newly-bitten leaves give off. So, in a sense, the scent of the damaged leaves gave the **Chinese**

Rose Beetles a homing-device to lead them back to exactly where they could find dinner the following night.

I had a hunch that the damaged leaves would have to heal and somewhat dry up on the bitten edges before they stopped giving off their scent. After that, the garden lights hopefully would start warding off **Chinese Rose Beetles** again. I would have liked to pull off all of the lace-leaves from my plants but I did not dare to do so because I knew that the rose plants were already stressed with the heat of Summer.

I waited patiently for the weeks to pass by and I'm happy to report that use of the electric-powered garden lights seems to be working once again. Damage to new leaves is much less compared to damage seen last month when my lights were turning on over two-hours late.

Solar-Powered Lights

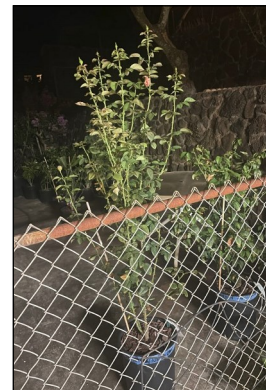
So, why did my rose plants under my solar-powered lights still get damaged by **Chinese Rose Beetles** when the electrical power-outage in early July had no effect on them? This puzzled me.

Because the solar-powered lights only come on at dusk when it is quite dark, I believe that they are just going on too late to ward off **Chinese Rose Beetles**. I don't know why it was never much of a problem before but right now, I can describe the damage done by **Chinese Rose Beetles** growing under my solar-powered lights as "severe."

Experiment with Patio Light

I decided to do an experiment with two of my newer potted roses planted earlier this year. I pulled off the dozen or so leaves from each plant that had **Chinese Rose Beetle** damage on them then placed them under the cascading light of my florescent patio light. I made sure the patio light was on before sundown and left them on until about 10pm at night. To my amazement, the two plants stayed

relatively clean of any **Chinese Rose Beetle** damage. Except for just a couple of leaves on each plant that had very minor damage.



Conclusion

Like many bad bags, the population of **Chinese Rose Beetles** may be highest during the Summer months. Along with its food of choice, rose leaves, **Chinese Rose Beetles** apparently have an appetite for the leaves of many ornamental plants and leafy vegetables. Do I believe that lights still keep **Chinese Rose Beetles** away from rose plants? Yes, I believe they do so because I see it happening in my own garden.

Timing of when the lights actually go on seems to be a significant factor in the ability of lights to keep **Chinese Rose Beetles** at bay.

Electric-powered lights should be set to go on before sundown. For solar-powered lights, there seems to be a period between when **Chinese Rose Beetles** seek out their first meal of the night and when it gets dark enough for the lights to actually turn on in the garden. The challenge is to fill that short time period with another light source to trick **Chinese Rose Beetles** into thinking it is still daylight outside when it's actually dark.

I'm going to take a wait-and-see stance in dealing with rose plants growing under my solar-powered lights. I am hoping that the population of **Chinese Rose Beetles** will decline after the Summer months so that the solar-powered lights can again protect my roses.



Armchair Traveler: Queen Elizabeth Park Rose Garden Vancouver, British Columbia

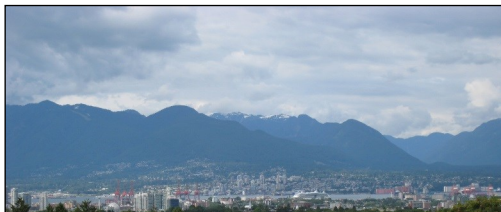
By Marsha Yokomichi
HRS Master Rosarian

The beautiful **Queen Elizabeth Park Rose Garden** was established in 1967 in commemoration of Canada's Centennial in which the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were joined together into one federation.



Above and below: Examples of climbers being trained to grow on hanging chains.

The Queen Elizabeth Park itself is located at the highest point in the city and encompasses a total of approximately 130 acres. The **Rose Garden in Queen Elizabeth Park** is located in the south-west perimeter of the park and features over 2,500 rose plants. Interestingly, the roses are planted in beds that are specifically laid out to form the shape of Queen Elizabeth II's Imperial State Crown.



Strolling through the **Queen Elizabeth Park Rose Garden** among thousands of blooming roses, neatly-trimmed lawns, and complementary companion-plants is just a joy to behold. With breathtaking views of the skyline and majestic mountains to add to the garden's ambiance, one can't help but appreciate the natural beauty surrounding this area. You may also feel as if you are strolling through the Stanley Park Rose Garden also in Vancouver.



However, the Stanley Park Rose Garden (previously featured in the 10/15/22 edition of the Rose Petals newsletter) is much larger in size. The Queen Elizabeth Park Garden, at approximately one-tenth the size of Stanley Park, is still spacious enough to house a breathtaking quarry garden, an arboretum, a conservatory, and a world-class rose garden.



The **Queen Elizabeth Park Rose Garden** is located at 4600 Cambie Street, Vancouver, British Columbia. Open 10am-7pm year-round. Free admission but there is a charge for parking in the park. Parking fees range from \$2.25 to \$6 per hour per car depending on the time of the year you are visiting.



The rose garden is certainly worth a visit if you're in the area but plan to spend at least two to three hours here. That should be enough time to also take in the views of the impeccably manicured Quarry Garden and visit the conservatory featuring over 100 exotic birds. The arboretum also features about 1,500 exotic trees.



All Photos by Marsha Yokomichi

Sources:
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https://travel.usnews.com/Vancouver_Canada/Things_To_Do/Queen_Elizabeth_Park_63087/

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