



# Rose Petals



Short Rose-Related Info-Bits to Stay Connected

September 30, 2023

## Hybrid Tea Spotlight: *Firefighter*



Photo by Marsha Yokomichi

By Cathy Matsuzaki

Our hearts and prayers go out to those affected by the devastating wildfires on Maui last month. We salute the bravery and heroic efforts of all emergency personnel who assisted in this disaster, and especially the firefighters who risked their lives to battle the blazes for days. We showcase the **Firefighter**

rose this month in honor of all the courageous firefighters.

The rose was named to pay tribute to the firefighters who lost their lives in the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. **Firefighter** was selected as a sponsorship rose of the "Remember Me Rose Garden Fund", a living memorial of the victims and heroes of 9-11 and as a means to always remember their sacrifice and courage on this ill-fated day.

**Firefighter** is a gorgeous dark velvet red Hybrid Tea rose, bred by Joseph Orard in France before 1998. It was introduced in the United States by Edmunds' Roses in 2005 as **Firefighter**. This rose is

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## President's Message

On behalf of the Honolulu Rose Society, I would like to express my sincere condolences for the victims of last month's wildfire in Lahaina. It's hard to believe that the historic old town where many of us used to visit and remember fondly is gone forever.

The HRS extends our heartfelt support to the survivors of the disaster and ask that you reach out to contribute to relief efforts if you have not already done so.

The Hawaii Community Foundation is still collecting monetary donations for the Maui Strong Fund at : <https://www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>. In addition, many of our local banks are still collecting cash donations through the Hawaii Bankers Association Aloha for Maui fund. Please check with your bank for more information.

Mahalo, Myrna

## Hybrid Tea Spotlight: *Pope John Paul II*

By Cathy Matsuzaki

An exceptionally beautiful rose, **Pope John Paul II** is an elegant and classically formed Hybrid Tea with luminous pure white blossoms and an intoxicating fresh citrus fragrance. It is considered to be one of the most fragrant roses of all time. **Pope John Paul II** was once thriving in the Heroes Garden at the UGC Rose Garden where visitors once adored the sweet aroma of these exquisite roses.

Bred by distinguished hybridizer Dr. Keith W. Zary before 2004, **Pope John Paul II** was introduced in the United States by Jackson & Perkins Co. in 2006. The parentage stems from *Secret*, a pink blend Hybrid Tea bred by Daniel Tracy and introduced by Star Roses (*Secret* was also once growing in the UGC Rose Garden), and *Fragrant Lace*, a

pink blend Hybrid Tea bred by Dr. Zary in 1998.



Photo Source: wikipedia.org

This lovely and radiant rose honors the late Pope John Paul II (born Karol Józef Wojtyła in 1920) who was the leader of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 1978 until his death in 2005. He was one of the youngest and one of the longest-serving Popes in history. Pope John Paul II was later canonized as Pope Saint John Paul II.

The **Pope John Paul II** rose was specifically selected by the Vatican to commemorate its namesake and was planted in the Vatican gardens overlooking Saint Peter's Basilica in 2013. The **Pope John Paul II** rose was also planted in the White House



Photo by Myrna Cariaga

Rose Garden during its renovation in 2020 which was commissioned by then First Lady Melania Trump in honor of the first time ever a Pope visited the White House in 1979. In October of 1979, President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter welcomed Pope John Paul II to the White House.

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also known as *Hacienda*, *Red 'n' Fragrant* and *Roxanne Pallett*, who is an English actress, television personality and broadcaster. The parentage of **Firefighter** is a cross between *Lasting Love*, a dark red Hybrid Tea rose bred by Michel Adam in France in 1993 and introduced in the United States by Weeks Wholesale Rose Grower, Inc. in 2005, and *Hidalgo*, a medium red Hybrid Tea Rose bred by Marie-Louise Meilland in France in 1979.

This classic red rose whose fragrance has been described as “strong fruity (raspberry), musk, and sweet” is sure to bring endless appeal to novice rose enthusiasts and master rosarians alike. In 2017, Firefighter was awarded The James Alexander Gamble Fragrance Medal by the American Rose Society Prizes & Awards Committee.

**Firefighter's** pointed ovoid buds gracefully open to feature large,

fully-double, very full blossoms, averaging 4-1/2 inches in diameter with 40 to 45 petals each. Borne mostly solitary, its high-centered spiraled bloom form, referred to as “exhibition-form”, is accentuated perfectly on long, thornless (or near thornless) stems, making this an ideal cut rose to highlight in an arrangement.

With its vibrant rich red color, the beautiful **Firefighter** rose will surely stand out in any garden landscape with its timeless elegance in garden beds and borders which complements its perfect background of semi-glossy dark green foliage. Also, with its nearly thornless quality, it will be perfect planted along walkways. A good repeat bloomer, you'll want to step out into your garden often to marvel at and be pleasantly greeted by these magnificent and extremely fragrant roses with its classic old rose perfume. Sources indicate that cooler temperatures tend to produce the best red color for this rose. **Firefighter** has a vigorous upright and bushy growth habit and can range from 5 to 6 feet in height and

3 to 4 feet in width. It thrives best in full sunlight and is very heat-tolerant and disease-resistant.

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## HT Spotlight: *Pope John Paul II*

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The pointed ovoid buds on **Pope John Paul II** open to reveal very large and full blooms averaging 5 to 6 inches in diameter with a 45 to 50 petal count. A characteristic trait of Hybrid Tea roses, these gorgeous roses are borne mostly solitary on long sturdy stems making them ideal to cut and bring indoors to proudly display in a vase, especially to enjoy its strong heavenly scented fragrance. **Pope John Paul II** has received top honors for its fragrance, perfect bloom form and abundance of blooms, vigorous growth, and excellent disease resistance. Among its notable accolades: Most Fragrant Variety of Rose at the Rose Hills International Rose Trials in 2006; Gold Medal, Most Fragrant Rose, Best Hybrid Tea at the Australian National Rose Trials in 2010; and Most Fragrant Rose and

People's Choice of Most Fragrant Rose at the Portland Rose Trials in 2011.

**Pope John Paul II** is a very vigorous rose and has a medium-tall, upright and bushy growth habit reaching heights of 4 to 5 feet and widths of 3 to 4 feet at maturity. A prolific bloomer, **Pope John Paul II** boasts an abundance of exquisite white roses which stand out nicely against its glossy, dark green foliage, which is very disease-resistant. Sources indicate that these roses tend to be larger and have more of a pinkish coloration in cooler weather conditions. It flourishes best in full sun making it perfect to plant in garden beds, borders and large containers.

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