



Rose Petals



Short Rose-Related Info-Bits to Stay Connected

June 15, 2024 Edition

Hybrid Tea Spotlight: *Chrysler Imperial*

By Cathy Matsuzaki

Editor's Note: The Chrysler Imperial automobile was introduced in 1926 and remained as Chrysler's top-of-the-line model for most of its history. The car represented preferred luxury transportation for senior executives, royalty, and celebrities. The **Chrysler Imperial** rose was introduced in 1952 with the purpose of promoting the car.



Photo Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrysler_Imperial

The classic and well-known Hybrid Tea rose, **Chrysler Imperial** is a timeless and elegant beauty that truly captures the hearts of rose enthusiasts. Bred by Dr. Walter E. Lammerts in the United States before 1952, **Chrysler Imperial** was introduced in the United States by Germain Seed & Plant Co. in

1952. Its parentage stems from *Charlotte Armstrong* (a deep pink Hybrid Tea bred by Dr. Lammerts before 1940) and *Mirandy* (a dark red Hybrid Tea also bred by Dr. Lammerts before 1944).

Chrysler Imperial was also used to

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Hybrid Tea Spotlight: *Chelsea Pensioner*



Photo by Marsha Yokomichi

By Marsha Yokomichi
HRS Master Rosarian

Chelsea Pensioner is a beautiful dark red Hybrid Tea rose bred by Harkness Roses of the United Kingdom. This rose variety was introduced at the 2024 Chelsea Flower Show in May 2024. The rose serves as a tribute to the beloved 300 British army veterans who reside at the Chelsea Royal

Hospital. It was chosen especially for its scarlet color which resembles the pensioners' (veterans) uniforms.

Each **Chelsea Pensioner** rose contains up to 50 petals and is cloaked in medium to dark green glossy foliage. Width of the blooms can extend to almost 4 inches across while the variety can grow up to 3 feet tall. Mild fragrance.

Harkness Roses will donate 2.50 British pounds to the Chelsea Royal Hospital for every **Chelsea Pensioner** rose sold. Unfortunately, the **Chelsea Pensioner** rose is currently only available in the United Kingdom.

Sources:
<https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/1.php?l=2.91800>

<https://www.roses.co.uk/product/531104/rose-chelsea-pensioner-3l-4l-pot-c>

HRS Rose School Workshop #2

By Cathy Matsuzaki
2024 Rose School Coordinator
All photos by Cathy Matsuzaki

Our second Rose School workshop was held on Saturday, May 25th at the Aiea United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall. The topic of the day was "The Basics of Fertilizing Roses". Groups Leaders and students came to this workshop with their mini rose plants in hand. We were delighted to see that their rose plants are doing well with lots of green foliage, new growth and many with buds and blooms.

Consulting Rosarian and Rose School Floating Group Leader **Frank Dumlaio** was our first speaker and lectured about the most efficient and effective ways to provide nutrients to your rose plants. He spoke about the types and differences between using organic versus chemical or synthetic fertilizers to feed your plants.



One of the best organic fertilizers you can use is compost and **Frank** explained the many benefits of using compost. He also talked about other different organic fertilizers, some of which you can even use from your own kitchen waste products. **Frank** then went on to discuss the essential nutrients for roses and N - P - K, which stands for Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potassium.

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breed the distinguished *Papa Meiland* rose in 1963. Among its accolades, ***Chrysler Imperial*** won the coveted All-America Rose Selections (AARS) award in 1953; the John Cook Medal (a rose award granted by the American Rose Society) in 1964; and the James Alexander Gamble Rose Fragrance Award (awarded by the American Rose Society Prizes and Awards Committee) in 1965.

The long, pointed buds of ***Chrysler Imperial*** gracefully open to reveal a very large, double, full and shapely high-centered bloom with rich dark red velvety petals. Each blossom averages 4-3/4" in diameter with a 45 to 50 petal count. Typical of a Hybrid Tea rose, ***Chrysler Imperial*** is borne mostly solitary on long straight stems which will make an exquisite floral arrangement with its strong citrus, clove, damask, rose fragrance and long-lasting blooms. It also makes an exceptional exhibition rose.

An excellent repeat bloomer, ***Chrysler Imperial*** is a very vigorous and hardy plant with a medium, compact and upright



Photo by Cathy Matsuzaki

growth habit. Its dark green matte foliage perfectly accentuates the dark red blossoms. At maturity, ***Chrysler Imperial*** can grow to heights of 30 inches up to 6 feet with a width of 2 to 4 feet. This variety thrives best in hot climates, but it can be susceptible to Powdery Mildew and Black Spot, especially in cooler climates. Like most roses, it likes full sun however, it can also tolerate partial shade. Blooms have a tendency to "ball" in wet weather, meaning the buds will develop but not open. With its beautiful red coloration, ***Chrysler Imperial*** will add a burst of color in your garden beds, borders or containers.

Interestingly, in the 1954 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade 25,000 ***Chrysler Imperial*** roses stunningly

covered the base of the float entered by the City of Detroit, Michigan and Chrysler Corporation, making it one of the first roses to be involved in the promotional marketing of a consumer product, namely the Chrysler Imperial automobile.

Sources:

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<https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/l.php?l=2.1097>

<https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/l.php?l=2.4273.0>

<https://www.weeksroses.com/product/chrysler-imperial/roses>

<https://www.starrosesandplants.com/plants/chrysler-imperial/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_%27Chrysler_Imperial%27

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<https://www.rose.org/single-post/2018/04/28/the-james-alexander-gamble-fragrance-award>

Rose Care Tidbit: *Gulf Fritillary Caterpillar*

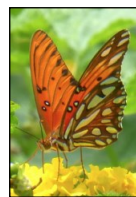


By Marsha Yokomichi
HRS Master Rosarian

I took photos of this caterpillar on one of my rose plants a few years ago and recently found them while scanning through some of my old photos. Interestingly, I only saw it on one of my rose plants that borders the fence-line of my garden

and never saw it again. After doing some research, I found that it was a caterpillar of the ***Gulf Fritillary*** butterfly. I guess it must have been a rare sighting to find it on my rose plant as I found that this caterpillar's only source of food are passion flower leaves.

Thinking back now, I do recall an invasive vine of passion flowers growing vigorously on my chain link fence next to the rose plant several years ago. I did not know what it was at the time but I know now it was a passion flower vine because of the distinct smooth-skin passion fruits that appeared sporadically on the vine. I yanked it out



and removed it from my fence before I had a chance to see any of the beautiful exotic-looking passion flowers that this invasive vine is noted for.

Gulf Fritillary caterpillars do not eat any part of rose plants so we can view them as a "friend" and deal with them with the motto, "live and let live."

Sources:

Butterfly photo—<https://hawaiinaturejournal.weebly.com/hawaii-plants-and-animals-in-the-backyard-and-beyond/butterfly-kisses>

Passion fruit photo—<http://www.starrenvironmental.com/images/image/?q=52449412164>

<https://www.flawildflowers.org/know-your-native-pollinators-gulf-fritillary/>



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He stressed the importance of taking time to read the labels of the products before purchasing them. For example, when you purchase rabbit food pellets, you want to be sure that alfalfa is listed as the first ingredient and there is no molasses listed as an ingredient since that contains sugar which will attract ants to your plants. **Frank** concluded his portion of the lecture by explaining the different types of synthetic fertilizers and passed around sample containers of different types of fertilizers for the students to look at.

After a short break, next up was Consulting Rosarian **Bob Speer** who served as our guest speaker and lectured about effective fertilizing. He began by speaking about the importance of soil pH and that the optimal pH level for growing roses is between 6.0 and 6.5. He said that given this optimal range, this is when the most nutrients in the soil become available to roses.



Bob expressed the need to periodically check your soil for the pH level and mentioned that you can either test your soil yourself using a pH meter or take a sample of your soil and send it to the Urban Garden Center in Pearl City and they will test it for a nominal fee. **Bob** spoke about adjusting the soil's pH level by either raising the level using lime or lowering it by using sulfur. He also passed around sample bags for the students to look at.

Bob talked about using organic versus chemical fertilizers and how much to fertilize. He also went over

some helpful tips such as hydrating your rose plants before fertilizing and using mulch to retain moisture. **Bob** explained about customizing your own fertilizing program while Consulting Rosarian and Group Leader **Mary Ann Recaido** chimed in with helpful tips about gathering information for the timeframe of the roses you grow from the time you prune to new growth and from bud to open bloom. For example, **Mary Ann** explained that the timing for mini roses to bloom will be faster since it is a smaller rose as compared to a Hybrid Tea rose.



We then moved on to the hands-on portion of our class where under the direction of **Frank**, participants were given packets of materials to be added to their potted rose plants. With the assistance of their respective Group Leaders first, they were directed to lightly scratch the surface of the soil to loosen it with the plastic fork given to each participant. Next, they applied a layer of compost and worked that into the soil, followed by scattering a small amount of rabbit food (alfalfa) pellets and then working that into the soil as well. They then sprinkled a small amount of Vigoro Rose Food granular fertilizer around the plant; **Frank** likened it to being a chef and adding a pinch of salt here and there. Finally, they added a good layer of mulch to the top of their pots to retain the moisture in the soil.



Students and Group Leaders were also given a packet of Miracle Gro Rose Plant Food water soluble fertilizer to be mixed with water and added to their plants later at home. Thank you to **Bob** for going around to the different groups and helping the students with this task and for answering their questions.

Special thanks to **Frank Dumalo**, Group Leader **Linda Kauhane** and HRS member **Chester Adessa** for bringing their beautiful and fragrant home-grown roses which were given away at the end of class. **Frank** also gave away one of his exquisite hand-painted vases. The lucky recipients were: **Elissa Pickard, Joni Foo, and Debbie Iijima.**

A big Mahalo to **Frank** and **Bob** for serving as Instructors at today's workshop and to Master Rosarians **Myrna Cariaga** and **Marsha Yokomichi** for preparing the excellent handout materials and slideshow. Thank you once again to all our wonderful Group Leaders for their guidance, one-on-one assistance and for sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience about growing roses with their students: **Glenn Fukuda, Linda Kauhane, Lynn Koba, Mary Ann Recaido, Brandon Tavares** and **Aileen Schroffner.**

Thank you to those who came early to help with set-up and stayed late to help with clean-up too, especially some of the Group Leaders who had to go to work thereafter. Mahalo to **Lianne** and **Steve Nagano** (and Mrs. Dorothy Kawamoto of the Aiea United Methodist Church) for coming early to open up the room for us and who stayed late to help us clean-up too. Thank you to those who brought snacks for your fellow rosarians to enjoy.



(L-R) Julie M; Chester A.; Duriza C.; Lisa H. and Group Leader Linda K.



Armchair Traveler: English Roses at the 2024 Chelsea Flower Show Chelsea, London, England

By Marsha Yokomichi
HRS Master Rosarian

The annual Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) **Chelsea Flower Show** is arguably the most prestigious and well-known garden show in the world. This year, the event was held from May 21 to 25th and Myrna and I were thrilled to attend on May 22nd and cross one of the items off of our bucket list.

Every year, the show is only open for six short days but over 168,000 visitors flock to the event. The first day is for press-only; the second and third days are for RHS members; and the fourth to sixth days are for the public. Admission for all days sells out every year. King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited the 2024 **Chelsea Flower Show** on the first day.

For those who are not familiar with the **Chelsea Flower Show**, it is formally known as, the “Great Spring Show” and it has been held at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, London since 1912. There were only three times the show did not happen: One year for WWI; one year for WWII; and another year in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



One of the outdoor garden settings with the Chelsea Royal Hospital in the background.

The 2024 **Chelsea Flower Show** featured 35 garden settings, numerous floral and garden displays, and an abundance of

garden-related shopping which were put together especially for the show.

A portion of the proceeds from the event are dedicated to the Chelsea Royal Hospital. The hospital is a retirement and nursing home for about 300 veterans of the British Army. The hospital relies partially on donations and proceeds from the **Chelsea Flower Show** to help run the facility. Residents of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea are called “Chelsea Pensioners” like the rose featured on the first page of this newsletter with the same name.

DAVID AUSTIN ROSES DISPLAY



Of course, we eagerly sought out the exhibition of roses by David Austin Roses; Peter Beales Roses, and Harkness Roses at the show and we were not disappointed. Thousands of colorful and fragrant roses adorned all three company's exhibition sites and it was truly a heavenly experience that we won't soon forget. All three companies featured their most successful varieties as well as newly-introduced ones.

PETER BEALES ROSES DISPLAY



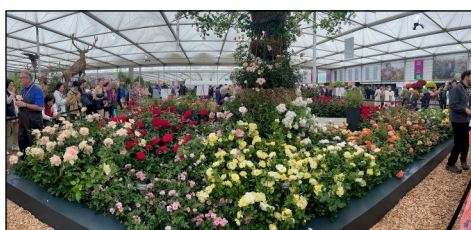
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Armchair Traveler: Chelsea Flower Show Chelsea, London, England

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HARKNESS ROSES DISPLAY

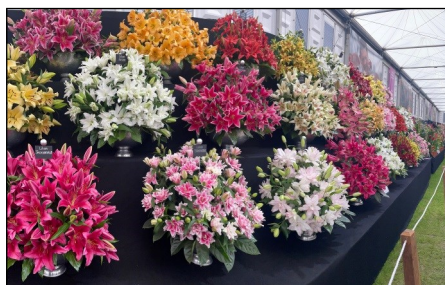


We also had the opportunity to attend the equally famous Royal Horticultural Society Hampton Court Flower Show with HRS Consulting Rosarian Laurie Shimabukuro and her mom on our way back from the 2018 World Federation of Roses Societies convention in Copenhagen, Denmark. That show takes place annually in early July in the heat of summer. The Hampton Court

Flower Show is larger and equally spectacular but we found ourselves searching for shade as we walked around the show grounds. We ended up cutting our day short as the relentless sun and summer heat took their toll on us.

Attending the **Chelsea Flower Show** in May was much more comfortable although it was also a bit rainy and cold with temperatures in the high 50's to low 60's. Nevertheless, we enjoyed ourselves tremendously with coats on and umbrellas in hand. We count ourselves as very fortunate to have attended the **Chelsea Flower Show** at least once in our lives.

The Royal Horticultural Society hosts the **Chelsea Flower Show** in late May every year for six days. Admission sells out every year so be sure to purchase your tickets early if you plan to visit. The **Chelsea Flower Show** is held on the grounds of the Chelsea Royal Hospital located at: London Gate, Royal Hospital Road, London, UK SW3 4SR. Admission prices range from \$75 for afternoon-entry to \$160 full-day entry on RHS Member days and \$60 afternoon-entry to \$128 full-day entry on public-entry days. Plan on visiting a full-day if you plan to attend because there are many more beautiful things to see than just roses at the **Chelsea Flower Show**.



Display of colorful Lilies.



Stunningly beautiful Allium display above and Calla Lilies below.



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<https://www2.theticketfactory.com/rhs/online/tickets/rhs-chelsea-flower-show>

All photos by Marsha Yokomichi

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
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