

Reprint from:
Robert L. Whitaker
The Rose Leaf
Nashville Rose Society
April 2001

ROSE OF THE MONTH:
Dainty Bess

Single HT - Archer, 1925
Rating 8.8

It's time for someone to say a kind word about senior citizens in this month's column, and Edmunds Roses does so in their catalog offering of our featured rose Dainty Bess introduced in 1925: "This five-petalled soft pink bloom with burgundy stamens looks so fragile that a strong wind could blow the clusters away. But don't you believe it, because this rugged plant and its blooms are stronger than leather, virtually disease free and a survivor in any climate".

I have grown this cultivar in my home gardens for 35 years and enjoyed the excitement of its dazzling sprays of sumptuous color. The plant has never left me, I have left it; but soon replanted it in my next garden. The delicate beauty of its fresh blooms and uniqueness of its burgundy stamens in the center catch the eye of everyone in a rose show where Dainty Bess can win best single hybrid tea or best hybrid tea spray.

Of special interest in this month's issue is the fact that Dainty Bess has a climbing sport (c. 1935) mentioned in the feature article so you can have it either way you wish-high or low.

It is somewhat of an enigma for a rose to be classified as a "single hybrid tea", as "single", and "hybrid tea" would not be so combined in 2001. Today, these types find themselves classified in the floribunda and shrub classes.

Exhibiting hint for single type roses: cut fresh on day of show or cut day ahead when rose is almost ready to spread its wings. Keep in cool, low light area. Refrigeration can cause petals to close up and not open fully.

If you want to explore some of these roses, which are single types having 5 to 12 petals maximum, their fresh stamens looking you in the eye as they open, here is a list (see below) to consider and study: They come in all sizes and types:

ARS Rating	Cultivar Type	Color Class
8.4	Playtime (Fl)	Orange red
8.2	Playboy (Fl)	Red blend
8.1	Playgirl (Fl)	Medium pink
8.2	Charlotte Anne (Fl)	Mauve
8.9	Golden Wings Shrub	Light yellow
NR	Coral Meidiland Shrub	Medium pink
NR	Gizmo (Min)	Orange blend
NR	Blueberry Hill (Fl)	Mauve



Dainty Bess
Al Spicer