

Reprint from:
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ROSE OF THE MONTH: **Frau Dagmar Hartopp**

Hybrid Rugosa - c. 1914 Medium Pink

If you were given a choice between a class of roses to consider in your garden that is 55% susceptible to black spot versus one that is 0% susceptible, would you consider having some of the latter represented in your plantings to be a wise investment? What if they told you one of them was low growing, 2-3 feet, great fragrance, hardy, and disease free? Could you find room in your small garden for a plant like that, which could be planted by itself as a specimen or as a border instead of Japanese holly? 'Frau Dagmar Hartopp' (MP, **8.5 rating**) is the dwarf among the group described above, which will fit anywhere in your landscape setting and is highly recommended for beginners. The foliage is a look alike for the shrub viburnum with rose blossoms as a bonus.

In Scotland, there are mass plantings of hybrid rugosa cultivars along the public areas whose foliage is believed to be the most beautiful of all rose types. As a group, they do not need or even tolerate chemical sprays to enhance or protect their foliage. If you need a privacy hedge, this group will fill your needs as well as privet.

For the 1999 ARS convention, the Nashville Rose Society assisted Rippavilla Plantation in Spring Hill, Tennessee, with the planting of a new rose garden. Hybrid rugosa cultivars, '*R. Rugosa alba*, *rubra*', and 'Blanche Double de Coubert' were selected for their vigor and carefree traits as well as free blooming. In 2000, the year after the convention, I visited the garden, and these specimen plants were out-performing everything else in the garden, and the foliage was outstanding.

These roses are not a substitute for hybrid teas—they are alternatives as their stems are shorter and flower form different. The particular one serving as the focus for this month is available in Wayside's current catalog whose description says "One of the most popular because of its lavish floral and fruit displays. Five-petaled, three-inch blooms of delicate satin pink exude a delightful fragrance as they nestle amid clean, handsome foliage. This plant remains remarkably compact, only two- to three-feet tall (four feet in warmer areas) and three-feet wide".

The World of Roses is as large and vast as is the world in which we grow them. This may be the year for you to travel further in that first world than you have ventured before to experience what is different and exciting and much easier to grow successfully. Rosarians do not have to do *everything* the hard way.

Here are some of the Rugosa cultivars available with excellent Proof of Pudding ratings in the 2001 ARS handbook:

R. Rugosa, alba 9.2

R. Rugosa rubra 9.2

Rugosa Magnifica 9.0

Rosarie de L'Hay 8.9

(in various colors and growth patterns).

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