Rosa Leontine Gervaise

Chacewater Ramblings

by Charlie Pridham, Roseland House Nursery

There is a race of Rambling roses that arrived in Europe in the 1890s and was much planted later by the Edwardians that by a happy twist of genetics makes them ideal for all gardens.

Based on the rose species Rosa wichuriana, which was introduced from Japan in 1891, this is a lax semi evergreen and of itself an attractive plant with scented white flowers and good hips. The magic however, happened when nurserymen of the day started crossing it with the Tea roses which at the time (before Hybrid teas) were the main stay of the English rose border.

The main features of the resulting hybrids were long flexible stems that resist wind damage and make the plants very easy to work to any shape required. On the one hand they can easily cope with a pergola or arch way, be trained along ropes or chains, but are still able to be made to fit a 4' obelisk by winding them around.

The foliage is glossy green and healthy and will often remain evergreen, flowers come in a range of colours but are generally softer shades of pinks creams and apricots, there is a main flush in June and July and they will then settle to flower intermittently until the first weeks of January.

One of the other things we have noticed about them is their salt tolerance, making them the ideal choice for coastal gardens.
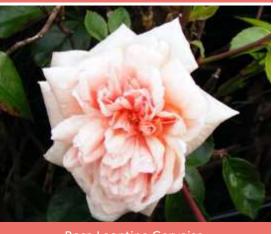
If you want to get the best from these roses it pays to grow them on their own roots, they perform much better when not reliant on a rootstock, if buying plants that are on rootstocks its a good idea to plant deeply so as to allow the variety to make its own roots.

The varieties illustrating this article are just some of the ones that have done well for both us here and with our customers around the country.

 If you should find yourself down in Cornwall during the summer, then why not pay us a visit and see them in action! We open the garden each Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon from 1pm to 5pm at Roseland House, Chacewater, TR4 8QB.

Rosa Alberic Barbier

Rosa Leontine Gervaise

Rosa Aviateur Bleriot

Rosa La Perle

Rosa Rene Andre

Rosa Weetwood

Rosa Alida Lovett

Rosa Sander's White

Rosa Francois Juranville

Rosa Paul Transon

Rosa Blushing Lucy