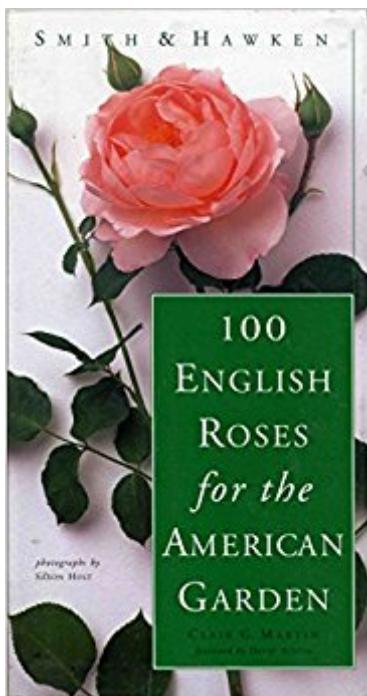


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Smith & Hawken: 100 English Roses For The American Garden



Synopsis

WIFE OF BATH, THE REEVE, GERTRUDE JEKYLL, and the beloved CONSTANCE SPRY

Growing more popular every year, English Roses (often called David Austin Roses, after the hybridizer who created them) combine the charming, open-flowering habit and deep fragrance of Old Garden Roses with the continuous bloom and color range of Modern Hybrids. Here, in a book focused exclusively on the needs of North American gardeners, is a complete guide to selecting, planting, feeding, pruning, and caring for 100 English Roses. It includes full-color photographs throughout, plus a source guide, a list of public gardens displaying English Roses, and an index of cultivars by color.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The rose has always been a popular flower; ancient Romans, Egyptians, Greeks, and Chinese cultivated rose gardens and used the blooms in festivals and funerals. Yet the roses we grow today have generally been in existence for less than a century, and English roses--in spite of the traditional-sounding name--have all been developed since the 1950s by rosarian David Austin in an effort to combine the fragrance and beauty of old roses and the frequent blooming habit of modern hybrids. 100 English Roses for the American Garden presents those English roses best suited to the diverse North American climate. As the curator of rose collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, author Clair G. Martin knows his roses. With a large section devoted to general rose care (mulching, composting, container growing, and cutting) and individual pages (each, of course,

depicting a single perfect rose) detailing the availability, stature and habit, usage, and disease susceptibility of each variety in various climates, this is an enjoyable and useful introduction to a fragrant subject.

This represents the first book written on growing English roses in this country. Martin selects reliable cultivars for Americans and covers all the basics of planting and maintenance. Color photos of the roses in bloom accompany growth charts, histories, and clear explanations. -- Midwest Book Review

This is a fun book for Austin rose lovers, including comments about how English roses actually grow in US climates. However, be advised that most of the current Austin roses available in the US are not included in this volume (newer, healthier options have taken over). I enjoyed this book but think that for those who aren't obsessed with English roses/just want information to guide purchase choices today a more recent book would be a better choice.

This is the book I check first when I have a question about an English Rose. The organization is great, the photography is beautiful, and the plants are described by someone who has grown them in the US. This book is therefore best for those growers who live in Southern California, but still, it's better than if it was written by an English grower. This book also describes the negative aspects of varieties, which is one of the most helpful things. One thing that would improve this book is a photo or description of the plant habit so to provide information on where to plant in the garden. E.g. is Abraham Darby staunchly upright, graceful, floppy? This book isn't all-inclusive, and of course there are new roses being released every year, but if you've got to have the latest, does it matter? Check out also 100 Old Roses for the American Garden, by the same author. Also a great book.

This book has been out for a number of years but it contains many of my old favorite David Austins, most of which are still blooming in my garden year after year. The photographs by Saxon Holt are sinfully beautiful. I love to sit in my garden and browse through this book and the companion volume, 100 Old Roses.

Love roses and this is a wonderful book to enjoy.

I stumbled onto this book because it was featured in the Washington Post in a column written by Adrian Higgins (Henry Mitchell's successor). A photograph of the Austrian Copper rose accompanied

the article (the cover), and I'm a sucker for burnt-orange, so I followed up on the book. I am very pleased with it. Although the cover is paper, it's a plasticized paper and a sturdy book. I mention this first, because I will refer to the book often, it feels pleasant to hold in the hand, it's easy to carry, and it can get a little moisture on the outside and not crumble. I'm tired of having my roses eaten alive every spring, so I decided to pull out all the hybrids and fall back and regroup. This book takes me back to the old roses that are a little more hardy and can put up with Washington DC weather patterns. The book is nicely laid out. A front section entitled, "What Makes an Old Rose" describes how old roses came to be. The next section is a "field guide" to help you distinguish roses at the nursery. This is followed by 168 pages of roses and text from 'Alba Semi-Plena' to 'Zephirine Drouhin.' What makes this book unique as well as useful is the layout. Each rose is covered in a two-page section. A text description is on the right-hand page, and a closeup photograph of a specimen of the rose showing the bloom, buds, and leaf and branch structure is on the left-hand side. Because it's an actual photo, one can identify the rose in question more easily. The text is useful. Not only are you provided a nice historical write-up on the rose, you are given the 'demographics' including the uses, fragrance, and susceptibility to diseases. Many of the roses appear to be relatively disease free and fragrant--and I found all of them except the "green" rose beautiful. The back of the book contains a list of mail-order houses and gardens where the specimens can be viewed. Since I live in the DC area, I have access to the U.S. National Arboretum and Woodlawn Plantation, but locations for viewing old roses are located in most states.

The most beautiful and informative book on modern roses is also one of the least expensive! Published in April 1997 by Workman, 100 English Roses for the American Garden is bound to become a classic. Nearly all of the 100 roses described and photographed are David Austin roses, world-renowned for healthy, dense foliage and continuous production of fragrant, well-formed and colored flowers. Most resources describe these Austin roses in terms of their behavior in England, which is quite different from that in America. This book gives a true picture of the pleasure these easily-grown roses can provide US gardeners. Each rose has two pages devoted to it. Saxon Holt's full-page photos show not just blossom and buds, but a full foot of supporting stalk complete with foliage and prickles. Set against a textured sheet of white paper, the colors are all unusually accurate, and glorious. Like the photos, Clair Martin's text is unusually accurate, and covers weaknesses as well as strengths. David Austin himself endorses Martin's understanding of these roses in a brief foreword. Several other chapters giving useful tips that aren't found elsewhere. You'll also find the list of suppliers valuable, because after looking at this book, you'll want to buy

many English roses for your American garden.

The day has finally come when an ergonomic, comfortable yet informative, easy-to-read garden information book has hit the bookshelves, and my workbench! For the first time, I don't feel like I need a botanical dictionary or Harvard degree to get some down and dirty tips on how to make my rose garden shine. Mr. Martin brings himself into my garden when I take the book with me along with my gloves. I'm able to learn more than just latin botanical names as I go through the histories and anecdotes Martin shares from his years of experience. Makes me feel like I have a little deeper connection with the plants in my border when that happens. His insight and humor make this field guide the tops for everyday use. I had to buy a second copy just so that I wouldn't have to worry about the rips and soil smudges on the original one. Can't wait for the next in the series; hear it's supposed to be coming out soon. Thank you Mr. Martin!

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