'Frontenac' Rose

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'Frontenac' is a winter-hardy shrub rose with a bush-type growth habit and deep-pink flowers. The plant flowers freely and recurrently and is resistant to powdery mildew [*Sphaerotheca pannosa* (Wallr. ex Fr.) Lev.] and blackspot (*Diplocarpon rosae* Wolf.).

Origin

'Frontenac' was derived from pollination of B08 by U11 (Fig. 1). The seed parent, B08, was derived from pollination of A15 (a hybrid of 'Queen Elizabeth' and 'Arthur Bell') by D36 (a hybrid between a hardy red shrub and the yellow shrub rose 'Von Schamhorst'). The pollen parent, U11, originated from a cross between L25 (derived from *Rosa kordesii* Wulff. and a hybrid derived from *R. spinosissima* L. and *R. laxa* Retz.) and D25 (which originated from a hybrid of *R. spinosissima* and *R. laxa*). The high degree of winter hardiness is derived from *R. kordesii*, *R. laxa*, and *R. spinosissima*.

Description

'Frontenac' (Fig. 2) has a bush-type growth habit, and the branches reach 1 m at L'Assomption, Que. The unopened deep-pink bud changes to medium pink as it unfurls. The flowers average 84 mm in diameter, have 20 petals, and are borne in clusters of one to eight. Based on the *Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart* (1966), the upper and lower petal surface colors are classified as 68B and 70D. The foliage is abundant, dark green, glossy, and leathery. There are five to seven leaflets, which are 40 × 28 mm (length × width), ovate, acuminate, and dentate. Eight thorns occur every 100 mm of stem.

Performance

'Frontenac' has been tested at Ottawa, Ont., for 2 years and for another 3 years at L'Assomption. Both sites are in the Canadian plant hardiness zone 5a (Ouellet and Sherk, 1967) [U.S. Dept. of Agriculture zone 4 (Cathey and Heriteau, 1990)]. The mean annual temperature at Ottawa for both years was 6C, with a -11C low mean in January and a 27C high mean in July. Similar temperatures were observed at L'Assomption over the 3-year test. This rose has survived all winters with no

protection other than natural snow cover and has shown none or slight winter injury. Flowering was continuous between June and September. Flower cover at peak bloom was higher than for any other cultivar, except 'Champlain', in the 'Explorer' series (Svejda, 1982). 'Frontenac' has shown high field resistance to powdery mildew and blackspot. This rose is propagated easily from softwood cuttings and grows well on its own roots.

Availability

'Frontenac' has been registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation, 652 Aberdeen Ave., North Bay, Ont., Canada P1B 7H9. Royalties will be collected. Propagation material will be maintained by Ian Ogilvie at the L'Assomption, Que., Canada address. Limited amounts of propagation stock are available to nurseries with COPF membership. Address American requests to Bailey Nurseries, 1325 Bailey Rd., St. Paul, MN 55109.

Literature Cited

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Fig. 1. Pedigree of 'Frontenac' rose.

Fig. 2. 'Frontenac' rose.

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