'George Vancouver' Rose

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'George Vancouver' is a winter-hardy shrub rose with an upright growth habit and medium-red flowers. The plant flowers repeatedly from June to September and is resistant to powdery mildew [*Sphaerotheca pannosa* (Wallr. ex Fr.) Lev.] and blackspot (*Diplocarpon rosae* Wolf.) in the Ottawa, Ontario, and L'Assomption, Quebec, Canada, areas. Although this shrub resembles the Explorer 'Champlain' rose in color and foliage, it is hardier, more fertile, and more resistant to mildew. This variety was released as an official rose for the Commonwealth Games held in Victoria, Canada.

Origin

'George Vancouver' was derived from a cross between L83, a line derived from *Rosa kordesii* Wulff, and E10, a breeding line of complex origin (Fig. 1). The seed parent was derived from a cross between *R. kordesii* and breeding line G49, which originated as a selection from line G12 x *R. kordesii*. *Rosa kordesii* originated from a spontaneous tetraploid from 'Max Graf', a hybrid between the diploid species *R. wichuriana* Crepin and *R. rugosa* Thunberg, one of the hardiest rose species known. The pollen parent, E10, originated from a cross between line L15 and 'Champlain'. Line L15 has a complex pedigree and was derived from *Rosa kordesii* and breeding line D07. This line resulted from open pollination of seedlings derived from a cross between 'Red Dawn' and 'Suzanne'. The high degree of winterhardiness is derived from *R. kordesii*, and from *R. laxa* Retzius and *R. spinosissima* L., which are hardy species from northern Europe and Asia (Svejda, 1988).

Description

'George Vancouver' (Fig. 2) has an upright growth habit such that branches of 5-year-old plants reach 0.9 m in height with a spread of 1 m at L'Assomption, Québec. The deep-red unopened bud of 'George Vancouver' changes to medium red at the blossom stage and later fades to pink in the fully opened flower. Flowers average 60 mm in diameter, have an average of 24 ± 4 petals, and are borne in clusters of one to six. The upper and lower petal surface colors are classified as 57B and

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This rose is easily propagated when soft-wood cuttings taken at the bud stage are dipped in rooting powder (Stimroot #2, 0.4% indolebutyric acid; Plant Products, Bramalea, Ontario) and placed under mist for 3 to 4 weeks. As with all other "Explorer" roses, 'George Vancouver' should be grown on its own roots.

Availability

'George Vancouver' has been registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF), 652 Aberdeen Ave., North Bay, Ontario P1B 7H9, Canada. Propagation material is being maintained by Ian Ogilvie, Agriculture Canada, P.O. Box 3398, L'Assomption, Québec J0K 1G0, Canada. Limited amounts of propagation stock will be available beginning in 1995 to nurseries with COPF membership. Address American commercial requests to Bailey Nurseries, 1325 Bailey Rd., St. Paul, MN 55109.

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Fig. 1. Pedigree of 'George Vancouver' rose (OP indicates open pollination of germplasm).

Fig. 2. The winter-hardy shrub rose, 'George Vancouver'. The plant is ≈0.9 m high and 1 m wide.