'Hope for Humanity' Rose

Lynn M. Collicutt and Campbell G. Davidson

Morden Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Unit 100-101
Route 100, Morden, MB, R6M 1Y5 Canada

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'Hope for Humanity' rose (*Rosa* sp.) is a new introduction from the AAFC-Morden Research Centre "Parkland Rose Series" (Marshall, 1977) breeding program. This plant was named in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Red Cross Society. 'Hope for Humanity' rose should survive USDA zone 3 with only minor injury (Ouellet and Sherk, 1967; Sherk and Buckley, 1968).

Origin

'Hope for Humanity' has a complex pedigree (Fig. 1). This plant combines hardiness, very good floral qualities, and excellent plant form in a hardy shrub-type "Parkland" rose (Marshall, 1977). Hardiness in this rose series was originally obtained from *Rosa arkansana*, a plant native to the Great Plains region. Repeated crossing and back-crossing with the more traditional shrub, hybrid tea, and floribunda roses has resulted in recombinants with good floral qualities and greatly improved hardiness.

Description

'Hope for Humanity' is a low-growing, everblooming, shrub rose (Fig. 2). Mature plants are relatively open and average 56 cm in height and 59 cm in width. Plants have a fairly upright form and strong canes that have a moderate number of downward-pointing thorns. The base of the thorn is oval, the upper edge is concave, while the lower edge is deeply concave. Current-season bark is a gray-orange (176A), which changes gradually to a yellow-green (146C) on mature stems. All color values are based on the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (1986).

The compound leaves (odd pinnate) have between three and seven leaflets, with five predominating. The terminal leaflet averages 5.1 cm in length and 3.5 cm in width. The overall leaflet shape is oval with simple serrations along the margin. The base and tip of the leaflets are rounded, with a small but discernible tip at the terminal end of a leaflet. The upper surface is green (147A) similar to the lower surface (147B). Petioles are green (176A)

and have a slight groove. Petiolules are present on the leaflet but are very small (≈ 2 mm).

Flowers are produced over a 10- to 14-week period (mean 10 weeks) during the growing season at Morden. Flowers first open in late June from overwintered buds and later from current-season's growth. Flowers have a weak fragrance. Flower buds are pointed and a deep wine red (187B). Sepals at time of flower opening range from 2.5 to 3 cm in length and are green (148B, upper surface, 146B, lower surface). The sepals are also tomentose, which is particularly noticeable before the flower opens.

The number of flowers per inflorescence

varies from 2 to 15, but is generally 4 to 5. Flowers are cup shaped. Flower diameter averages 8.0 cm, and flower depth, when fully open, averages 3.1 cm. Petal color gradually changes from intense dark red (53A) to dark red with brownish edges. Coloration of inner and outer sides of the petals is similar. There are small white spots at the base of the inner side and a white and yellow spot at the base of the outer side. The number of petals varies from flower to flower but averages 25.3 (petal size: 3.7 cm long $\times$ 4.2 cm wide). Petal shape is orbicular-elliptical with a tip at the apex. Petal texture is smooth and velvet-like. Anthers are medium yellow and filaments are light-medium pink. Styles are medium in length and the stigma is exserted. The receptacle is pear shaped (color: 144A with a tinge of red). Hips are formed each season but often do not fully ripen under our conditions.

Disease resistance is good for local populations of powdery mildew [*Sphaerotheca pannosa* (Wallr ex Fr.) Lev.] and rust (*Phragmidium* sp.). Resistance to black spot (*Diplocarpon rosae* Wolf.) is fair to good and rated similar to 'Morden Blush' in field trials

Fig. 1. Pedigree of 'Hope for Humanity' rose.

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Fig. 2. 'Hope for Humanity' rose.

at Morden. Some defoliation caused by black spot occurs at the end of the season in older plants.

Plants have consistently survived in Agriculture Canada hardiness zone 3B (USDA zone 3) with no additional protection (Ouellet and Sherk, 1967; Sherk and Buckley, 1968). Stem dieback (to the snowline) may occur in severe winters (minimum temperatures lower than -35°C), but regrowth is generally very good. Thus, 'Hope for Humanity' should be propagated on its own roots. Since dieback due

to environmental influences may occur, growth in height of mature plants may be reduced. Plants may be taller in warmer locations.

Propagation and uses

As with other members of the "Parkland Rose Series," 'Hope for Humanity' should be propagated from softwood cuttings. This is important for colder regions where budded roses often suffer winter injury to upper portions of the plant and the resulting growth may

be from the rootstock only. Softwood cuttings of one to three nodes in length, taken in late spring through to midsummer, treated with rooting hormone (e.g., 3000–5000 $\text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ of indole-butyric acid) and placed under intermittent mist or fog will root at high rates (>85%). Plants may also be propagated by tissue culture.

'Hope for Humanity' is suitable for a wide variety of landscape applications from individual plants to mass plantings.

Availability

'Hope for Humanity' rose is registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF), P.O. Box 21083, North Bay, ON, P1B 7N8, Canada, and with the American Rose Society, P.O. Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA. Propagation material is available to COPF members by contacting C.G. Davidson. The Canadian Red Cross Society will be using this plant as a fund-raising project to support its programs. Research material is available on a limited basis after signing a nonpropagation agreement. Exclusive propagation and distribution rights have been granted to Bailey Nurseries, St. Paul, Minn., for the United States and to Pan American Nursery, Surrey, BC, for the European community and Asian countries.

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