'Royal Edward' Explorer™ Rose

Claude Richer¹

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Horticultural Research and Development Centre, 430 Boulevard Gouin, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que. J3B 3E6, Canada

Additional index words. breeding, cold hardiness, flowering, disease resistance, *Rosa ×kordesii*, *Sphaerotheca pannosa*, *Diplocarpon rosae*

'Royal Edward' is a shrub rose of hybrid origin belonging to Explorer™ cultivar group. It is semidwarf, produces medium pink flowers from June to September, and is resistant to severe winter temperatures and common rose diseases.

Origin

'Royal Edward' originated from a cross made in 1982 at Ottawa, Ont., between *Rosa ×kordesii* Wulff (shrub cultivar group) and breeding line U32 (Fig. 1). It was selected in 1984 by Dr. Felicitas Svejda. Breeding line U32 was obtained by open-pollination of a seedling obtained from the cross L43 × 'Zeus' (shrub cultivar group). L43 was in turn obtained from a cross between *Rosa ×kordesii* Wulff and hybrid line D08. This breeding line was derived from open-pollination of S45. S45 was obtained by the late Robert Simonet of South Edmonton, Alta., from the cross 'Red Dawn' × 'Suzanne' (both shrub cultivar group). 'Zeus' is a yellow-flowering climber, derived

from a cross of 'Doublooms' and an unnamed seedling, released by Kern Nursery in 1959. 'Doublooms' was derived by Horwath from a cross of *Rosa setigera* and *R. foetida*. 'Zeus' survived the winters in Ottawa without protection (Svejda, 1988).

'Royal Edward' was designated in 1995 as an official rose of McGill Univ. Royal Edward Hospital, Montreal, Que. This hospital was named after the British King Edward VII, son of Queen Victoria, hence the name.

Description

'Royal Edward' has a spreading growth habit; 5-year-old plants reached 0.45 m in height and 0.30 m in width at L'Assomption, Que. (Fig. 2). Prickles number 11 per 100 mm of young shoots, and are erect and dark red-dish-brown in color. Leaves are 96 to 97 mm long and ≈75 mm wide, abundant, leathery, dark green (147A; Royal Horticultural Society, 1966), and glossy above. Leaflets (five to seven per leaf) are ovate, acuminate, dentate, green (147A) above, and yellow-green (183A) below. Inflorescences are 1 to 4 cm long, and bear one to seven flowers in clusters that bloom continuously for more than 10 weeks. The deep pink (68C), unopened bud changes to a medium pink (68B) at the blossom stage, and later fades to a pale pink (68D). Flowers are 50 to 55 mm in diameter with a slight fragrance. Petals number 15 to 18; the upper and lower surface colors are 68B and 68D, respectively.

Performance

'Royal Edward' has been tested in Ottawa for 4 years (Spring 1982 to Spring 1986) and for an additional 3 years at L'Assomption (Spring 1988 to Spring 1991). Both sites are in Canadian plant hardiness zone 5a (Ouellet and Sherk, 1967) or U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) zone 4 (Cathey and Heriteau, 1990). 'Royal Edward' has survived test winters to −35 °C without protection (except natural snow cover) and has exhibited little or no kill on younger shoots. Most aboveground growth was killed to ground level at L'Assomption in exceptional circumstances, when extremely cold conditions occurred before snowfall (Richer et al., 1995). However, regrowth from the crown and roots resulted in complete re-establishment of plants and an abundance of flowers in midsummer.

'Royal Edward' is resistant to powdery mildew [caused by *Sphaerotheca pannosa* (Wallr. ex Fr.) Lev.] and tolerant to blackspot (caused by *Diplocarpon rosae* Wolf). 'Royal Edward' is propagated easily from softwood cuttings taken at the bud stage, treated with rooting hormone (Stimroot #2, 0.4% indolebutyric acid; Plant Products, Bramalea, Ont.), and placed under intermittent mist for 3 to 4 weeks. 'Royal Edward' should be grown on its own roots.

Availability

'Royal Edward' has been registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF), P.O. Box 21083, North Bay, Ont., P1B 7N8, Canada, where royalties will be collected, and has been marketed since 1995. Limited amounts of propagation stock are available to nurseries with COPF membership. Requests must be made to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Horticultural Research Branch and Development Center, 430 Boul. Gouin, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., Canada, J3B 3E6. Requests from U.S. nurseries should be addressed to Bailey Nurseries, 1325 Bailey Rd., St. Paul, MN 55109.

Received for publication on 28 Feb. 2000. Accepted for publication 29 June 2000. Contribution 335/2000.02.02R. The cost of publishing this paper was defrayed in part by the payment of page charges. Under postal regulations, this paper therefore must be hereby marked *advertisement* solely to indicate this fact.

¹Research Scientist, Agronomist; to whom reprint requests should be addressed. E-mail address: richerc@em.agr.ca

Fig. 1. 'Pedigree of 'Royal Edward' rose; OP = open pollination.

Fig. 2. The winter-hardy shrub rose 'Royal Edward'. The plants are 0.45 m high and 0.55 m wide.

Literature Cited

- Cathey, H.M. and J. Heriteau. 1990. Mapping it out. *Amer. Nurseryman* 171(5):55–63.
- Ouellet, C.E. and L.C. Sherk. 1967. Map of plant hardiness zonation in Canada. Can. Dept. Agr. Publ. 5003. Ottawa.
- Richer, C., J.A. Rioux, and J. Côté. 1995. Rusticité et croissance de plantes ligneuses ornementales au Québec. Vol II., p. 292–357. Conseil des productions végétales du Québec. Québec, Canada.
- Royal Horticultural Society. 1966. Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart. Royal Hort. Soc., London.
- Svejda, F. 1988. Rose germplasm L83. *HortScience* 23:41–46.