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'Prairie Joy' Rose

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'Prairie Joy' is a new rose cultivar developed and released in 1990 by Agriculture Canada, Research Station, Morden. This rose will survive in climatic Zones 3-5 and is suitable for use as a hardy hedge rose.

Origin

'Prairie Joy' originated from a cross between 'Prairie Princess' and 'Morden Cardinette' made at the Morden Research Station in 1977 by H.H. Marshall. The very high resistance of 'Prairie Princess' to blackspot has been transmitted to 'Prairie Joy'. 'Prairie Princess' has *Rosa laxa* Retz and *R. spinosissima* L. in its parentage (Haring, 1986). These two species are male great-grandparents. 'Morden Cardinette' has *R. arkansana* T. Porter, *R. laxa*, and *R. spinosissima* in its background (Marshall and Collicutt, 1985).

Description

Plants of 'Prairie Joy' grow 1 to 1.5 m high and 1 to 1.4 m wide in plantings at Morden. Plant habit is a dense roundish bush with new midseason stems growing taller than the rest of the bush. Vigor is good to excellent. Foliage is medium green. Leaves generally have seven leaflets with a range from three to seven, and average 130 mm long

and 98 mm wide. Number of thorns average six per 10 cm of lower branches and seven per 10 cm of upper branches.

Flowers (Fig. 1) are produced for 4 to 6 weeks mainly in June, then sparsely the rest of the growing season. Flowers average 7 cm in diameter, are double, average 40 ± 10 petals, and are medium pink, RHS Red Group 55 C-D. They are produced singly or in sprays of one to six blooms.

Disease resistance, as observed in natural field plantings at Morden, is excellent to blackspot (*Diplocarpon rosae* Wolf.), rust (*Phragmidium*), and powdery mildew [*Sphaerotheca pannosa* (Wallr. ex Fr.) Lév.]. This characteristic, along with a dense plant habit and good foliage, is very important for a hedge plant.

Plants have consistently survived in field plantings in Agriculture Canada hardiness Zone 3b (Ouellet and Sherck, 1967). Stem dieback may occur, especially in colder climates, but regrowth occurs from the lower stem and crown to produce a vigorous bush that flowers profusely that season. In effect, this growth pattern also reduces the height of the plant.

Propagation

As with Parkland Roses (Marshall, 1977), 'Prairie Joy' should be grown on its own roots, which is important as it eliminates suckering of the rootstock, a common occurrence in cold climates.

'Prairie Joy' should be propagated by softwood stem cuttings of one to three nodes taken in late spring, treated with 3000 to 7000 ppm of indole-butyric acid, and rooted

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Fig. 1. *Rosa* 'Prairie Joy' flower; the petals are medium pink.

under intermittent mist or fog. Tissue culture also can be used.

Availability

'Prairie Joy' is registered with the American Rose Society (International Registration Authority) and the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF), 652 Aberdeen Ave., North Bay, Ont. P1B 7H9, Canada. A limited supply of propagating material is available until 1994 from the Research Station, Morden, to COPF members for commercial production and to research institutions for test purposes. Agriculture Canada reserves the right to collect royalties from this cultivar.

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