



## Non UGC Rose Spotlight: *Queen Elizabeth*

By Marsha Yokomichi



In honor of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who passed away on September 8, 2022, our non-UGC highlighted rose is the legendary Grandiflora rose

### **Queen Elizabeth.**

Bred by Dr. Walter Lammerts in the United States before 1951, **Queen Elizabeth** was introduced in the U.S. by Germain Seed & Plant Co. in 1954. Like the Queen herself, the growth habit of the **Queen Elizabeth** rose has an upright and stately appearance with blue-blood in her veins.

**Queen Elizabeth** is the offspring of *Charlotte Armstrong*, another legendary rose variety hybridized by Dr. Lammerts and *Floradora* a



Photo Source:

<https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rosa-queen-elizabeth>

Mathias Tantau Florabunda rose. Both the *Charlotte Armstrong* rose and the **Queen Elizabeth** rose were, and still are, popular parents used to spawn many new rose varieties. *Charlotte Armstrong* was used to produce an amazing 20 new rose varieties and the **Queen Elizabeth** rose was used to produce an astounding 30 new rose varieties!

The **Queen Elizabeth** rose has won multiple awards over the years including: 1955 All-America Rose Selection (AARS) winner; 1957 American Rose Society Gold Medal; 1979 World's Favorite Rose; and 2015 Award of Excellence for Best Established Rose.

**Queen Elizabeth** features dainty light pink blooms about 3.75-inch in diameter with approximately 26-40 petals per bloom. It is stated that she can grow up to a height of 5 to 10 feet. While we did grow **Queen Elizabeth** in our UGC Rose Garden for a handful of years, it's interesting to note, our year-round hot and humid weather made it difficult for her to thrive there. Consequently, we were not able to take a single nice photo of **Queen Elizabeth** while she was growing in our garden. Nevertheless, like Her

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## UGC Rose Spotlight: *Pink Flamingo*



Photo by Cathy Matsuzaki

By Cathy Matsuzaki

A statuesque beauty of a rose gracing the entrance to the UGC Rose Garden is **Pink Flamingo**. The coloration of this Grandiflora

rose resembles that of a pink flamingo with its salmon-deep pink almost feathery-looking petals. The blossoms are very large and full and average about 4-1/4" in diameter. **Pink Flamingo** has a mild to moderate fragrance with a 67 to 70 petal count in a cupped, classic old-fashion globular bloom form.

**Pink Flamingo** was bred by Alain Meilland in France before 2006. It was first introduced in France by Meilland International in 2010 as *Candy Love*. It was introduced in the same year in the United States by Meilland-Star Roses, Inc. as

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## Rose Care Info: *Soil pH*

By Marsha Yokomichi  
HRS Master Rosarian

### Definition

Simply speaking, the pH of soil is the measure of acidity or alkalinity in the soil. This number is expressed on a scale of 0 to 14 with 7 being neutral.

### The Importance of Controlling Acidity in Soil

Soil that is highly-acidic may limit the availability of essential plant nutrients and increase the toxic elements such as aluminum and manganese in the soil. At levels

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Majesty Queen Elizabeth herself who reigned for 70 years, the **Queen Elizabeth** rose is destined to follow in the footsteps of her namesake and remain popular for many years to come. After all, its been 68 years since she was introduced to the market and her popularity is still going strong.

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa\\_%27Queen\\_Elizabeth%27](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_%27Queen_Elizabeth%27)

[27Queen Elizabeth%27](https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rosa-queen-elizabeth)

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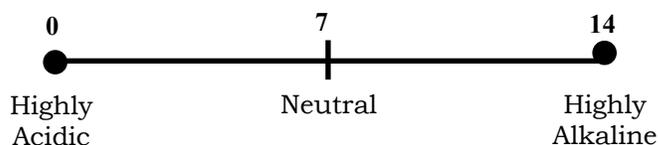
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa\\_%27Charlotte\\_Armstrong%27](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_%27Charlotte_Armstrong%27)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_II)

Queen's Photo Source:

Julian Calder for the Governor-General of New Zealand; <https://teachingkidsnews.com/2022/09/11/queen-elizabeth-ii-1926-2022/>

### Rose Care Info: *Soil pH*



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below 5.5, aluminum may be so concentrated that it will limit or stop root development. Plants then are unable to absorb water and other nutrients and may be stunted and show other signs of nutrient-deficiency. High levels of manganese interfere with development and plants may be stunted, discolored, and produce poor yields.

#### **When to Test**

Soil pH levels should be tested and corrected before planting your roses and should continue to be tested periodically at least once a year. Also test for pH levels when your plants show signs of nutrient-deficiency or when the plant just isn't doing well. It's important to note that this should be done before you administer any type of remedy to alleviate the perceived deficiency. You could, after all, already have an abundant supply of the nutrient in your soil. Correcting the soil pH will "unlock" these nutrients and make them available to your plant once again.

#### **Proper Levels**

There is no one correct pH level for all types of plants. Each will tolerate different levels of acidity or

alkalinity. For roses, the ideal level lies between **6.0** to **6.5**.

**Raising Soil pH** can be done by adding limestone (calcium carbonate) to your soil. Ground Dolomitic Lime is the best version of this amendment as it also contains magnesium which is essential for plant growth. Not all Limes are good and one should **not** use Hydrated Lime which can burn plant roots.

**Lowering Soil pH** can be done by adding Agriculture Sulfur to your soil. It's available in powder-form from your local garden centers.

Roses can grow in soils with pH levels ranging from 5.5 to 7.8. However, if your roses are growing in soil that is more or less than optimal (6.0 to 6.5), they could be growing better. Take steps to adjust pH to the proper level for roses and you'll end up with lush green foliage and healthy new shoots on your rose plants!

#### **Source:**

Cairns, Dr. Tommy and Reily, Ann. "Preparing the Soil." Ortho Books – Complete Guide to Roses. pp 72 to 74. 2004 The Scotts Company.



## UGC Rose: *Pink Flamingo*

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**Pink Flamingo.** In 2014, **Pink Flamingo** was awarded the Best Grandiflora Rose at the Portland Rose Trials in Portland, Oregon.

**Pink Flamingo** can grow to heights of 4 to 5 feet and widths of 2 to 3 feet. It has an upright and bushy growth habit with dark green glossy leaves. **Pink Flamingo** has excellent disease resistance to Black Spot and Powdery Mildew. Sources indicate that since it is more compact than most in the Grandiflora class making **Pink Flamingo** ideal for smaller gardens or growing in large containers.

**Pink Flamingo** is another "new" variety which was hand-selected by Master Rosarians Myrna Cariaga and Marsha Yokomichi at R & S Nii Nursery. They were planted in April 2022 in one of the Terrace Beds on the right-side as you are walking up the pathway. They are thriving under the full summer sun, are very bushy and are almost two-feet tall. **Pink Flamingo** certainly adds a bright splash of color, greeting our visitors at the entrance and luring them up to see more roses in the UGC Rose Garden.

Sources:

<https://www.heirloomroses.com/pink-flamingotm.html>

<https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/1.php?l=2.51196.4>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa\\_%27Pink\\_Flamingo%27](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_%27Pink_Flamingo%27)

The HRS Rose Petals newsletter is published on a monthly basis. If you would like to submit an article and or photos, please email to:

[myokomichi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:myokomichi@hawaii.rr.com) for possible inclusion in a future edition.

HRS Rose Petals Newsletter  
Marsha Yokomichi, Editor



## Armchair Traveler: International Rose Test Garden at Washington Park, Portland, Oregon



By Marsha Yokomichi

The International Rose Test Garden (International Rose TG) in Washington Park is arguable one of the most well-known rose gardens on the U.S. west coast.

This amazing rose garden features over 10,000 rose bushes in approximately 650 varieties on 4.5 acres and it is the oldest continuously running public rose test gardens in the U.S. You can find roses in bloom at the garden from April through October with peak blooms occurring in June. About 700,000 visitors come to see the roses at the International Rose TG every year.



In 1915, Jesse A. Currey, then president of the Portland Rose Society convinced city officials to start a test rose garden to protect the roses hybridized in Europe during World War I. The plan took several years to be approved but by 1918, rose hybridizers from the United Kingdom started to send roses to the International Rose TG.

In 1921, Florence Homes Gerke who was a landscape architect with the city, was put in charge of designing the International Rose TG. The rose garden was opened in 1924 and Jesse A. Currey served as its first rose curator. From 1940 until the demise of the All-America Rose Selections (AARS) rose testing program in 2013, the International Rose TG served as an AARS testing site. The American Garden Rose Selection (AGRS) rose testing program began in 2015 and the International Rose TG has served as a testing site since that time.



One of the best know rose contests hosted at the International Rose TG is "Portland's Best Rose" contest which was established in 1996. This invitational event has rose experts from around the world attend a judging on one Sunday in June where the rose variety with the most votes wins the coveted award. Myrna and I were fortunate to be invited to attend the event several years ago.

The International Rose TG is normally maintained by a staff of three and a cadre of volunteers. However, a June 2022 article I read on the KGW8 Portland website stated that the garden is in somewhat disrepair with an abundance of weeds growing in the beds due to lack of personnel. It is hoped that the garden will soon be back to its glory before next Spring when many of the garden's 700,000 annual visitors descend on the garden.

The International Rose TG also features a fabulous not-to-miss



Rose Garden Store where you can find numerous rose-related books, artwork, garden supplies, and other general souvenirs and merchandise. I still have a couple of framed rose prints which I bought there and they bring back many fond memories of our visit to the garden.

This is certainly a rose garden to put on your bucket list especially since entrance is free. The International Rose TG is located at 400 SW Kingston Ave, Portland, OR 97205. Hours of operation during the summer months are 5am - 10pm but vary throughout the year.

Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Rose\\_Test\\_Garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Rose_Test_Garden)  
<https://www.jacksonandperkins.com/aars-explained/a/517/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Garden\\_Rose\\_Selections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Garden_Rose_Selections)  
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All Photos by Myrna Cariaga

