

THE IDEAL GARDEN ROSE.

Towards the end of last century the ideal rose was of a type grown for exhibition purposes. To-day the "Garden Rose" is the favourite type. The difference between the two types may be best explained by stating that in those days roses were grown very largely for exhibition purposes. To-day the requirements are for a rose which will answer both purposes if necessary, but which must succeed well as a garden rose. The exhibitor used the same or similar points to those used to-day in scoring his roses, but placed them in this order: (1) Form, (2) Colour, (3) Flowering habits, (4) Fragrance, (5) Constitution.

With the good garden rose to-day, constitution is placed first, and below are enumerated the points considered in estimating such a rose:—

1. *Constitution*.—The constitution of the plant must be vigorous in order to produce a large number of flowers of good quality. The plant should be free from insect pests and fungous diseases for the same reason.

2. *Flowering Habit*.—The plant should be a perpetual bloomer, that is producing a crop of flowers in the spring and another in the fall, and intermittently during the summer. Such flowers should be preferably produced singly on good stout stems.

3. *Colour*.—The colour is largely a matter of personal taste, but the colour of an ideal rose should be one which will last for some days without fading, and should be rich and attractive, rather than dull.

4. *Fragrance*.—Fragrance in a garden rose is half the charm, and although from the exhibitor's point of view it is of secondary importance, it greatly enhances the value of the rose from the standpoint of the ordinary grower.

5. *Form*.—From the exhibitor's standpoint, the flowers must be first of all of ideal form, but from the standpoint of the ordinary grower form is not so important, some of the best roses not being quite so good in this respect as could be desired. Generally speaking, the flower of perfect form is one long and tapering with petals sufficiently independent of each other to give character and charm to the flower. The petals should also be of good substance so that the form is retained for several days.

HARDY ROSES TESTED AT OTTAWA.

There has been a rose garden at the Central Experimental Farm since 1891, and during the past twenty-three years a large number of varieties have been tested. Before removing the old plantation in the autumn of 1911, notes were taken on the varieties which had proved hardiest, and in the following table these and other notes are given. To define the degree and quality of perfume which these roses have, the x mark has been used, three x's being the highest degree of perfume, and one x the lowest, where there was any perfume. The rank indicates the relative general quality of the variety.