

STORIES BEHIND THE NAMES

The names of roses have always fascinated me. They intrigue us with hints of people (family, famous, infamous), explorers, wars, history, geography, and encourage us to find out the background to the naming. That is, they tell the stories of places, people and events which were meant to be remembered by the roses named after them.

Many reflect the colour which describes their bloom – for example;

Blush Rambler	Apricot Nectar	Crimson Glory
Brass Band	Lavender Dream	Scarlet Meidiland
Violette	Blue Moon	Pink Silk

Then there are those named after popular drinks;

Burgundy	Tequila Sunrise	Glenfiddich
Brandy	Whisky	

There are those novelty names which often do not have any reason;

Sexy Remy	Abracadabra	Bobby Dazzler
Gold Bunny	Brass Monkey	Spunky
Kickapoo		

Some received their name by accident, such as;

Keepit	Just Joey
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Then we have problems with too many names for the one rose – for example;

Parson's Pink has 19 others Slater's Crimson has 25 others

Or the reverse problem, that more than one rose ends up with the same name, such as;

Princess of Wales (4 different roses)
(The) Queen Mother (3 Different roses)

Many modern roses have had the naming rights purchased by charity groups to raise funds. Some examples are;

Angela Rose Taylor	Howard Florey	Mother's Love
Mother and Daughter	Red Cross	The Children's Rose

With your permission, I will select a couple of roses each week and tell you the story behind their names. If you have a particular request, let me know.

I thought you might like some statistics about our stories. They started in 2001, when things were a little slack after pruning. We usually do not have them during the pruning season so that we can have maximum time in the Garden and we frequently stop during deadheading.

That leaves about six months of the year for stories. So twenty-six times a year for fourteen years gives over three hundred and sixty stories some from representatives of our suppliers, such as Neutrog and Felco and the rest from members of our own group. No wonder there have been a few repeats.

Wal J 9 Sep 2015