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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SHARING  
SECRETS

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**“What is your tip for growing healthy roses and/or what roses do you recommend growing and why?”**

I love ‘**China Doll**’ – it’s an old selection, low growing with large trusses of small pink flowers. Takes sun, drought, frost, has no pests and doesn’t get too tall. On the negative side – it’s very peculiar to prune. - *JC*

‘**Julia Child**’ even though it is so young. Fabulous fragrance, beautiful flowers and tolerates my care. - *CN*

I’m excited about ‘**Burgundy Iceberg**’ a new floribunda from Weeks Roses with all the benefits of the white ‘Iceberg’ (frequent bloomer, lower maintenance, fewer pests) but with beautiful burgundy flowers. - *KB*

My favorite rose is one that has succeeded in my foggy coastal area. It is an old true tea rose called ‘**Lady Hillingdon**’. The color is that of a ripe apricot, and the scent is a mixture of apricot and tea. It blooms year round, has a graceful shape.

A climber that has done well is the noisette ‘**Reve d’Or**’ which is not gold but a sort of peach. Both of these probably do better here than in hot, dry inland areas.

Plant them in the sun, feed them regularly but lightly, and give them plenty of water. Use a “rose cocktail” which consists of 1 cup gypsum, 1 tablespoon soil sulfur, 1 tablespoon chelated iron, and 1 tablespoon epsom salts. It can be applied three times a year or once, after pruning.

Look for shiny leaves. They resist mildew better. If you want to spray for mildew, use a light oil spray. I don’t use dormant spray and I don’t spray for chewing or sucking insects. I just wait for a predator and accept a certain amount of damage. If a rose continues to present problems year after year, get rid of it; there is always another beautiful rose to try. - *CR*