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ROSE PLANT

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ROSE PLANT

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1 Claim. (Cl. Plt.—24)

The present invention relates to a new and distinct
variety of rose plant of the floribunda class. The plant
is a dwarf bush seedling, well adapted for garden decoration.
The variety was originated by us by crossing Arlene Francis
(Plant Patent No. 1,684) with an unnamed seedling of
Circus × Sweet Talk. As a result of this breeding, we have
asexually produced a new and improved rose variety having
the following unique characteristics which are outstanding
therein, and which, taken together, distinguish it from its
parents as well as from all other varieties of which we are
aware:

- (1) The bright greenish-yellow color of the flowers.
- (2) The large size of the flowers, considering that the
plant is of the floribunda class.
- (3) Persistence of the flower color as the flower ages.
- (4) The form of the buds and the flowers, which are
short-pointed to urn-shape at the beginning, and progress
through a high-centered opening stage to the full bloom,
which has double petalage but with the stamens not
completely hidden.
- (5) The lark green color of the leaves which are of
normal quantity and moderately heavy-leathery in texture
or substance.
- (6) The nearly continuous bloom during the growing
season.
- (7) The relatively low-growing habit of the plant.

In comparison with the seed parent, the following differences
may be noted:

- (1) A great many of the flowers of the new variety are
produced in clusters, although some of the flowers are
produced on individual stems. It is properly classed as a
floribunda. In contrast, Arlene Francis is classified as a
hybrid tea rose, and all of its flowers are produced on
individual stems except for those which are a part of the
basal growth or of an especially strong growth.
- (2) The new variety is substantially lower growing than
its seed parent.
- (3) The flowers of the new variety, although golden
in color, have a distinctly greenish hue, which could more
appropriately be described as greenish-yellow, whereas
the flowers of Arlene Francis are golden yellow.
- (4) The flowers of the new variety often have as many
as thirty-eight petals, and in addition, up to possibly
fifteen petaloids, whereas the Arlene Francis rose has
no more than about thirty petals in its flowers with few
if any petaloids, and its center petals are much broader
than the center petals of the new variety.
- (5) The flowers of the new variety are only occasionally
larger than about 3½" in diameter, whereas the flowers
of the Arlene Francis rose are frequently as large as
5" in diameter.

This new variety is distinct from its pollen parent, the
unnamed and unintroducted seedling obtained from crossing
Circus with Sweet Talk, in the following ways:

- (1) The flowers of this new variety have as many as
thirty-eight petals plus as many as fifteen petaloids,
whereas the flowers of the pollen parent were semi-single
to semi-double in petalage, never having more than twelve
petals.
- (2) The plants of the new variety are less spreading in
growth habit than the plants of the pollen parent, and
although the foliage of the new variety is also dark green,
it is not as dull as the foliage of the pollen parent.

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(3) In the new variety, the petals are so disposed as to
obscure the stamens to some extent, whereas in the pollen
parent the stamens are quite conspicuous.

(4) The flowers of this new variety are brilliant greenish-
yellow, and retain this color to a notable degree, whereas
the flowers of the pollen parent were nearer buff yellow,
approaching Moderate Orange Yellow 7.5R 8/8, were
conspicuously lacking in brilliance, and faded rather
quickly after opening.

The new variety was asexually reproduced by budding
in a garden in Chino, Calif. It has not yet been introduced
to the trade.

The plant holds its distinguishing characteristics through
succeeding propagations. These include its nearly continuous
blooming during the growing season, the penetrating
fragrance of the blooms, which is somewhat similar to
anise, and the tendency to bear its flowers in clusters,
although some are borne on single stems. The clusters have
an irregular, more or less flat shape, on normal to strong
stems of short to medium length. The blooms hold their
color very well for several days after opening.

The plant is free blooming outdoors.

Details with respect to the plant and its bloom are as
follows:

Bud: The peduncle is of medium length and medium cali-
per, usually erect, and medium green in color. It is
generally smooth, except for a few small stipitate
glands.

Before the calyx breaks, the bud is rather large for the
floribunda class and is short and pointed, with a con-
spicuous neck. It has small foliaceous appendages on
its surface, but these rarely extend beyond the tip of the
bud. The color at this stage is medium to deep green.

As the calyx breaks the color approaches Brilliant
Yellow Green 2.5GY 9/8, according to the Nickerson
Color Fan, which is used throughout this specification
to identify colors and shades which are not sufficiently
indicated by their more common names.

As the first petal opens, the bud, which, as mentioned,
is rather large for its class, is short and either pointed
or urn-shape. The outside color ranges from Vivid
Greenish Yellow 7.5Y 8/12 to Brilliant Greenish Yellow
7.5Y 9/8. Inside the bud the color is Vivid Greenish
Yellow 7.5Y 8/12 at the base, but in the upper portion
it varies from Brilliant Greenish Yellow 7.5Y 9/8
to a yellowish white. The first named color is the more
common. The buds open up well.

Bloom: When the flower is fully open, the bloom is large
for its class, ranging from 3" to 3½" generally and
occasionally slightly larger. The petalage is double, but
the stamens are not hidden. There may be from thirty
to thirty-eight petals, usually arranged fairly regularly,
but occasionally somewhat irregularly placed. In addition
to the petals, there are several petaloids, sometimes
as many as fifteen. The over-all form of the bloom is
high-centered at first, becoming somewhat flatter at
maturity. The petals are at first loosely rolled outward,
but at maturity they become more tightly rolled out-
wards, along their lateral margins.

Petals: The petals are moderately thick, with velvety texture
inside and satiny texture outside. The outer petals
are slightly broader than long, with the apex usually
flat, and occasionally having a single notch. The inter-
mediate petals are obovate in shape with the apex
usually acute. The inner petals are narrowly obovate
to nearly cuneate, irregularly scalloped, with an indis-
tinct apex.

The following description of a flower, newly opened in
September, refers to a rose grown outdoors at Chino,
Calif.

The coloration of the petals on their outer surfaces was generally close to Brilliant Yellow 5Y 9/9. On the inner petals a slight greenish streak following the midrib was noted. On the intermediate petals the color was substantially uniform, and on the outer petals it was slightly diluted with white. The coloration of the petals on their inner surfaces was generally near to Brilliant Greenish Yellow 7.5Y 9/8. The shading was somewhat more intense on the lower portion of the inner, intermediate and outer petals, being especially so in the area of the veins and midrib of the inner surface of the outer petals.

The following description was made from a rose that was open for three days outdoors in the month of September.

The petals displayed a coloration which was a blend of white and Brilliant Yellow 5Y 9/9 on their outer surfaces, and a blend of white and Brilliant Greenish-Yellow 7.5Y 9/8 on their inner surfaces. In the outer petals the white was more prominent in the upper portions of the petals while the yellower tones were stronger in the basal areas, on both the inner and the outer surfaces. In the inner petals, the coloration was more nearly uniform over the petal area, the yellower color predominating on both the inner and outer surfaces.

The general color effect of the newly opened flower was near Brilliant Greenish-Yellow 7.5Y 9/8, whereas after three days the color was near Brilliant Yellow 5Y 9/9.

The petals drop off cleanly, but the petaloids persist. The longevity of the flowers is about four days, at least in the month of September, with respect to blooms on the bush in the garden. Cut roses grown outdoors, but kept at living room temperatures, will likewise last for about four days in the month of September.

Reproductive organs

Stamens: Medium in quantity, arranged more or less regularly about the pistils, and mixed with petaloids.

Filaments: Medium length, yellow, many without fertile anthers.

Anthers: Small, yellow, opening at various times.

Pollen: Sparse, and yellow in color.

Pistils: Few to medium in number.

Styles: Uneven, from medium length to long, varying in caliper, and quite red in the upper portion.

Stigma: Yellow.

Ovaries: All enclosed in calyx, or very nearly so.

Hips: Short, globular, usually without a conspicuous neck, yellow-russet color at maturity with thick fleshy walls.

Sepals: Permanent, moderately short and recurved in shape, not distinctively colored.

Seeds: Variable in quantity, usually 6 to 15, rather large for class.

Plant

Foliage: The leaves, which are normal in quantity and compound in form, have from 3 to 5 leaflets. They are of medium size and moderately heavy-leather texture. As to the leaflets, the laterals are ovate, with terminals slightly ovate-lanceolate, and with apices acuminate.

The base is round, and the margins are simply serrated.

In the mature plant, the upper leaf surfaces are dark green and the under surfaces grey green, but the veins are dark olive green. In the young plant the upper surfaces are dark green, with the veins, reticulations and serrations a glossy purplish-red. The under surface is bright yellowish-green, but dominated by purplish-red veins, reticulations and serrations.

The supporting stem of the compound leaf, or rachis, is of light to medium weight. Its upper side is grooved, and sparsely lined with thin stipitate glands. Its under side is sparsely prickly, usually with 3 to 5 prickles.

The stipules are moderately short and moderately narrow, with short points, turning out at an angle of about 45°.

When compared to other varieties of roses grown under comparable garden conditions at Chino, Calif., this new variety has shown substantially better than average resistance to powdery mildew.

Growth: The plant is of dwarf habit, bushy, and is much branched. The growth is moderate to free, and the canes are of medium caliper.

The main stems are dull yellow green. They carry many large gray-brown prickles which are of medium length and of medium-length narrow base. Some prickles are straight and others slightly hooked downward. The main stems also carry a few small prickles, which also are gray-brown in color. There are no hairs.

The branches are dull yellow-green and carry many large and just a few small prickles. The prickles on the branches are brown in color and of the same shape as those on the main stems. There are no hairs.

The new shoots are green with reddish overlay, especially at the margins. They carry many large prickles which are long and straight with medium length narrow base. The prickles are green at the tip and reddish purple at the base. There are also a few small green prickles, but no hairs.

The leaves of the new variety are characteristically slightly rolled downwardly along their lateral margins, and are between 20% and 30% smaller, both in length and width, than the leaves of the seed parent, which latter, incidentally, are generally rather flat.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of rose plant of the floribunda class, substantially as herein shown and described, characterized particularly as to novelty by the low-growing, relatively compact form of the plant and its nearly continuous blooming, during the growing season; the large size of its blooms, and their bright greenish-yellow coloration, together with the persistence of that coloration in the opened flowers; and the development of the flower from a short-pointed urn-shaped bud through a high-centered opening stage to the full bloom, which has double petalage but does not completely hide the stamens.

No references cited.

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