

ROSE CULTURE

By John H. Harris

As a successful rose grower how he grows such beautiful roses and he will probably reply, "It's easy, there's nothing to it." Ask a man who is not successful and he will likely say, "Don't try it, it's not worth the trouble." To most of us, roses are trouble but we think they are worth the trouble and then some.

Perhaps the control of leaf spot diseases is the most important single thing in growing roses. Fermate, applied about every 10 days starting when growth starts and continuing until frost, is a good control for this disease. It can be applied as a spray (two level tablespoonsful plus spreader-sticker, according to manufacturers' direction to one gallon of water), or as a dust (one-half pound Fermate mixed with four and one-half pounds of talc dust). You may occasionally need to add sulphur to control mildew. Some companies put out combination materials that control both diseases and insects. These materials are usually available from your seed dealer.

In my own garden I have 36 bushes and have averaged over 50 blossoms per week for the summer. This keeps us supplied as well as some for the neighbors. The plants are located in a well drained, sunny area; fertilized three times with two pounds of 6-8-6 fertilizer per 100 square feet, mulched with leaves, and sprayed regularly. They were never worked or watered; the mulch made this unnecessary.

I doubt if anyone could pick out a "best" list of roses. I selected mine from the list that did best in the test gardens at State College. They are: Charles K. Douglas (scarlet-crimson), Eclipse (golden yellow), Editor McFarland (rose-pink), Etoile De Hollande (crimson), Forty-Niner (cherry-red, reverse yellow), Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria (white), Mirandy (garnet red), Mme. Cochet-Cochet (coppery pink), Peace (delicate tints of yellow, cream, gold, and pink blending), Red Radiance (cerise-

red), Rubaiyat (bright pink), Sutter's Gold (golden orange), Tallyho (pink, reverse crimson), and White Briarcliff (pure white).

There is still time to get your roses planted if you do it immediately.

TAR HEEL GARDNER

By John H. Harris.

"I'll never understand women." Many is the man that has made that statement, referring, of course, to many things. If you grow produce for sale in the grocery store, you had better understand women because your business depends on it. The housewife through her purchases determines which variety of potatoes, apples, grapes, flowers and what have you, that you grow. Your own opinion may not be worth a cent.

You know for instance, that a golden delicious apple is good, but what you think doesn't matter when the housewife goes to the store and buys only double red delicious. This was brought out recently at the Brushy Mountains fruit growers meeting. Produce buyers were there and they said "give us deep red apples, color is the thing with the housewife."

I used to grow glads for sale and my favorite variety was a white. Well, I got to use plenty of them, because the housewife would buy very few. They wanted reds and pinks primarily.

Take sweet potatoes, the housewife wants a medium size (cooks quickly) smooth, clean, and usually a deep copper skin colored potato. If you are smart, that's what you'll grow. So it goes through the list of fruits and vegetables.

Few housewives know varieties at the store, they buy mostly by size, shape, color and general attractiveness. Sooner or later, eating qualities will express itself, so a product must be good to eat as well as to see. Many are the tasty varieties of fruits and vegetables that are practically extinct because they didn't have wide buying appeal to the housewife or because they didn't ship well.