

**THE ROSE MANUAL; CONTAINING ACCURATE
DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE FINEST VARIETIES
OF ROSES, PROPERLY CLASSED IN THEIR
RESPECTIVE FAMILIES, THEIR CHARACTER AND
MODE OF CULTURE, WITH
DIRECTIONS FOR THEIR PROPAGATION, AND
THE DESTRUCTION OF INSECTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649695539

The Rose Manual; Containing Accurate Descriptions of All the Finest Varieties of Roses, Properly Classed in Their Respective Families, Their Character and Mode of Culture, with Directions for Their Propagation, and the Destruction of Insects by Robert Buist

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ROBERT BUIST

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WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY ROBERT BUIST,
NURSERYMAN AND FLORIST.

PHILADELPHIA.

FOR THE AUTHOR AND MESSRS. CAREY AND HART.

1844.

INTRODUCTION.

CUSTOM has made it the privilege of authors to set forth the merit and purport of their productions in some preliminary remarks. Of this privilege I gladly avail myself, to disclaim at once all pretensions to the art of composition.

These pages owe their existence merely to the repeated demands of numerous friends and customers, for a work on ROSES, simple in its arrangement, and clear in its directions. I have endeavoured to gratify their wishes, and have now only to hope that their satisfaction may bear some proportion to the pleasure I have found in the task.

This volume contains the result of twenty years' experience on the subject of which it treats, fifteen of which have been as a nurseryman cultivating the largest collection in the country. I do not wish to be understood, however, as arrogating to myself any greater share of knowledge in rose

culture than can be acquired by all practical men. But it is not to these that I address myself. My humble aim has been to present to the unexperienced lovers of the Rose, a guide to enable them to select, cultivate, and propagate their favourite flower. The undertaking has occupied the greater part of my leisure hours for the past two years, during which period, observations made among the numerous collections of nurserymen and amateurs in this vicinity, induced me frequently to alter descriptions I had already written, colours varying to so great an extent in different soils and seasons.

I have endeavoured to bring all my descriptions to the standard of a mere admiring amateur; admitting that many roses resemble each other in colour and form, while to a practised eye they may appear very distinct in growth and other characters.

The first season after planting, roses do not, in general, flower in all the perfection to which they can be brought after one or two years growth, taking that time to become thoroughly established. A few of the new kinds have bloomed but once; a very accurate description of such can scarcely be expected; and in some instances it may hereafter appear that I have not done full justice to their

real merit. Amateurs have hitherto found great difficulty in selecting from the catalogues of nurserymen. This treatise, we hope, may be found of service in assisting them to form their collections; and the index of names, referring, as it does, to the character of every rose mentioned in the work, will, we think, prove especially useful.

Incorrectness in the name of plants has long been a stigma on commercial gardening; none can pretend to be quite immaculate in this matter, but all may become still more careful in avoiding these inaccuracies. Every nurseryman is now aware of the great responsibility resting upon him in correct nomenclature, and no honest man will condescend to contribute in spreading the practice of attaching a false name. On this point we think Philadelphia nurserymen are as free from reproach as any in the Union, and I may be permitted to add, that in rose culture they are adepts, living, as they do, as it were in a *very hotbed of roses*, fostered by the judicious management of the Horticultural Society, and encouraged by the patronage of the lovers of flowers, who, amongst us, are almost as numerous as the dwellings of our city and county. It would be ungrateful not to add

my sincere acknowledgments to all those to whom I am indebted for valuable information, and in an especial manner to a lady amateur, whose valuable services have frequently brightened our ideas. And finally, let me be allowed to place this humble offering under the patronage of the LADIES, trusting that their love of the subject will induce them to look over all deficiencies in the manner of treating it, and hoping that the views and experience of a practical man, honestly given, and in a style aiming at nothing but perspicuity, may be of some use to them. While it has been my object to produce a manual adapted to the wants of every rose fancier, I have been especially anxious to make the task of selection an easier one to my fair patronesses, and if I succeed in assisting any of them in the choice or culture of a single rose I shall be satisfied;—or should I be the means of inducing some to enter the flowery paths of horticulture, where healthful employment and innocent pleasures wait to greet them, my highest ambition will be attained.

PHILADELPHIA, *March*, 1844.

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