ARNOLD ARBORETUM

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Rosa rugosa, which is an old inhabitant of gardens, is a native of the coast sand-dunes of northeastern Asia from northern Japan to Kamtchatka. The thick dark green leaves seem able to resist the attacks of insects and the diseases which often discolor the leaves of many Roses. The flowers of the typical wild plant from Japan are red, but there are varieties with pure white and with clear pink flowers. The Kamtchatka plant, which is less ornamental than the Japanese plant, with smaller and thinner leaflets and smaller flowers is treated by many botanists as a species distinct from the Japanese plant and called by them *Rosa kamtschatica*. There is a double-flowered form of this continental plant in the Arboretum collection which produces flowers which are as ugly as it is possible that a Rose flower can become. No other Rose is hardier than *Rosa rugosa*, and left to itself it spreads into great thickets. No shrub is better suited to grow in exposed positions on the New England coast; it grows equally well in the rich soil of the garden, and no other Rose is so valuable in this climate for making low hedges. Valuable as the Japanese *Rosa rugosa* has proved itself as a garden plant its greatest value is in its ability to transmit its hardiness, handsome foliage and large flowers to its hybrid offspring. Among these are already several beautiful garden plants which suggest that the plant breeder who wishes to produce new races of Roses able to grow and flower successfully in the northern states must combine *Rosa rugosa* and its hybrids with other hardy Roses. Rose breeders are singularly reticent about the plants they have used in their work, and there appear to be no printed records of

the parentage of any of the *Rugosa* hybrids with the exception of the two which have been created in this Arboretum. One of the earliest of the *Rugosa* hybrids, Madam George Bruant, has pure white semi-double flowers which continue to open until the coming of frost. More distinct is the plant named Conrad Ferdinand Meyer which was raised in Germany. This is a large shrub, with large, nearly double, clustered pink flowers. The foliage and flowers show little *Rugosa* influence, but its vigor and hardiness are probably derived from the Japanese parent. Nova Zembla is a white-flowered sport of this Rose. At least twenty other European hybrids of *Rosa rugosa* have received names. Some of these are not distinct and others have little to recommend them as garden plants. One of the handsomest and most distinct of these hybrids was raised several years ago by Paul & Sons of Cheshunt, England, by whom it was named *Rosa rugosa repens alba*. This plant has the foliage of *Rosa rugosa*, large flowers with petals between which there is more space than in the typical flowers of *Rosa rugosa*, and long, stout, prostrate stems. In England standards with weeping branches have been successfully grown by budding this Rose on the tall stems of other Roses, and it would probably prove one of the hardiest standard Roses which could be grown here. It can be trained over a fence or arbor, but can be best used to cover banks and the ground under other shrubs or small trees. The Japanese *Rosa Wichuraiana* was at one time largely used as a ground cover in the Boston Parks, but it has not always proved hardy, and *Rosa rugosa repens alba* is a better ground cover in this climate. This Rose has been growing in the Arboretum for several years and has now been planted on the fence close to the entrance to the Arboretum nursery on Prince Street. The two *Rugosa* hybrids raised by Dawson at the Arboretum have proved to be good garden plants. In habit *Lady Duncan* resembles *R. rugosa repens alba* but the stems are not as stout; it can be used as ground cover or trained on an arbor or trellis. The flowers are rather smaller than those of *R. rugosa* and pure pink, and the leaflets are smaller and very lustrous. This Rose was obtained by crossing *Rosa rugosa* with *R. Wichuraiana*. The Arnold Rose, *R. Arnoldiana*, was made by Dawson, by crossing *R. rugosa* with the hybrid Tea Rose, General Jacqueminot. It is a stout bush with good foliage and large, bright red, single flowers, and when in bloom perhaps the showiest of the Roses in the Shrub Collection.

Deutzias. The climate of eastern Massachusetts is too severe for the successful cultivation of many of the handsomest of these plants which flower much better in the middle states and in Rochester, New York, than they do in the Arboretum. The mild winter has favored them, however, and several of the Chinese species have been flowering here in a way which shows what valuable garden plants they may be when climatic conditions suit them. The *Deutzia* which has proved perfectly hardy in the Arboretum in nearly thirty years of trial, the North China *D. parviflora*, is not one of the handsomest species, but crossed with the Japanese *D. gracilis* it has produced *D. Lemoinei* which has inherited much of the hardiness of its Chinese parent and proved to be an excellent garden plant here. It is a shrub sometimes

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