

## Chinas, Teas, and their Climbing Sports, Tea-Noisettes & Noisettes

Flowered chintz and hand-painted teapots have colored our view of old roses. We expect big, blowzy, fragrant pinks, purples, and crimsons, or the intricate petal patterns in the old Gallicas. But just as old as the Europeans, as dramatic and fragrant as the Hybrid Perpetuals and Bourbons, are Teas and Noisettes, and they flower much more. Even more floriferous are the China roses. These groups were introduced to Europe around the end of the 18th century and bred in great numbers by growers in central and southern France. In that climate, similar to the mild Pacific Coast and the southern states, these roses thrived. Many are too tender for cold climates, but in mild areas they are unsurpassed for sheer numbers of flowers each year, beating all modern roses. On their own roots they can freeze to the ground and come back. They are tough, beautiful survivors and ought to be planted in every garden in California, where they grow to perfection. These are also the favored roses for the hot humid summers of the deep South.

### Chinas

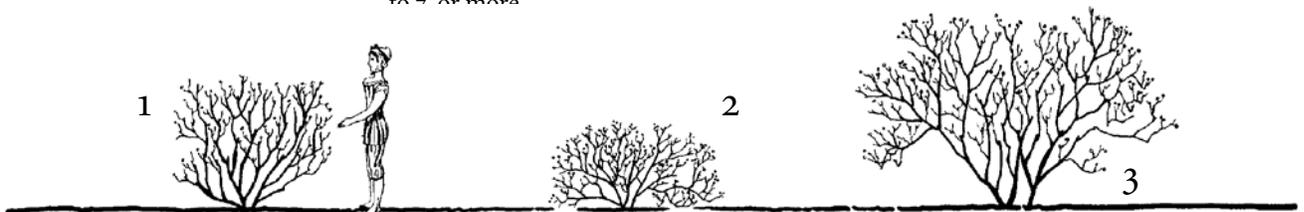
Twiggy, smooth-wooded plants that seemingly put flowers out of every joint. Most are compact and short to moderate growers. Flowers come in white, pink, and a hundred shades of cherry-crimson, the colors intensifying with passing days. A few, bearing Tea rose blood, are shaded with apricot and yellow.

In listing our “Mystery” Chinas, we warn the collector that we merely pass these on as they come to us, trying to avoid obvious duplicates. Even those red and pink Chinas which we offer with “official” names may not be what they are believed to be. Nonetheless, this group of roses is so exceptional in the garden, and there are such charming variations, we cannot recommend them too highly!

#### Habit

Chinas are very twiggy shrubs that seem capable of putting new growth on from any given point on the plant, and can have dormant growth buds between leaves, on peduncles, even at the base of old flowers. Nearly every new growth ends in flower, hence the exceptionally continuous flowering of Chinas. The Climbing Chinas we have moved into a new group that follows the Tea roses, called Climbing Teas & Climbing Chinas. We distinguish the Chinas by three principal habits of growth.

1. (E.g., HERMOSA) The old monthly rose group, which are more upright and open than the red Chinas.
2. (E.g., WHITE PEARL IN RED DRAGON’S MOUTH) The red Chinas, which form a dense intercrossing mass of light wood and are often wider than tall.
3. (E.g., MUTABILIS) The most upright, open, spreading Chinas, which can get quite tall, to 7’ or more.



## “ALICE HOFFMAN”

see OLD BLUSH and ARCHDUC CHARLES for the rose widely sold under this name

## ARCHDUC CHARLES

Ch rrr/fff/1 Laffay, pre-1840 [Robinson, collected]  
Exhibiting that delightful trait of many Chinas, dramatic color change, the ARCHDUC is a lovely madder pink, sometimes a very pale blush shade, with cherry-rose edges which in some seasons spread out over the whole blossom. Has a fine fruity scent.

## ARETHUSA

Ch rrr/ff/1 Paul, 1903 [Demits, HRG]  
Unusual coloring for a China; baize yellow with apricot shadings, the flowers large of petal, blowzy, small and freshly scented.

## BEAUTY OF ROSEMAWR

## [PAM'S PINK]

Ch (T) rrr/ff/2 Van Fleet, 1903 [ARE]  
Exquisite rosettes of deep pink shading lighter toward the petal edges, the edges rolled back, with a complex fragrance. Flowers open to show the stamens finally. This is clearly not a pure Tea/China, but with some other hardy rose as ancestor.

## “BELFIELD”\*

## [SLATER'S CRIMSON CHINA]

Ch rrrr/f/2 unknown, unknown [Knopf; Bermuda]  
Much has been said about this rose and many are now willing to consider this the original SLATER'S CRIMSON CHINA, introduced to Europe in the late 18th century; we count ourselves among them. Small, deep red flowers saturated with color, only slightly paler in the very center of the bloom, where the yellow stamens appear.

## BENGALE CENTEFEUILLES

Ch rrr/f/2 Noisette, 1804 [Huntington]  
This extremely double China often fails to open in our cool climate; when it does it is spectacular. Can begin quite pink, and develops a veritable crown of crimson petals. In hot, dry climates, this is exquisite, a China we recommend for the desert.

## “BENGALE D'AUTOMNE”

Ch rrr/ff/2 Laffay, 1825 [ARE]  
Large flowers of deep rose, paler at the petal bases, sweetly scented with a hint of pepper. Having grown this for several years now, we cannot distinguish it from OLD BLUSH, though it is perhaps a very fine form of that rose.

## BURBANK

Ch rrr/ff/1 Burbank; Burpee, 1900 [Robinson]  
Bright rose-pink shaded lighter, petals rolling back at the edges. Once considered a glorified HERMOSA, it is unique. A rare rose memory of Santa Rosa's Plant Wizard, Luther Burbank. We see no difference between this and SANTA ROSA, a variety supposed to be unique, also from Burbank.

## “CARNATION”

Ch (T) rrr/f/1 unknown, found [Manners; Bermuda]  
All of the found roses from Bermuda are different and lovely; CARNATION is upright with large, cupped double blooms of medium pink with a large, buttoned center. This is possibly better classed as a Tea.

## COMTESSE DU CAYLA

Ch rrrr/f/2 Guillot, 1902 [Guillot]  
Combining the apricots, buffs, light crimson, and copper of MUTABILIS in one moment in a flower. Loose cups droop against darker foliage. Vigorous.

## CRAMOISI SUPÉRIEUR

Ch rrrr/f/2 Coquereau, 1835 [Lowe]  
What we are convinced is the real thing; it matches perfectly the climbing form, known as JAMES SPRUNT in the United States. Velvety crimson globular flowers with rolled back petals that contrast with the iridescent lavender-crimson reverses. This bushy reversion from the climber may be larger than the original; see “MABLETON CRIMSON CHINA.”

## DUCHER

Ch rrr/fff/2 Ducher, 1869 [Humenick]  
Pure white cups, often rather large for a China and handsomely imbricated. A moderate grower but vigorous, and deliciously scented in humid weather. There is little question in our minds that this truly belongs among the Tea roses, yet it has a long history of being grouped with the Chinas, and its simplicity and delicacy of flower allow it to fit here not uncomfortably.

“DUKE OF YORK” (see PAPILLON in Climbing Teas)

## “EMMIE GRAY”

Ch rrrr/f/3 unknown, found [Manners; Bermuda]  
This Bermuda foundling rose is guaranteed to charm garden visitors; its one-inch single flowers open a delicate rose-pink, deepening each day to rose-red, the clusters flaunting the full spectrum of shades; rather like MUTABILIS in color and in size, but more restrained.

## FABVIER

Ch rrr/f/2 Laffay, 1832 [HRG/ARE]  
Broadly cupped flowers, cherry-rose red paling to pink at the center, appearing almost semi-double. Few roses can be as satisfactory at producing color as this, a rose that could be left ignored for decades and still look stupendous in a planting.

## “FERNDALE RED CHINA”

Ch rrr/ff/2 unknown, found [Robinson & Lowery]  
Very globular, rarely opening out, in a rich cherry pink. We found this on several grave sites in the hillside cemetery of the old Victorian town of Ferndale, whence it has subsequently completely disappeared. Previously we had thought that this may be the same as WHITE PEARL IN RED DRAGON'S MOUTH; however, after living with this another five years, we are now convinced that it is likely the same as the



SLATER'S CRIMSON CHINA we received from the Huntington years ago. Red Chinas are such a closely related group that it is a great challenge sorting them out. Revisiting the Ferndale Cemetery last summer we were very disappointed that *none* of the dozen or so plants of this we found ten years ago are still alive. We understand that an effort is being made to reintroduce this China to the town.

FORTUNE'S DOUBLE YELLOW (see Climbing Teas & Chinas)

GLOIRE DES ROSOMANES (see Bourbons)

#### HERMOSA

Ch (B) rrrr/f/1 Marcheseau, 1840 [Robinson, collected]  
Light blush-pink; small, shapely flowers, darker and more scented in cool seasons; always lovely. A Bourbon by breeding but in style and habit, more like its China parent.

#### "HUILITO"

Ch (B) rrr/fff/2 unknown, found [ARE]  
"HUILITO" covers itself most of the year in 3-inch lavender to rose-pink flowers full of petals. Dense, delicate, and thorny. Another foundling that may belong in the Bourbons.

#### "HUNTINGTON SLATER'S CRIMSON CHINA"

(see FERNDAL RED CHINA)

Ch rrrr/-/2 Introduced to Britain, 1790 [Huntington]

This is the rose identified at the Huntington; it is believed to be another of the four "Stud" Chinas of the 18th century. Cherry red, rounded flowers on slender wood; always in bloom. See BELFIELD for another, more convincing candidate for this seminal variety.

"KORBEL CANYON RED CHINA" (see WHITE PEARL IN RED DRAGON'S MOUTH)

L'OUICHE—*Missing from our collection.*

#### LOUIS-PHILLIPE

Ch rrr/fff/2 Guerin, 1834 [Knopf/Et al]  
Bushy, angular and tall growing, with flowers crimson outside, rose-red at the center and petal edges, with a rich cherry perfume. This rose is often sent out as CRAMOISI SUPERIEUR. We have lost the mottled form of this we knew under the name LOUIS-PHILLIPE D'ANGERS.

"LOUIS PHILLIPE D'ANGERS"—*Missing from our collection.*

#### "MABLETON CRIMSON CHINA"

[CRAMOISI SUPERIEUR?, "WINGOOD CHINA," AGRIPPINA?]

Ch rrrr/ff/2 unknown, found [Matson]  
Small, globular lacquer-red flowers pale on the reverse, with a dwarf habit, rarely over 2' tall. Perhaps only a slight variation on CRAMOISI SUPERIEUR, or perhaps another, very similar cultivar whose name is lost. Sold to us as AGRIPPINA, and identical to the Bermuda rose known as "WINGOOD CHINA."

#### "MARTHA GONZALES"

Ch rrr/f/2 unknown, found [ARE; Gonzales]  
Brilliant scarlet nearly single flowers with the odd white stripe and a flat fan of golden stamens. Short.

MATEO'S SILK BUTTERFLIES (see Hybrid Musks)

#### MISS LOWE'S VARIETY

Ch rrrr/f/1 Lowe, 1887 [unknown]  
Sculpted, single flowers of velvety crimson-scarlet are produced in such profusion and continuity as few other roses. We have listed this incorrectly as a synonym for SANGUINEA. We do suspect it is the same as CRIMSON BENGAL, however.

#### MME. LAURETTE MESSIMY

Ch rrr/fff/1 Guillot et fils, 1887 [Demits; Beales]  
Soft peach-pink flowers with apricot shading have a fruity fragrance; one of the China-Teas, a direct cross between the two groups, with Tea-like flowers and a red China growth habit.

#### MUTABILIS

[*Rosa chinensis mutabilis*, TIPO IDEAL]

Ch rrrr/f/3 unknown, pre-1894 [unknown]  
Single flowers start light yellow, change to pink, then crimson. A vigorous grower and tall, with a remarkably constant supply of bloom.

#### NAPOLEON

Ch rrr/fff/3 Laffay, c. 1835 [Robinson, found]  
This is the most richly colored of the small red Chinas we know; bright cherry-crimson globes of intense coloring; compact and spreading. Identified by the Huntington.

## OLD BLUSH

[COMMON MONTHLY, PARSON'S PINK CHINA]

Ch rrrr/f/1 intro to Sweden, 1759 [Robinson]  
 One of the four seminal roses introduced from Asia to Europe at the end of the 18th century. Blush pink flowers deepening with age, loose blooms in abundance throughout the year.

## "OLD GAY HILL"

["PLACERVILLE MAUSOLEUM," FABVIER]

Ch rrrr/ff/2 unknown, found [ARE/Robinson]  
 I am much smitten with this China; a bushy, vigorous shrub bearing semi-double flowers, cherry red with a lemon-white heart, showing golden stamens. We believe this is identical to FABVIER.

## "PAM'S PINK"

[see also BEAUTY OF ROSEMAWR]

Ch rrr/f/2 unknown, found [ARE; Puryear]  
 Rose and pale pink buds open to perfect rosettes with quilled petals, veined with a darker pink. We believe this is identical to what we received as BEAUTY OF ROSEMAWR.

PAPA HÉMERAY see Polyanthas

"PICKERING OLD RED CHINA"—*Missing from our collection.*

## PURPUREA

["WINECUP," SANGUINEA]

Ch rrr/ff/3 Chenault, 1930 [ARE]  
 Single cupped flowers of scarlet cerise, a white eye aging crimson-purple. From the Antique Rose Emporium; we understand that it was originally sent to them under this name. It may be identical with the rose we grow as SANGUINEA.

SANGUINEA (see PURPUREA)

## SERRATIPETALA

Ch rrr/f/3 unknown, 1912 [Pickering]  
 A favorite of mine. Once grown up it makes a thicket of smooth red-green shoots, heavily peppered with carnation-frilled petals of deep pink; inside it is cherry-edged pink.

## "SINGLE CERISE CHINA"\*

Ch rrrr/f/2 unknown, unknown [SJHRG]  
 Seemingly a derivative of MUTABILIS, this rose produces flowers of deep cerise on a spreading bush. Though the origin of this is shrouded in mystery, it resembles what we would expect a primitive or perhaps a wild China rose to be.

## "SINGLE PINK CHINA"

Ch rrrr/ff/1 unknown, unknown [ARE; Barnwell]  
 This appears to be a single-flowered form of OLD BLUSH, and is very pretty. Rather upright and vigorous, and if possible, even more floriferous than OLD BLUSH.

SLATER'S CRIMSON CHINA (see "BELFIELD")

## "ST. DAVID'S"

[FABVIER]

Ch rrrr/f/2 unknown, found [Manners; Bermuda]  
 Purplish red flowers with short petals surrounding a white eye and yellow stamens; this is a superb bloomer. We believe this to be the same as FABVIER.

## "VINCENT GODSIF"

Ch rrr/ff/2 unknown, found [Manners; Bermuda]  
 Small tight rosettes, rose-red to China pink in pyramidal clusters. One of the famous Bermuda mystery roses.

## VIRIDIFLORA

[THE GREEN ROSE]

Ch rrrr/-/1 unknown, pre-1833 [Robinson, collected]  
 Most roses retain small green guard petals, called sepals, around the unopened blooms. In this rose, petals do not develop normally, but the green sepals form a floral rosette.

## VIRIDIFLORA SPORT

Ch rrr/-/1 unknown, found [Demits]  
 An odd variation on VIRIDIFLORA in which some of the sepals appear to be regaining red or pink coloring in part.

## WHITE PEARL IN RED DRAGON'S MOUTH

["KORBEL CANYON RED CHINA"]

Ch rrrr/f/2 unknown, unknown [HRG; Seidel]  
 The Chinese name for a rose collected across this country; flowers globular, cerise to cherry red, with a white eye. Spicy scent!

"WINGOOD CHINA" see "MABLETON CRIMSON CHINA"