

Hybrid Bourbons

This group might well be added to the larger group of Hybrid Chinas, but as we grow several of these that show strong affinity to the Bourbons, especially in their waxy, grey-toned foliage; we include them here after their reblooming kin. Many Hybrid Bourbons, such as *VARIEGATA DI BOLOGNA*, have long been called Bourbons, when in fact they rarely rebloom and have a larger dose of old rose in their makeup. We think that including these here, near the remontant Bourbons, makes better sense.

Habit

The Hybrid Bourbons are fairly consistent in growth habit, making large spreading shrubs with stout, flexible basal canes, and a profusion of bloom on modest lateral stems. There are two types.

1. (E.g., *GIPSY BOY*) Large.
2. (E.g., *BLAIRII* No. 2) Extremely large, almost like Ramblers.



BLAIRII No. 2

HB o/fff/2 Blair, 1845 [Lykke]
Enormous flowers, medium to pale pink, deeper in the center, which open wide. When in bloom, it is always a favorite here. Vigorous with long stout canes; a great climber.

“CALIFORNIA MALTON”*

[“WILLIAM JESSE”]

HB (HP) rr/ff/5 unknown, unknown [Robinson, found]
The portrayal and description of *WILLIAM JESSE* in Curtis’ *Beauties of the Rose* raised strong suspicions from Phillip Robinson that our *MALTON* is, in fact, this rose. However, over the years we have concluded that this is not *WILLIAM JESSE*, and that this best belongs in the Hybrid Bourbons, likely a *GLOIRE DES ROSOMANES* offspring. Large flowers in clusters, rose red to cerise with a light pink reverse; petals imbricated in the opening flower, which expands fully to highlight a charming crested center.

CÉLINE

[sold often as *BOURBON QUEEN*]

HB o/fff/1 Laffay, c. 1835 [Pickering?]
Graham Thomas expressed doubts about the use of the name *BOURBON QUEEN* for this rose, and rightly so. We encountered this in the collection at the Roseraie de l’Hay trained on a pillar, showing its long-caned, climbing habit, and the beauty of its mid-pink, mauve-stained, cupped flowers that open in clusters and reveal their stamens very charmingly. Henry Curtis describes this as a rose recommended for understocks, and it is probably as such that it has turned up as a common, old cottage rose in England.

CHARLES LAWSON

HB r/fff/1 Lawson, 1853 [unknown]
Lavender-pink petals of crêpey substance, cupped, flattening in a dense swirl. The guard petals create a saucer of quartering over a goldy-green eye. Delicious!

COUPE D’HÉBÉ

HB o/fff/1 Laffay, 1840 [Lykke]
Extravagant displays of deep rose-pink blooms cover this broad arching grower in the early season and occasionally later. Hebe was cup-bearer to the gods, and was herself the goddess of youth.

DOMBROWSKI*

[DEMBROWSKI]

HB o/ff/1 Vibert, 1840 [Lowe]
Not truly crimson or red, nor pink nor purple, but somewhere in the midst of these colors *DOMBROWSKI* falls, combining the whole palette from deep pink to light red to crimson-mauve. The flowers are wide flat cups of ordered petals with a point of green carpels at the centers.

“DUC DE FITZJAMES”

HB o/fff/2 (France), 1885 [Lykke]
Very typical, rounded Bourbon foliage, flowers medium lilac-pink, double, cupped, loosely quartered and very fragrant. A much softer tone than the Pickering “*DUC DE FITZJAMES*.” That rose is more likely to be the original of this name if either of these is correct. Both are beautiful roses to grow.

“DUC DE FITZJAMES”(PICKERING)

HB o/fff/1 unknown, unknown [Pickering]
A very striking large-flowered rose in rich rose-magenta, fading to lilac. The flowers are broad, quartered and cupped. Very fragrant. Previously we had included this with Gallicas, which this rose is not, showing a Bourbon influence.

DUMORTIER

HB (G) o/fff/2 unknown, 18?? [Lowe]
Scant information about this variety shows up in the old literature, nonetheless, it is a beautiful rose, packed with crimson-mauve flowers with lilac reverses. We think this is possibly identical to the DUC DE FITZJAMES distributed by Pickering Nurseries.

FANTIN-LATOUR

HB o/fff/1 unknown, unknown [Pickering]
A rose that hardly needs introduction, so widely is it grown. Blush-pink blossoms, cupped and full, with guard petals that reflex back in the most poised fashion. It remains shrouded in mystery, and is often listed as a Centifolia.

GIPSY BOY

[ZIGEUNERKNABE]

HB o/fff/1 Lambert, 1909 [Hortico]
This rose's parentage possibly includes the Multiflora hybrid RUSSELLIANA. Deep magenta-purple blooms shaded crimson open to show a mass of buff stamens. The flowers are shaded with violet which gives a blue glow to the blooms. A stout plant which is angular and broadly arching.

GREAT WESTERN

HB o/fff/1 Laffay, 1840 [Lykke]
Deep crimson-purple flowers edged with pink, the outer petals flushed with pink, creating a pale aureole of color around the centers and adding extra drama to the deeply cupped, full blooms.

GROS CHOUX D'HOLLANDE

HB rr/fff/1 unknown, unknown [Pickering]
A heavy dose of China genes encourages GROS CHOUX D'HOLLANDE to begin flowering long, long before any of the other once-bloomers, its season extending from early April through June. Large, double, medium-pink blossoms with fat button-eyes.

“HEROINE DE VAUCLUSE”—*Missing from our collection.*

HUNTINGTON BROCADE —*Missing from our collection.*

“IRWIN LANE”

[“MOREY ‘PRINCE CHARLES’”]

HB r/ffff/1 unknown, found [Robinson, found]
Great carnelian-crimson cabbages with rolled back petals, fine-textured but with substance, which open slowly and beautifully in cool springs, yet withstand heat. When pegged or trained as a climber, this mystery rose produces an embarrassing abundance of extremely fragrant bloom.

LADY STUART*

HB (HCh) o/fff/1 Portemer?, 1852? [Ashdown]
Mysterious and confounded with a Hybrid Perpetual, it is difficult to be certain of anything about this rose, apart from its beauty. Very full and globular flowers are sweetly scented, palest blush pink with delicate petal texture. Might easily be placed with the Hybrid Chinas.

MME. LAURIOL DE BARNY

HB r/ff/1 Trouillard, 1868 [Moore]
China rose-pink brushed darker at the petal edges; very full, cupped and fragrant, with smooth grey-cast leaves; flowers on short laterals. Delightful!

PARKZIERDE

HB o/fff/1 Geschwind, 1909 [unknown]
Cupped flowers of many petals are deep, dark red gradually passing to violet-magenta as they age; a boss of golden stamens peeks out from within.

PAUL RICAULT

HB r/fff/1 Portemer, 1845 [Lowe]
We received this from Mike Lowe as “à Fleurs Pourpres,” and believe it to be the true PAUL RICAULT; bright carmine-crimson flowers of globular form, the guard petals reflexing, paler on the reverse. Not so vigorous as other HBs, growing more like an HP.

PRINCE CHARLES

HB o/fff/1 Luxembourg Gardens?, 1842 [Lowe]
Wide bowls of rose-madder petals passing to royal purple with age, rich with fragrance, blooming abundantly on a light-wooded plant with bright green leaves.

“RED BALLER” (see Hybrid Perpetuals)

TOUR DE MALAKOFF

HB o/fff/1 Soupert & Notting, 1856 [Pickering]
Complex and richly colored flowers in shades of mauve, lilac, magenta, maroon, and lavender, transforming as they open and age. The blossoms are large, with large petals, informal in arrangement, and show only a hint of the yellow stamens at the centers. A broad and drooping plant that wants and will benefit from support.

VARIEGATA DI BOLOGNA

HB r/fff/1 Lodi/Bonfiglioli, 1909 [unknown]
Broad slashes and pinstripes of bright crimson age to purple-velvet on a blush to cream pink ground, making VARIEGATA DI BOLOGNA an exotic and stunning rose.

ZIGEUNERBLUT

HB r/fff/1 Geschwind, 1889 [SJHRG]
Very large, double flowers of rich rose-purple, have a strong fragrance. A handsome companion to ZIGEUNERKNABE (GIPSY BOY) whose flowers are similar but shade more towards violet.