

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Showers of Flowers**

Photos Cynthia Brian



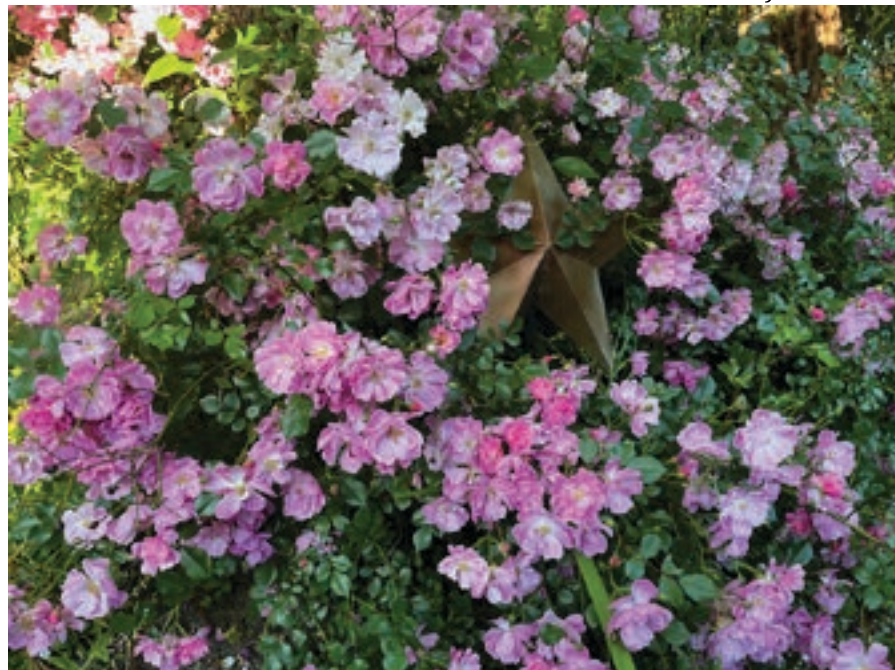
Lady Emma Hamilton roses create excitement in the border with their tight, bright orange buds

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Not only have they climbed above the weeds, but they are adorning limbs on my magnolia tree and covering my fence. Lady of Shalott is a repeat-flowering, hardy rose, part shrub, part climber, that is disease-resistant with rich orange-red buds that open to form bounteous chalice-shaped blooms of salmon, pink, and peach with 60-plus petals. The voluptuous fragrance has hints of clove, spice, and apple. The Gertrude Jekyll rose climber, named after the famous gardener, displays about 80 petals of gorgeous rosette-shaped blooms in splendid shades of pink with the most strongly scented rose fragrance. Flowers flow freely branching all along the climbing stems. Because our climate is warmer than what it prefers, it repeats less often.

Over the years I have purchased and been gifted many varieties of roses. My favorites are the roses that came to prominence in the 1970s – the English roses. Most are crosses between Old Roses and Modern Hybrid Tea and Floribundas that retain the fragrance of the Old Rose with the repeat-flowering and disease resistance of the Modern Rose. English roses were bred not only for color and flowering capacity but also for their fragrance and versatility. These roses can be tall, short, bushy, graceful, arching, upright, rambling, or climbing. The scents range from fruity to musky. One of the best reasons to grow English roses is their high disease resistance. Another plus is the bountiful bouquets they make as cut flowers, displayed alone or in tandem with other species.

Roses are adaptable plants and can be used in numerous ways. Planted in groups of three or more, they look lovely in mixed borders with other perennials. Formal rose beds can be outlined with clipped



French carpet roses are unscented yet blanket the hill.



Lady of Shalott is part climber, part shrub, with glossy green foliage and chalice-shaped salmon peach blooms.

boxwoods. Rose hedges line pathways, producing a mass of color throughout the seasons. In urns or pots, a single rose bush makes a satisfactory statement.

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