



Emerald Goddess Gardens

emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Rosa chinensis
Common Name	Mutabilis Butterfly Rose
Mature Size	6 to 8 feet
Bloom Color	Shades of pink
Bloom Period	Perpetual
Boom Form	Light Spice
Water	Consistently moist
Light	Full Sun to Very light shade
USDA Zone	7 to 10
Fragrance	7 on 10 scale
Uses	Hedge, Specimen, Standard
Special Features	Hardy Disease Resistant, Profuse Bloomer



Mutabilis or **The Butterfly Rose** is very old and very interesting heirloom species rose.

For many years the old single petaled species roses were ignored and pushed to side by excitement over the ever expanding variety of hybrid tea roses. Countless petals and longer stems were all the rage. Thankfully in recent years the simple, elegant beauty of these single blooming beauties is being rediscovered. There is no better example of this trend than the recent popularity of the successful **Knock Out®** series.

This very old China rose was introduced into commerce in 1934 by the world renown horticulturist, botanist, author, and artist *Henri Correvon*. The rose was a gift from *Prince Ghilberto Borromeo* from *Isola Bella*, from his beautiful palatial island botanical gardens in *Lake Maggiore, Italy*.

This garden was built by the Princes' ancestors in 1632, and the true origins of the rose are unknown. It may have been brought to garden from China or hybridized there.

Mutabilis was originally sold under the name '*Tipo Ideale*' and has also been called *Rosa turkestanica*.

Typically, **Mutabilis** can grow to a height of 6 to 8 feet if left to its' own devices in the warmer zones; average mature size is 3 to 4 feet. In areas where the winter temperatures are cooler, the bush will be smaller.

Bright butterfly shaped flowers in three different colors make a bright cheerful display all over this bush with all three colors, in various shades thereof, occurring at the same time.

The flowers change from honey yellow to a rich pink and then finish as a carmine red as they age (a characteristic of the China ancestors).

The new growth of the plant is a very attractive deep red/bronze. It repeat blooms all year and when in full bloom gives the impression that colorful butterflies have settled all over it.

This rose was awarded the *Royal Horticultural Award of Garden Merit* 1993 and was chosen by the *Texas Department of Agriculture Extension Service* as *Earthkind® Rose of the Year* in March of 2005.

The **Mutabilis Rose** is remarkable easy to grow as it will withstand a wide range of soil conditions, including sandy soils with little nutrition. It is very attractive in mass plantings, as a hedge or as a single specimen plant. It adapts well to potted plantings as well, and is remarkable disease resistant and hardy. With adequate irrigation and regular feeding, **Mutabilis** is an a full, lush, constantly colorful beauty. One of the key things to success with **Mutabilis**, in our experience, is maintaining uniform, consistent moisture. This rose is not drought tolerant and excessive drying between watering will lead to decline and eventual death.

References differ on the cold hardiness of this rose with most saying it does not do well north of zone 7, however a few say it is hardy to Zone 5 if well mulched and planted in a protected area.

Care of Your New Rose

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new rose:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size roses directly into the landscape is not recommended. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be re-potted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

- Immediately repot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. **DO NOT** use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily. Roses have high light needs and will grow poorly and fail to flower when planted in shade.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water. Roses prefer to be watered thoroughly and deeply and then allowed to dry down slightly between waterings.
- Reuse moisture crystals with great care. These can be a very useful tool for conserving water, but holds 6000 times their weight and water. If you use them, monitor the soil moisture level carefully for over saturation until you are familiar with how they work.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune and pinch lightly, and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly. Well established heirloom roses seldom need spraying, however for the best results disease or pest symptoms in young plants should be treated appropriately and quickly.
- Protect from freezing until very well established.

ROSES ARE GENERALLY NOT SUITABLE FOR GROWING OR HOLDING INDOORS. IF ROSES MUST BE BROUGHT INDOORS FOR COLD PROTECTION IT SHOULD BE THE SHORTEST PERIOD OF TIME POSSIBLE. ADEQUATE LIGHT AND AIR CIRCULATION ARE ESSENTIAL. ROSES CAN DECLINE VERY QUICKLY UNDER AVERAGE INDOOR CONDITIONS.

Please email us with any growing or planting questions at emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com

You can check your USDA Zone by visiting our website at emeraldgoddessgardens.com