

brought into coldstore where grading and despatch can be done at will, uninterrupted by the weather, allowing prompt delivery to our customers.

In conclusion it is necessary to emphasise the importance of precise organisation where so many extreme situations can affect and disrupt a smooth running operation. At the same time, with so many mechanical and technical improvements as time goes on, we are open to more risks when faults in the system appear. Therefore, careful planning and precise calculations are necessary to make the most of our progress.

STANDARD STEMS FOR ROSES

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Stems for standard roses are expensive and for this reason some rose growers produce their own. The usual method is to propagate from hardwood cuttings. It is also possible to grow good stems on a stoolbed. A third method, which has been little used by growers, is to bud a "stem builder" on an ordinary bush rootstock and this is what I want to discuss here. At Shardlow Hall we have three years experience budding a range of species and cultivars that seem suitable, using *Rosa corymbifera* 'Laxa' as the rootstock throughout.

Good results have been obtained using *Rosa rugosa*, *R. multiflora* 'Dornloos', *R.m.* 'De La Grifferaie', and *R.* 'G278', an unnamed John Innes seedling, which has produced the best stems so far. *R. canina* selections have been rather disappointing. 'G278' is a very vigorous, upright shrub, and the stems are straight and almost thornless although cuttings do not root readily. The stem continues to thicken as the plant gets older.

Ordinary bush rootstocks are used at normal spacings, although it is important to leave sufficient interrow space to work in when tying up stems in the second year. Good rootstocks and good growing conditions are necessary to give a high proportion of good quality stems and a sheltered site is clearly highly desirable.

Budding is done in the usual way for bush roses. In the second year support is needed and we have used 2 metre canes for staking plus a post-and-wire system. If more than one shoot arises from the bud the best is selected. It is essential to tie in regularly to ensure straight stems (we use a Max

Tapener). Side shoots must be removed as they arise and, if growth is very vigorous, we tip the shoots when they reach the top of the cane. We have a high proportion of stems fit to bud by August in the first season. Take has been good with 'G278', *R. rugosa*, and *R. multiflora*. We have had a good percentage of saleable standards as a result.

The system fits in quite well with bush rose growing, and does not need extensive stockbeds to provide propagating material and suckering is not a problem with the *R. dumetorum* 'Laxa' rootstocks. So far we have not had much success using *R. dumetorum* 'Laxa' itself as the "stem builder".

IPPS AND ISHS — HOW CAN THEY COOPERATE?

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The International Plant Propagators' Society (IPPS) and the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) are among the well known and renowned horticultural societies of the world. Main tasks of both these societies are support of horticulture in general and in special fields through improvement of international cooperation in science and in practice.

For some years efforts of both Societies to intensify contacts by means of mutual information and cooperation have increased. For instance, there were discussions on this in November, 1981, between Mr. Raymond Evison, then International President of the IPPS and the author, who was at that time Chairman of the Section "Ornamental Plants" of the ISHS. Leaders of both Societies met at the 21st International Horticultural Congress of the ISHS in Hamburg at the end of August, 1982. Friendly and constructive talks concluded in agreements, which include future regular exchange of information, and the possibility of taking part in meetings, symposia, and congresses of the other society. These agreements have been made with respect and esteem of the statutes and aims of the other society.

To be able to go more into details as to the possibilities of co-operation it is necessary to give more information about the organization and working methods of both Societies.