

OK, let's get the hydrangea questions out of the way first!

Your endless summer did not bloom well last year. Remember what makes blooms: your middle number phosphate—triple superphosphate will make more. Add that to the holly tone; scratch it in good after Mother's Day. I find Endless Summer Twist and Shout a good bloomer. It's a little hardier. Limelight and Vanilla Strawberry are very reliable bloomers in a sunnier spot and are very hardy.

Roses **What did well and what didn't this year:**

Head of the Pack:

1. **Raspberry Cream Twirl.** The first striped climber with rose exhibition form. Hardy, green to the tip. Like Madam President said, in the spring only the leaves are dead. I loved it with blooms from top to bottom. I have two—let me see now where I can put another and another.
2. **Tahitian Treasure.** Radler's new landscape shrub has an eye-catching, iridescent, deep salmon-pink color! Hardy and carefree, of course. I must get another.
3. **Campfire.** This tricolor easy care floribunda now comes in tree form. Do not worry about what you're going to do with it in the winter; there is hardy, and then there is **H-A-R-D-Y! Zone 2!** Bred under the Canadian Artist Series. I have one and I know where I'm going to put another.
4. **Mercury Rising.** Vigorous growing, eye-catching blooms. I got one from the Yankee District Convention last year. Seedling from Gemini.

Best kept secret:

DEE-LISH. This very fragrant, deep-pink HT is hardy and carefree with very quick repeat.

Back of the Pack:

Francis Meiland. This HT from Star did not live up to its hype! It got blackspot, Crown Gall, and was slow to start and slow to repeat. Very disappointing!

New for 2015

1. **Doris Day.** This eye-catching yellow HT was a standout in the garden!
2. **Neil Diamond.** This fragrant, striped HT caused a sensation at our Rose Show in Tower Hill. (We had 900 people come to the Rose Show.) I could have sold it one hundred times!
3. **Anna's Promise.** Everyone's waiting for this one, including me! You can see one of the parents is About Face.
4. **Take It Easy.** I was disappointed in this one. It didn't really do much.

Rose Culture: Don't forget to plant the grafted roses 3–4 inches below the bud union. I notice the own root roses don't make any difference. They'll make the winter anyhow. Don't forget to mix some Epsom salts, triple superphosphate, and granular Ironite (available in box stores) with any fertilizer you use. Roses like three things—**Water, Water, Water!**