

The Herb Society of America

Essential Facts for Katy Road Pink Rose

Rosa sp. 'Carefree Beauty'[™]



Rosa sp. 'Carefree Beauty'[™]
Photo Jason Powell

History

Dr. Griffith Buck (1915-1991), a leading rose hybridizer in his time, was responsible for the development of the 'Katy Road' rose cultivar which was introduced in 1977. During his lifetime, Dr. Buck spent countless hours researching in order to develop hybridized rose cultivars that were pest free, disease resistant, and cold hardy. His success in that venture is evident in the 'Katy Road' cultivar. Today, this cultivar is also commonly known by the trademarked name 'Carefree Beauty.'

Description

Rosa sp. 'Carefree Beauty'[™] is an upright, ever-blooming shrub that can grow up to 3'-5' tall and 4'-5' wide. Dark green leaves are shiny and have a leathery appearance. Thorns are present on the canes.

Large, semi-double pink blossoms grow in clusters from late spring to first frost.

Family: Rosaceae

Latin Name: *Rosa* sp. 'Carefree Beauty'[™]

Common Name: Katy Road Pink, Carefree Beauty[™]

Growth: Deciduous shrub rose, upright 3'-5' tall by 4'-5' wide

Hardiness: Zones 4-9

Light: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained; tolerant of clay, loam, or sandy soils; pH from 4-8

Water: Average

Use: Landscape, culinary (rose hips)

Propagation: Semi-hardwood stem cuttings

They are vibrant pink when new, but the color fades with age. Blooms open flat, expanding to 4" wide when fully open. A few smaller petals may crop up around the yellow centers. Flowers have a slight fragrance. Orange hips appear in the fall after the bloom period is complete; they are ovate with tapering ends.

Overall, 'Katy Road' shows good disease and pest resistance. Heat tolerance when temperatures climb in the summer is also promising. This shrub rose is quite simply one of the best choices available for hardiness in Zones 4 to 9.

Uses

The shape of this rose, full from the bottom to the top, is useful for perennial borders, mass plantings, or as a specimen plant. The bright orange canes provide good winter interest.

The large rose hips are suitable for teas and jams.

Sources

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www.chambleesroses.com

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<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com>

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<http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com>

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