

Common Name: **Rose**

Genus: *Rosa*

Species: *varies*

Family: Rosaceae

Historical Uses:



Medical: “At daybreak or in the morning, take a rose leaf and place it over your eye; this draws out the humour and makes it clear. But let whoever has a weeping ulcer on his or her body, place a rose leaf over it and draw out the pus.”(1)

“It mitigateth the paine of the eies proceeding of a hot cause, bringeth sleep, which also the fresh roses themselves provoke through their sweet and pleasant smell. The juice of these roses, especially of Damask, doth move the stoole, and maketh the belly soluble: but most effectually that of the Musk roses: next to them is the juice of the Damask, which is more commonly used.” (2)

“Red roses are good against all kinds of fluxes; they strengthen the stomach, prevent vomiting, and stop tickling coughs. The distilled water is very cooling and of good use in recent inflammations of the eyes, if in it there be dissolved a small quantity of rock salt petre.” (3)



Culinary: Roses with almonds, sugar, capons, and saffron were a favorite dish. (4)

“Rose petals were added to salads, were made into candy (crystallized), and rose hips were made into jams, preserves and vinegars.”(5)



Apothecary Rose: circa pre-1200 CE

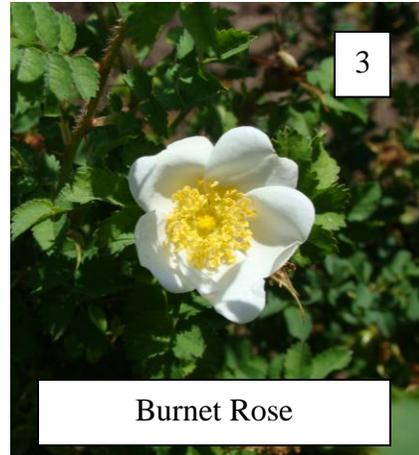
“The distilled water of roses being put into dishes, cakes, sauces, and many other pleasant things, giveth a fine and delectable taste.” (6)

Ornamental: “Used as decoration at banquets in Roman times as well as decorating statues of gods, being strewn in processions and in houses, as head pieces for brides and bride grooms and used to decorate beverages.” (7)

Household: “Rose water was used for hand washing at meals. Dried rose petals were sprinkled among clothes to add fragrance to the fabric.” (8)

Religious: Red roses represented the blood of the Christian martyrs or the Blood of Christ. White represented Mary’s Purity. Roses were used as a fragrant ingredient in oil used for altar lamps.

Folklore/Astrology: “Ruling planets varied. Jupiter for red roses, the Moon for white roses, and Venus for the Damask



Rosa Mundi: circa 1500 +/-

rose. Cold in the first degree and cold in the second.

Roses are under the protection of elves, dwarfs and fairies.” (9)

Other: Known in the ancient world. The word “rosa” comes from the Greek *rodon* (red). (10) In England, during the War of the Roses, each side claimed a different color rose. White (*R. alba*) for the House of York and red (*R. gallica officinalis*) for the House of Lancaster. Sappho, the Greek poetess, references roses in 600 B.C. (11) First roses possibly introduced into Europe by the Romans.

Contemporary Uses:

Parts Used: Flower buds, petals, fruits (depends on species).

Medicinal: Depending on species, can be used internally for to help treat colds, scurvy, minor infections, gastritis, bronchial infections, depression and lethargy. Can be used externally for irritations of the eye, skin problems, and mouth sores. Can also be used to produce a vitamin supplement.

Culinary: Used in salads and desserts. Hips are used to make jams, jellies, syrup, wine, vinegar, soup, and tea.

Economic: Petals are used to make rose oil and rose water. Rose water is used in perfumes, skin and bath products and as a flavoring in candy, desserts, jams, syrups, and jellies.

Cautions: Rose hips contain seeds and tiny hairs which can be an irritant.



Burnet rose hips

Area of Origin: Ancient Persia

Plant type: Both deciduous and semi-evergreen perennial shrub

Form: Varies

Height: Varies depending on species

Flower color: Red, white, mixed red and white

Flowering period: Spring into summer

Soil type/requirements: Well-drained, moist, rich soil, neutral to slightly acid.

Fruit: Hips

Hardiness zone: USDA- Many hardy to zone 6, some to zone 5.

Sun requirements: six hours direct sunlight

Propagation: best if done by cuttings

Cautions: Leaves may be damaged by black spot, powdery mildew, rusts, and sawfly. Buds can be attacked by aphids.

Sources:

1. Von Bingen, p. 25
2. Gerard, p. 1263
3. Culpeper, p. 139
4. Freeman, p. 41
5. Talbot/Whiteman, p. 166
6. Gerard, p. 1263
7. Grieve, p. 683-694
8. Freeman, p. 41
9. Anderson, p. 273-274
10. Grieve, p. 683-694
11. Ibid

Illustrations/Images:

1. Gerard's Herbal 1633 ed.
2. PSUMG 2005
3. PSUMG 2013
4. PSUMG 2013
5. PSUMG 2013

