

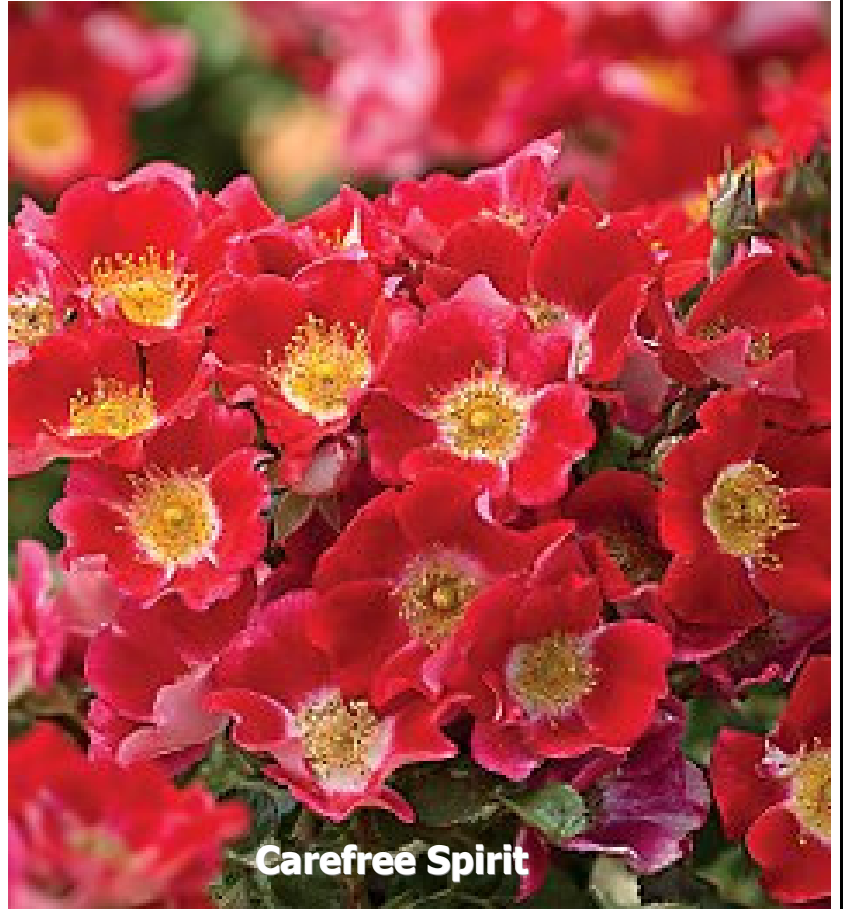
ROSE of the MONTH

by Marylou Coffman, Consulting Rosarian

Carefree Spirit

Recognizing that consumers want roses that are easy to care for, in 2004, AARS stopped spraying fungicides on all shrub roses in its nationwide test gardens.

Carefree Spirit™ is the first and only landscape shrub to date to endure this real-world testing and prevail as a Winner. This mounding rose produces deep cherry red blossoms with white twinkles in their eyes; the blooms finish pink as they bask in the sun. It has 5 petals. Carefree Spirit amplifies the disease resistance associated with its Carefree lineage, with more than ten years of hybridization improvement.



Much like its parent rose, **Carefree Delight™**, which was a All-America Rose Selections Winner in 1996, the petals are beautifully set amongst abundant glossy, dark green foliage. It has even better disease resistance, habit and blooming power, and will perform well in any area of the country.

This rose will grow about 4 feet tall and is always in bloom. It is excellent for a corner of your garden or as a hedge along property lines.

It was hybridized by Michele Meilland of France and introduced by Conard-Pyle. The seed parent is Red Max Graf X Seedling, the pollen parent is Pink Meilland X Immensee.