



## MY FAVORITE PLANT: 'HARISON'S YELLOW' ROSE

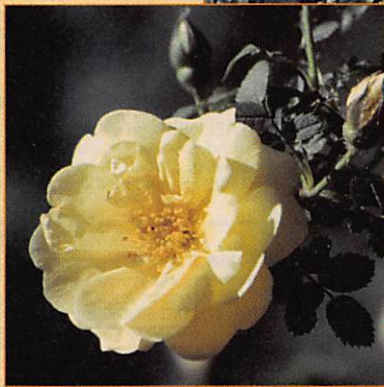
A rose the color of sunshine: this is the best description of 'Harison's Yellow,' the rose that went west with the pioneers.

An old-fashioned shrub rose with a divine scent, 'Harison's Yellow' covers itself in soft yellow, semi-double flowers with gold centers. It blooms only once a year, in late May or early June. The bush is very thorny with small leaves that give a fernlike impression.

'Harison's Yellow' originated sometime before 1830 in the New York garden of George F. Harison, an attorney. Eventually it was brought to the attention of nurseryman William Prince, who began selling it in this country and abroad. Billed as the first dependable true yellow rose, it soon became the most popular rose in America. Many of the pioneers traveling west packed rooted suckers from it into their covered wagons along with their household goods. Some of those pioneer plantings still bloom every year.

Its extreme hardiness, however, eventually proved to be this rose's downfall. Left to itself, it spreads and grows lanky. Without occasional pruning and thinning, it can fill an entire yard with an impenetrable, prickly thicket.

Almost 50 years ago when my family and I moved to the southwestern Nebraska farm where we still live, we found a cluster of 'Harison's Yellow' bushes thriving near our house. Over the years we've transplanted suckers from the original group to locations all over the farmyard. We may have one of the largest 'Harison's Yellow'



PHOTOS, NANCY SCHAFFERT



collections in the region.

Recently, I was pleased to see 'Harison's Yellow' listed in a nursery catalog (Royall River Roses, 70 New Gloucester Road, Dept. FG, North Yarmouth, ME 04097; 207-829-5830; catalog \$3). Maybe it's time this old-fashioned favorite made a comeback.

— Nancy Schaffert, Curtis, Nebraska

**Editor's note:** With this issue we mark the return to FLOWER & GARDEN of "My Favorite Plant," a department that has been absent from our pages for five or six years. In "My Favorite Plant," gardeners extol the attributes of a flower, herb, tree or houseplant that gives them pleasure.

If you'd like to tell FLOWER & GARDEN readers about your favorite plant, send us a page of text describing what makes it special; brief cultural information; and sources of seeds or plants. Include clear color photos (we prefer original color transparencies or 35 mm slides) of the plant and gardener. Sorry, but no submitted materials can be returned.

Send to "My Favorite Plant," FLOWER & GARDEN, 700 W. 47th St., Suite 310, Kansas City, MO 64112. We'll pay \$75 for each submission we publish.

## THE WRITER IN THE GARDEN

*"A garden, like a life, is composed of moments. I wish mine could always be as it is right now — this late afternoon at the end of March. Sunlight washes the upper branches of the mesquite tree... What makes my garden exciting is me — living in it every day, participating minutely in each small event... My friends, present in the garden only transiently, notice the surface prettiness, admire, and pass on to matters of more substance. While I see not merely the garden at this particular moment, but the garden as it has been at all other moments, and as it will be in moments yet to come..."*

— Janice Emily Bowers

You are bound to find yourself somewhere in *The Writer in the Garden*. This audio cassette anthology of garden writing is comprised of 46 passionate excerpts from essays, poetry, letters, journalism and fiction by writers including Gertrude Jekyll, Vita Sackville-West, E.B. White and Edith Wharton. The pieces are an insightful and informative mix of musings on many gardening topics including the purpose of a garden, the pleasures of weeding and humorous observations about gardening. For

instance, one author explains that everyone should have plant prejudices because it makes it easier to buy seeds. Whether you get them for yourself or as a gift for another gardener, these tapes are sure to entertain and inspire.

— Jessie Eisenstein

**Editor's note:** The *Writer in the Garden: An Audio Book Anthology of Garden Writing* is available at bookstores or can be ordered directly by calling 800-755-8532. The two-cassette set is approximately 3 hours long and costs \$16.95 (plus shipping).

