

## The Story Of The Lavender Rose

A lovely and exotic new rose makes its debut this spring — a lavender variety called ANGEL FACE.

The tale of how it came to be is a fascinating one.

For a number of years in the world of roses the hybridizers have had the goal of breeding a blue rose. Those versed in the lore have pondered and experimented with possible crosses that would bring them nearer to their goal. Roses come in every shade and type of red — all the pinks from the soft delicate tints to the deep valentine shades are represented. We have myriads of delightful yellows and apricots, but never to date has a blue blossom appeared on the rose horizon. Some of the old fashioned varieties have a hint of purple in the fading petals, but there has been nothing even close to blue.

They say the mountain must be climbed because it is there. Similarly the blue rose took hold of the imaginations of all the prominent rose hybridizers. Many well known growers from other parts of the world, as well as rose experts in our country, have been deep in experimenting.

The lavender rose first became a sort of way station on the path to blue. But then, almost at once, it proved such an intriguing place to pause that now achieving the finest lavender has become a goal in itself.

The many experts working towards this end include Sam McGedy II from Ireland, Reimer Kordes from Germany, E. B. LeGrice from Norfolk, England, Alain Meilland from Cap d'Antibes, France, Mah Tantau from Germany, Herbert Swim and Ralph Moore from California, and Gladys Fisher from

Massachusetts. All these have had a hand in the development of lavender roses.

Complex realms have been

explored, each hybridizer with his own theories. Even the laboratories of chemists have been invaded and have contri-



ANGEL FACE. The only lavender rose ever to win an All-America award. A strong growing, fragrant, bright lavender floribunda.

buted valuable findings. We in recent years we cherish in our gardens.

While Angel Face is a floribunda, the individual stems are quite long. It is a beauty in arrangements and possesses the desirable long lasting qualities. The color remains vital and alive until the last petal falls.

The corn flower derives its heavenly blue tones from Cyanin. This, happily for those who seek the lavender and blue roses, is found in most roses. But then the presence there of other trace metals changes and prevents the cyanin from producing a blue shade.

Working with the Ph of cell sap also has a bearing. While these experts know the chemical constitution of the colours, they do not know what makes them blend and function as they do. This has yet to be fathomed and further defined.

Two specific ancestors of most lavenders, including Angel Face, are Gray Pearl and Pinocchio, originally crossed by Gene Boerner. With this as a beginning, rose breeders have done wonders and their results

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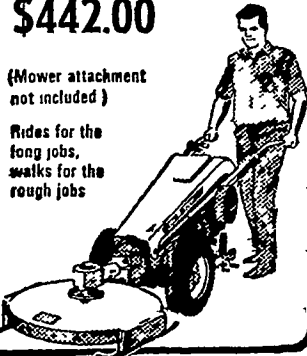
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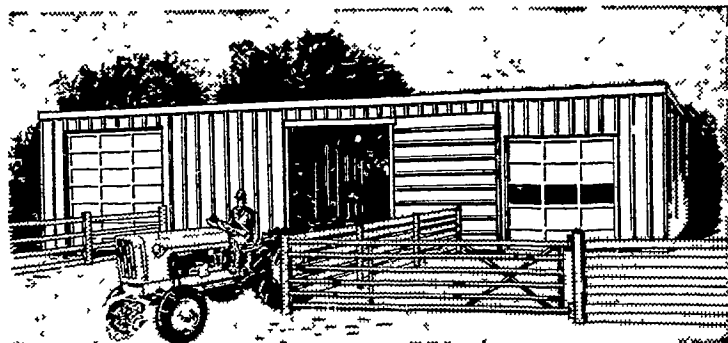
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