

## ROSE OF THE MOMENT

### CLIMBING ICEBERG

By Carol Cowee

As I've grown several versions of Iceberg, I always wondered why it was called one of the world's best or most popular roses. It is somewhat spindly and in my soil, or lack of, it probably needs more nourishment than I give it and less pruning. You would never call it a lush, full bush, for me, but with light pruning, it is a good shape. But, I won't argue that the bloom is amazing in that though not large, it is the whitest white, not bothered by the usual collection of bugs that love my garden and it also blooms non-stop and being a floribunda flowers are neatly arranged on the bush. Many times it is leafless with blackspot, again in my organic, neglected garden, but puts out new ones immediately. That could be a clue as to why it might need more nourishment than I give it, always producing leaves... but the bloom doesn't seem to suffer. You can spot an Iceberg rose from a speeding car. There is just something about it.

The clustered buds are lovely, if you can catch them as they don't hang around long. They are perfect in large, mixed bouquets as the white is a beacon. I have learned, while doing flowers for church, that white is all that shows from a distance and I love to fill in with the Icebergs.

Though I find the bush spindly, the patio rose plant of Iceberg is lovely. And for many years now, I have enjoyed the incredible non-stop abundant blooming of a Climbing Iceberg on my front gate. It is almost thornless and takes just light pruning and cutting out of deadwood to be very handsome. It is also very

neat and tidy not throwing out gigantic canes that need lassoing



and tying.

Alas, the only serious drawback, easily forgiven, is no scent though I've read some can find it. I also live on a hill with great north winds so have solved the problem of keeping the climber in an upright position by using used clear oxygen tubing given me by obliging friends. It is very strong and invisible.

It will bloom until December or year round if you don't prune and it's nice to have white roses at Christmas.