

Rose of the Moment

Golden Celebration

By Carol Cowee

April 7, 2016



This shrub rose, Golden Celebration, by David Austin, was introduced in 1993. It is rated an 8 in the ARS Handbook and lives up to its rating. Listed as a shrub rose, I would call it a pillar rose as I have trained it in a rebar 5 foot tall, 18 inch diameter frame. I also have it secured to our deck with my trusty oxygen tubing that all my roses are contained with. The tubing is very strong and is necessary to keep this now massive rose upright. I planted it 10 years ago, can't believe it was that long ago but it was for our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and this year is our 60<sup>th</sup>. At the time I planted it, several of our friends were also celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> so we gave them gifts of this wonderful rose.

The scent is minimal, to me, and they are the usual David Austin roses that don't last long in arrangements but are so worth their short and glorious life.

Typical of David Austin, the stems aren't long but with the first spring bloom they are long enough and wonderful to pick a huge armful. The color, of deep yellow, is like fresh, rich farm egg yolks.

I do take out dead wood when pruning in the winter and tie in any loose canes. Later in the summer I do a heavy or at least time-consuming pruning of taking out all the dead wood. Many new canes shoot out the top and if I have time can tie them in a roundabout fashion but if time doesn't permit they will flower away and the canes get heavy enough to drop down and show off the cascading blooms. Deadheading is accomplished with the Fiskar Pruning Stick reaching over the deck railing from the top.

I have several David Austins and believe they prefer a fairly heavy feeding but my life style doesn't allow that so they perform well with the one spring feeding of organic food. All 170 of my roses are on an automatic drip system with heavy mulch.

I highly recommend this lovely rose. (That shiny silver ball is a bowling ball sprayed with silver paint!)