

ROSE FAMILY ALBUM



Photo by Peggy Greb.

ROSACEAE

That Which We Call a Rose

Probably no other family of plants has evoked so much emotion as the roses. From rosaries and rosewater to the Rose Garden at the White House, roses and their relatives have figured prominently in political, economic, and religious history. Washington's beloved cherry blossoms

are just one example! The family also includes apples, strawberries, peaches, plums, blackberries, and many other fruits. With the possible exception of orchids, the rose family has received more horticultural attention than any other.

Fruit orchards and berry brambles can be "buzzy" places: having one of the least specialized of flowers, rose family plants are favorites among pollinators, and the flowers' abundant pollen supports a wide diversity of insects. In hybrid *garden* roses, however, the numerous pollen-producing stamens present in the *wild* rose flower have been modified to be more petal-like. While hybrid roses are a feast for human eyes, they are famine for pollinators!



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Herman, D.E. et al.



Photo by Scott Bauer.



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