

A Rose Bud has Begun to Blossom during February Frosts

*Comments on Gergely Márk's rose named 'Saint Elizabeth of Hungary'
Ahrenshoop/Berlin, Germany, 12 February 2012*

Recently I have been overjoyed by a discovery, which I would like to share with my rose loving friends. I had the opportunity to observe a 'Saint Elizabeth of Hungary' rose stock in our Ahrenshoop garden during the first ten days of February. And in spite of the bitter cold, a rose bud made its first attempts at blossoming during this time...

Naturally the variety of a rose is suggested by its shape and colour during this growth period as well. Yet such endeavours by a rose bud are touching. Presumably other rose varieties also behave in this way. I would be very grateful for any information concerning such behaviour.

Gergely Márk's rose named 'Saint Elizabeth of Hungary' is not unknown to rose lovers. I was able to place approximately one thousand stocks in both public and private gardens in the course of the past five years. The feedback I received emphasized not only their floescence, refloescence, disease resistance and especially their frost resistance, but also pointed out their other characteristics. For instance, it was discovered that this variety withstands a pH value of 8.5 and can survive after 2 metres high flood waters have receded.

Our garden in Ahrenshoop is approximately 200 metres from the Baltic Sea. Of our eight 'Saint Elizabeth of Hungary' rose bushes only one held on to its flowers until February. This bush is located at the edge of a forest, in a depression behind a sand dune. This part of the garden was flooded by groundwater for weeks during 2011. To such an extent that several other rose varieties died out there.

At the end of January in 2012, unseasonably mild weather conditions were followed by severe cold. Temperatures dove to minus 15-20 C° in Ahrensoop at the beginning of February. These were the conditions that had produced what caused my surprise and joy. I took pictures of two 'Saint Elizabeth of Hungary' blossoms between 1 and 10 February 2012. One of the blossoming roses kept its shape and colour well at the beginning of February, then it shrivelled due to the cold and increasingly lost its colour as well. The strong winds of 9 February tore at it until in the end only "A Graceful Message of Dismissal" remained. The other, the bud, which was on the whole closed on 3 February, attempted to blossom between 8 and 10 February after the severe cold. The winter had of course affected its shape and colours. But there is no doubt about its "good intentions", especially since it had done so on a relatively thin shoot, which bent under the weight of the bud.

Éva Kigyóssy-Schmidt:

Contact:

D-10405 Berlin, Prenzlauer Allee 89

or

D-18347 Ahrenshoop, Schifferberg 12

Germany

E-Mail: rosenhag@schifferberg.de