

Full Page Feature Story

Watch *Downton Abbey* Bloom in Your Rose Garden

For the past six years, *Downton Abbey* has played a starring role on American televisions. Every Sunday night, millions of devoted fans followed the lives of their favorite fictional British characters from the 1920s. The upstairs-downstairs drama, which has won 12 Primetime Emmy Awards and been nominated for an astonishing 59 Emmy Awards, ended its record-breaking run in March.

Even though new episodes of the wildly popular show are gone, *Downton Abbey* will live on in rose gardens and backyard landscapes throughout the country. That's because Weeks Roses has introduced a new *Downton Abbey*-inspired rose variety for Spring 2016 called Pretty Lady Rose™.



Inspired by the Lady Rose MacClare character on the show, Pretty Lady Rose™ shares many attributes with the show's namesake such as elegance and strength. The deep-pink flowers on this Hybrid Tea bush are large (4 to 5 inches in diameter), with ruffled petals. The long-lasting blooms have a sweetly scented fragrance with hints of peonies and spices, similar to the perfume a noble woman from the *Downton Abbey* period might have worn. The plant is dressed with a gown of healthy, bright, medium-green glossy foliage. With her compact habit, this selection brings elegance to smaller spaces of the garden, and Pretty Lady Rose™ also looks great when grown in pots.

Pretty Lady Rose™ was hybridized by Christian Bédard, Research Director for Weeks Roses. He says the new variety is a fitting tribute to the popular British television drama.

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“When selecting varieties for our *Downton Abbey* Garden Rose Collection, we looked for outstanding roses that reflected the strength and personality of the characters in the show,” said Bédard. “Pretty Lady Rose has old-fashioned pink blossoms that have a sweet, spicy fragrance. We are confident that this variety will be an enduring part of beautiful gardens for many, many years.”



The first rose introduced by Weeks Roses to honor *Downton Abbey* became available at garden centers last spring. Anna’s Promise®, named for Anna Bates, the lady’s maid at the center of the downstairs drama, is a Grandiflora with golden petals and a pink blush. The reverse side of the petals is a glowing bronze that reflects the quiet strength of Anna’s steadfast character. The spicy, fruity fragrance of the blossoms is reminiscent of apples and grapefruit.

Even though the *Downton Abbey* television show is ending, there is talk of a full-length feature film in the works. So it’s only fitting that the officially licensed *Downton Abbey* Garden Rose Collection will continue. Weeks Roses plans to introduce two new show-inspired varieties in 2017.

Violet’s Pride™ is named for the Dowager Countess Violet Crawley (as portrayed by Maggie Smith). This variety is a spicy-scented lavender floribunda with a magenta heart that makes a dramatic statement in the garden. The fourth and final variety in the series is Edith’s Darling™, an English-style Shrub rose that boasts pale yellow blossoms. Edith’s Darling is named for Lady Edith’s daughter, Marigold. This variety was developed by Weeks Roses in California, so it offers the additional garden benefit of being heat tolerant.

Downton Abbey-licensed roses—and scores of popular favorites grown by Weeks Roses in California—are available at home center stores, independent garden centers and select mail order and online vendors nationwide. For more information, visit www.WeeksRoses.com.

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Premium Category Story

Home, Garden and Homestead

New designs bring “flower power” to outdoor shoes



Looking for a new pair of outdoor shoes or boots that will make a fashion statement wherever you go? A pair of waterproof shoes from Sloggers® is great for working in the yard or running errands in the rain. Three new floral-inspired designs are available. The Red Poppies design features bright poppies on a black background; Flower Power print shoes boast lavender, blue and orange flowers set into a black background; and the brightest pattern of all is California Dreaming with its colorful orange flowers on a tangerine background.

This fun and functional footwear is made from odorless, medical grade, 100% recyclable plastic that is flexible, tough and longwearing. The deep-lug treads give the made-in-America shoes excellent traction in water and mud. Every pair includes the exclusive “All-Day Comfort Insoles” that give Sloggers® the reputation for high comfort. The shoes slip on easily, and there are no laces to tie or clips to fasten. Clean-up is easy—just hose them off! The sole contains up to 50% recycled material. When you’re finished with your shoes or boots you can send them back to Sloggers® and the company will recycle them in the making of a new pair.

The new Sloggers® Spring Floral Collection includes both shoes and boots. All styles are available in women’s full sizes from 6 to 10. (Sorry guys!). Half sizes should order up and add a pair of “Half-Sizer Cut-to-Fit Insoles” to make any Sloggers® boot or shoe a half-size smaller. A wide variety of other colorful prints are also available. Sloggers® Rain & Garden Shoes sell for about \$29.99 and boots sell for about \$39.99 in garden stores and online at www.sloggers.com.

Basic Category Story

Rose gloves provide protection and style



Protecting your hands and arms from thorns and sharp branches is important when you’re pruning roses or other prickly bushes and shrubs. These gauntlet-style rose gloves provide protection, comfort and dexterity—while being very attractive and stylish. These gloves feature a lightweight, synthetic leather padded palm and reinforced fingertips to provide ample protection against thorns and abrasive surfaces. The resilient synthetic suede cuffs guard against further scrapes and scratches.

The Jackson & Perkins Rose Gloves are made of a supple, breathable fabric that allows you to perform all of those gardening tasks with ease as your hands are protected from cuts and bruises. And when they get dirty, they can be machine washed on a gentle cycle and line dried. Jackson & Perkins Rose Gloves are available in two sizes—medium and large. Each pair sells for \$38.95 from Jackson & Perkins, 800-292-4769, www.jacksonandperkins.com.