Chapter 1

BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Genus Rose belongs to the important Family of Rosaceae. In fact, many well known plants grown for economical and productive reasons such as Apple, Pear, Cherry and Apricot trees, Strawberry plants and others, belong to the Rosaceae Family.

The Rose belongs to the Genus Rose that includes about 200 species of wild roses, all from the northern hemisphere and mostly from temperate regions. The plant is recognizable by its bushy and shrubby appearance with straight woody branches, more or less covered with prickles.

Although they are usually called thorns, from a botanical point of view, it is only correct to refer to them as prickles. Prickles are a sharp outgrowth from the epidermis or bark.

Once mature, the internal part of the prickle is made up of porous dead cells without chlorophyll. The prickle is separated from the stem by a layer of cork; if they come away from the wood easily, it means that the wood is mature.

The leaves are deciduous and rarely persistent; they are stipulate, composite and imparipinnate with 3-5 or 7 oval or oval-lanceolate shaped leaflets, more or less serrated at the margins and with nervation in relief on the underside.

The flowers can be single or a cluster forming a corymb.

The sepals, petals, pistils and stamens are inserted at the edges and inside a concave cup-shaped receptacle, which in its cavities also contains numerous ovaries.

The sepals are positioned on the outer side while the corolla is found more internally. The lanceolate sepals are 5 or more rarely 4. They are green and have a photosynthetic and protective function for the flower before it opens.

In nature, the flowering for the species that blossom once, happens only in springtime. For the species that re-blossom, it happens various times during the year, usually in late autumn and spring.

The corolla is round heart-shaped and attractive, it can be made up of a few or many petals.

Originally, the Rose had a simple flower of only 5 petals as we can still see in the wild species that we can find in woods. After the selection and genetic improvements carried out by man, today the flower is made up of numerous petals. Currently, there are varieties with semi-full flowers with about 20-30 petals (var. Spray) and varieties with full flowers with about 30-35 up to over 70 petals (var. Hybrid Tea).