



Rathaus | Trammplatz 2 | 30519 Hannover

Ihre AnsprechpartnerIn: | Ulrike Serbent

<b>Telefon</b>	0511 168	43221
<b>Fax</b>	0511 168	45351

Hannover  
04.06.2014

## Press Information

### Royal Garden Art: Prince Andrew names a new rose from the Herrenhausen Gardens

#### From Herrenhausen to the Queen's rose garden: the new variety, 'King George I'

Both its name and its godfather lend a regal splendour to the new rose from Hannover's Herrenhausen Gardens; Prince Andrew, Duke of York, named it 'King George I' during celebrations of the Queen's official birthday at Herrenhausen Palace, accompanied by the British Ambassador to Germany Simon McDonald and Hannover's Lord Mayor Stefan Schostok. The Hanoverian rose will take up residence in London - in Buckingham Palace garden. Lord Mayor Schostok presented Prince Andrew with a Herrenhausen rose as a gift for Queen Elizabeth with the wish: "May this rose grow, thrive, and put out splendid blooms, just close relationship between Hannover and the British royal family over three hundred years." This year Hannover celebrates the tercentenary of the Personal Union; from 1714 to 1837 Hannover and Great Britain had the same ruler.

The royal rose was selected and the name chosen by Ronald Clark, Director of the Herrenhausen Gardens. "We'd already named a rose after Electress Sophie - it was only natural to dedicate the next Herrenhausen rose to her son Georg Ludwig."

The delicately scented romantica® rose 'King George I' is a new cultivar from the world-famous Meilland rose breeders in the south of

France, and was selected and grown on at the BKN-Strobel nurseries in Schleswig-Holstein. It took eleven years for the new variety to be ready for sale, but this has made it exceptionally suitable for central European gardens: King George I is hardy, resistant to disease, and produces great quantities of long-lasting blooms several times a season. Its regal red blooms give out a refined, fruity fragrance. Although the blooms are very dense they stand upright in bunches of up to five on one stem, framed in shiny dark green leaves. Growing to between 30 and 40 centimetres high, it is an ideal bedding rose, but also highly suitable for pots on balconies and terraces. 'King George I' is one of the later blooming roses, but then its display is all the more abundant and proliferous.

#### **Available exclusively in the Herrenhausen Gardens**

At the moment the new royal rose is only for sale, in limited quantities, at Herrenhausen Gardens visitor centre. In the month of its naming there will be just 500 plants available worldwide, all of which will be available only at Herrenhausen. From autumn 2014 larger quantities will be offered for sale across Germany by the BKN-Strobel nurseries, as a bush rose in a three- or five-litre container. The plants meet the highest quality criteria and cost between 15 and 25€.

Rose lovers will be charmed - 'King George I' has both the romantic qualities of a 19th-century rose and the hardiness and disease resistance of a modern cultivar. Ronald Clark explained: "We selected this new variety especially because it reflects what makes the Herrenhausen Gardens so unique: 'The consummate perfection of the garden arts'. And thus the new rose makes a perfect souvenir of Hannover.

#### **'King George I' as Herrenhausen's ambassador**

A tag on each plant offers more than just information on the characteristics and care of the Herrenhausen rose; it explains where the name comes from and publicises the Herrenhausen Gardens all over Germany - just as its creators intended: "With our plants we aim to promote Herrenhausen and its garden arts far and wide, raise national awareness of our gardens and of

course, attract more visitors," says Ronald Clark. The growing Herrenhausen collection so far comprises the rose 'Kur-fürstin Sophie', the narcissus 'Kurfürstin Sophie' and the new rose 'King George I'; new varieties are already being bred.

### **The tag**

A royal rose: King George I

#### Growth

Very compact, low-growing bedding rose. A good pot rose for balconies and terraces.

#### Flowering

Blooms in the middle of the early season, dense and long-lasting blooms, hardy, also suitable as cut flowers.

#### Location

Choose a sunny place. If roses have already grown there, remove the old soil and replace to a depth of 30 cm.

#### Planting

Dig the planting hole twice as big as the pot, remove the pot and water generously while planting. Tamp down the earth firmly. In early spring apply a rose fertiliser.

The Great Garden in Herrenhausen was laid out before the gates of Hannover between 1680 and 1714 as a splendid Baroque garden with sculptures, fountains and a garden theatre. Elector Georg Ludwig (1660 - 1727) completed the work of art of his mother, Electress Sophie, in 1720 with the inauguration of the Great Fountain, then the highest fountain in Europe. Georg Ludwig was descended on his mother's side from the English monarchy, and was crowned King of Great Britain in 1714, beginning 123 years of Personal Union between Hannover and Great Britain, separate states under the same ruler. The Herrenhausen Gardens in Hannover - The Great Garden, Berggarten and Georgengarten - present the consummate perfection of the garden art and, with 'King George I', a truly royal rose.

### **The certificate of the gift to the Queen**

On 4 June 2014 HRH The Duke of York, KG on his visit to the Herrenhausen Gardens in Hannover, gave this rose the name 'King George I'.

On this occasion Lord Mayor Stefan Schostok presented a rose bush to HRH The Duke of York

KG, as a gift and token of highest esteem for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

### **The Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen**

Herrenhausen Royal Gardens in Hannover are considered to be one of the most beautiful collections of historic gardens in Europe, an expression of the garden arts in their finest form. Today covering 135 hectares, the Gardens were originally planned over 300 years ago as a pleasure garden for the royal court, laid out by the Electress Sophie from 1676-1714. She was once heard to say, "The Great Garden is my life."

Herrenhausen is home and habitat to many rare plants and trees. The delicate green rococo garden, the knotted Renaissance flowerbeds, the historic Hedge Theatre adorned in green and gold, one of Europe's highest fountains and one of the world's largest collections of orchids make the former summer residence of the Guelphs a magical place that conveys an authentic impression of royal life in bygone days.

For further information on the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen and Herrenhausen Palace see [www.herrenhausen.de](http://www.herrenhausen.de).