

## A rose by any other name

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Rick Castillo, a certified rosarian, estimates he has between 750 and 800 rosebushes in his Tinton Falls back yard, and he can tell you the name of each one.

Tinton Falls man has a basketful of blue ribbons attesting to his expertise

By linda denicola

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Tinton Falls resident Rick Castillo is a certified rosarian — an expert on roses who can answer almost any question on the subject. According to Castillo's count, he has between 750 and 800 rosebushes in his back yard, and only a few of them are of the same type.

Castillo can identify all of these bushes. There are three Stretch Johnsons, a hybrid tea rose in an orange blend. (A hybrid tea has only one rose per stem.) He also has three Playboy rosebushes and three pink blend Princess of Monaco, or Grace Kelly, bushes. Both are floribunda, which means they have sprays of roses, Castillo explained.



Rosebushes go by many names. An identifier is stuck in the earth next to each of Castillo's bushes. There are Giggles and Razzmatazz, Fancy Pants and Puppy Love. There is Betty Boop, a floribunda with red-and-yellow flowers, and America, which has large orange-and-pink blooms.

"There are 10 French roses in the Romantic series. They are all very fragrant," Castillo said. "Not all roses smell good. But Modern English roses have a good scent, and Mr. Lincoln is very fragrant."



There are hundreds and hundreds of varieties, according to Castillo.

"Some roses were discovered before 1860. They are called Old Garden roses," he said. "Most are English and French roses."

Castillo likes all of them, but, he said, "My favorite is the one in bloom."

Castillo said his greatest pleasure is to watch a bush grow from a flowerless stem to a bud and then to an open rose.

"It's like growing something beautiful from nothing," he said.