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ROSE GARDEN : EMMARENTIA.

The Rose Garden in Johannesburg is situated in Jan van Riebeeck Park, Emmarentia, to the West of Emmarentia Dam, the main entrance being in Thomas Bowler Street.

The Garden, the total area of which is 25 acres, was started in 1960 and officially opened to the public in 1964. The central feature is a succession of terraces all of a different pattern of formal rose beds and pools. Water plays a prominent part in this section, and the supply is pumped from the Emmarentia Dam to the top terrace, from where it cascades down from pool to pool by underground piping. The water culminates in the large pool at the bottom terrace, where it is diverted back into the Dam. The terraces are retained and joined by ornamental walls and steps of outstanding quality, built of slasto.

To the East and West of the central terraces are 8 huge wings, lawned and with informal beds for the cultivation of specie roses and other members of the rose family. To date there are some 20,000 roses planted in approximately 240 different varieties. In spite of these formidable figures, there is yet room for more, as and when new varieties become available.

The care and attention required to look after so many roses involves considerable labour, bearing in mind, pruning, spraying, dusting, mulching and the removal of dead bloom heads throughout the Summer. The approximate annual cost of all this maintenance is R25,000.

In July each year a rose pruning demonstration is organized under qualified rose experts. The demonstration is open to all members of the public, and it is usual for several hundred people to attend and learn the art of pruning and Winter care and maintenance of roses.

A small rose trial ground has been set aside for the benefit of the rose grower who wishes to know how a new variety will take to South African conditions. Here new rose introductions will be grown and tested and their case histories will be compared with the experience of rose centres throughout the country.

A qualified Horticulturist, who will gladly "talk roses" and their problems to all who are interested, is at the Rose Garden at all times.

The construction ...

The construction and planting of the Rose Garden has been an undertaking of no mean order. It is there for the benefit of the public, the expert in roses, the ordinary rose lover, as well as for the beginner who wishes to learn before he starts his rose garden. Above all, it is an ideal spot at this time of the year for anyone who merely wants to relax in an atmosphere of beauty, colour and scent.

All are welcome to the Rose Garden to study and admire possibly one of the oldest known flowers - The Rose.

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