ROSES & BOTANICAL PRINTS

Mable Ringling, who built and lived in Ca’ d’Zan, loved roses. She was an avid gardener who collected lots of plants including interesting and exotic trees, shrubs, and of course, roses. Mable loved Italy and Italian gardens and she wanted to bring some of that charm here to Sarasota. The garden is set up in a wagon wheel pattern, and Italian sculptures can be found dotted throughout the garden.

There are over 1,200 rose plants in this garden! Roses come in many varieties including Tree Roses, Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Grandifloras, miniature roses, and shrubs. The species in this garden were created between 1793 and 2017. Some are very fragrant while others barely have a scent. The roses come in red, pink, white, yellow, purple and colors in between.

Learn more about Mable’s Rose Garden on our website!

https://www.ringling.org/mable-ringlings-rose-garden
https://www.ringling.org/history-bayfront-gardens

Genetic Inheritance

Genes are what make us unique. Roses have genes too, and the genes that we can see such as rose color, or leaf shape, are called the phenotype. There are many different phenotypes for rose flower color- red, pink, yellow, white, purple, or something in-between. We can predict the color of flowers by using a Punnett square. Let’s represent red flowers as R, and white flowers as w. The capital R is more powerful than the lowercase w, so when a plant has both R and w, we will see red flowers. What flower color would two w genotypes produce?
Botanical Prints

Before photography was invented, scientists relied on drawings to document and study plants. When scientists would go out to study a plant they would draw it and label all the different parts so they could study in their laboratories. FIND a plant in your neighborhood and sketch it below. Use the word bank to label your sketch.

Word Bank:
Stem  Branch  Flower  Bud  Prickle (Thorn)  Leaf  Roots  Petal

Try pressing fresh flowers and plants at home by laying a plant between two pieces of white paper and pressing it between heavy books for 1-2 weeks.