ABSTRACT

A variety of rose plant of the shrub class, named ‘AUSlevity’. The ‘AUSlevity’ is a variety of rose suitable for cut-flower production with large blooms containing frilly petals of rich buttery yellow paling to cream towards the edge, and demonstrating a strong, fragrant with hints of honey, lilac and almond.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

Observations of budded ‘AUSlevity’ specimens made at the nursery at David Austin Roses Limited in Albrighton.
Wolverhampton, United Kingdom. The following description is of 6-year-old potted rose plants of the new variety grown indoors in a greenhouse in Albrighton, Britain in the month of June. Phenotypic expression may vary with environmental, cultural and climatic conditions, as well as differences in conditions of light and soil.

Flower characteristics:

**Blooming habit.**—Continuous. The number of blooms per plant during the growing season is profuse, but there are too many to count.

**Bud.**—Size: About 2 cm long and 1.9 cm in diameter when the petals start to unfurl. Form: The bud form is pointed ovoid and broad based. Color: When sepals first divide, the bud color is RHS 151C (yellow-green group). When half blown, the upper sides of the petals are RHS 12A (yellow group), and the lower sides of the petals are RHS 12A (yellow group). Calyx: Shape: star-shaped when the bloom is open, folding back against the stem. Length: 7 cm. Diameter: 7 cm. Sepals: Arrangement: Regular. Color: Upper Surface: green RHS 147C (yellow-green group). Lower Surface: green RHS 144A (yellow-green group). Length: 3 cm. Width: 1.2 cm. Shape: Lanceolate. Surface texture: Upper Surface: Downy. Lower Surface: Slightly downy. Number: There are 2 slightly appressed sepals, and 3 unappressed sepals with hairy edges. Receptacles: Color: RHS 143C (yellow-green group). Shape: funnel. Size: broad, about 1 cm high x 0.8 cm wide. Surface: Smooth. Peduncle: Length: medium, averaging about 8 cm. Surface: Smooth. Color: RHS 143C (green group) with RHS 181A (greyed-red group). Strength: Normal.

**Bloom.**—Size: Large, average open diameter is about 10 cm. Borne: Mostly singly. (Note: the inflorescence when the shrub is growing naturally may hold between 1 and 6 blooms, and then has a rounded shape. When grown commercially for cut-flower production the stems are disbudded to ensure the blooms are grown singly.) Stems: Strength: Normal, average length is about 40 cm. Diameter: 4 mm. Form: When first open, bloom is cupped. Permanence of bloom: outer petals curl back.

**Petalage.**—Number of petals under normal conditions: 83. Color: The upper sides of the petals are mostly RHS 9C (yellow group), with the outer edge of the petal being a paler RHS 27D (orange group). The reverse sides of the petals are mostly RHS 10B (yellow group), with the outer edge being a very pale pink RHS 36B (red group). The base of the outer petals has no yellow spot, as the major yellow color of the petal reaches down to the base. Variations: None. Discoloration: The general tonality at the end of the first day is RHS 9B (yellow group), and at the end of the third day is RHS 10C (yellow group). With further aging the color then further changes to RHS 158C (yellow-white group). Fragrance: Strong. Character of fragrance: fruity with hints of honey, lilac and almond.


Plant characteristics:

**Plant form.**—Shrub, English Rose.

**Plant growth.**—Medium.

**Age to maturity.**—One year.

**Mature plant.**—Height: 75 cm. Width: 75 cm.

**Rootstock.**—Rosa ‘Inermis’ for the observed plants.


**Branching habit.**—Number: None.

**Stems.**—Mature Stem: Length: 65 cm. Diameter: 6 mm. Internode Distance: 4 cm. The above measurements are all variable, depending on growing conditions in a season. Stem Pubescence Present: No.


**Small prickles.**—Quantity: Midrib stalk: None.


**Pest resistance.**—Not tested.

**Winter hardness.**—Not tested.

**Growing conditions.**—Normal greenhouse conditions.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of rose plant of the shrub class suitable for cut flower production, substantially as herein shown and described.