

GARDENING WITH The Old Farmer's Almanac



An Old Farmer's Almanac Resource

Ornamentals

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Selections

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Society

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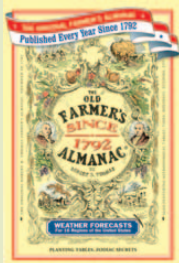
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**The Old Farmer's
Almanac**

America's oldest
continuously published
periodical

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The Old Farmer's
Almanac**

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Roses



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'Carefree Wonder', a shrub rose hardy to Zones 4 to 9.



*Loveliest of lovely things are they
On earth that soonest pass away.
The rose that lives its little hour
Is prized beyond the sculptured flower.*

—William Cullen Bryant

ROSES IN HISTORY

• Roses figured prominently in the Victorian “language of flowers.” A pure-white blossom signaled silence, and a red one spoke of love and beauty. Red and white together symbolized scandal, suffering, passion, war—or reconciliation. A yellow rose was the badge of infidelity, and a wild rose stood for simplicity. A rose without a thorn betokened a true friend. An unopened bud was a sign of innocence or indifference. A garland of roses served as a reward for virtue.

For thousands of years, the rose has been a symbol of beauty, love, and passion, and it remains so today. It is the national flower, honored by a New Year’s Day parade, and the passion of gardeners everywhere.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

• Roses are shrubs and come in a variety of forms, from miniature to climbing. There are roses for every bloom season, from spring through fall, and they offer a wide range of colors. Knowing rose classifications will help you understand their growth habit, climate preferences, and general requirements. Some classes bloom only once a year in the spring, but flowers can cover plants for more than a month. Others are remontant, meaning that they bloom several times in a season. Generally, remontant roses rebloom 50 to 60 days after the first flush of flowers.

ROSE CLASSIFICATIONS

• One way to group roses into classes is according to their date of introduction.

■ **SPECIES ROSES** are those that have been growing wild for many thousands of years. These wild roses have been adapted to modern gardens. If self-pollinated, they will come true from seed (most roses are propagated by cuttings). Adaptable to any climate, plants are either climbers or large bushy shrubs that bloom in the spring.

■ **OLD ROSES** are disease resistant and extremely hardy. These are the lush, invariably fragrant roses found in old masters’ paintings. There are hundreds of other old garden-rose varieties—including the Moss Roses, Centifolias, and long-blooming Chinas—whose hardiness varies, providing ample choices for warm and mild climates. Old roses are those introduced prior to 1867.

■ **MODERN ROSES** are those introduced in 1867 or after. Some in this group bear their flowers in clusters; most are remontant. Many modern hybrid roses are sturdy, long blooming, extremely hardy and disease resistant, and bred for color, shape, size, and fragrance.

ABOUT OLD ROSES . . .

- **China.** Remontant, colorful blooms with fruity fragrances. Mostly shrub forms, they are long lived and stand up well to heat and humidity, but are tender in cold climates.
- **Tea.** Remontant, medium to large flowers with a strong aroma reminiscent of crushed, fresh tea leaves. Mostly shrub forms with a few climbers.
- **Noisette.** Remontant, fast growing, mostly climbers, with pastel cream, pink, and yellow flowers that have a lemony perfume.
- **Bourbon.** Most are remontant, with large, richly colored flowers that are cupped and strongly scented. These hardy shrubs, originating on the Isle of Bourbon in the Indian Ocean, were the first repeat-flowering roses.
- **Old Europeans (Alba, Centifolia, Damask, Gallica, and Moss).** Spring bloomers that are cold hardy. Albas are white or blush pink; Centifolias and Mosses are pink, with numerous petals; Damasks are a richer pink; and Gallicas have more red tones and set hips quite readily. All types have strong, distinctive fragrances.

. . . AND A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT “NEW” ROSES

- **Shrub.** Including several classes, growth habits vary with these plant groups. **Hybrid Musks** date back to the early part of the last century and are prized for their rich, musky scents. They tolerate shade; pastel flowers appear in spring and fall in clusters. **Hybrid Rugosas** are planted because of their disease resistance, tolerance for cold, and hips that form in the fall. Hybridized in the late 19th century, they are remontant. **English Roses** were hybridized by David Austin, the parent selection being old shrub roses for vigor, fragrance, and double flowers, and floribundas for color, glossy foliage, and repeat blooming.
- **Hybrid Tea.** This classic rose, long used for cut flowers, has individual blooms on long stems, with flowers consisting of many petals. Highly regarded for its color, form, and repeat blooms.
- **Grandiflora and Floribunda.** Produce large flowers in clusters rather than on long stems. Otherwise, very similar to hybrid teas, but generally hardier. Floribundas offer nearly continuous bloom, have a sturdy growth habit, and are useful in mass plantings.
- **Climbers.** A mixed group of hybrid tea, floribunda, grandiflora, large-flowering, miniature, and rambler roses with long canes requiring some type of sturdy support.
- **Miniature.** Descended from *Rosa chinensis* var. *minima*, most miniatures have blooms the size of a quarter and grow to 18 inches tall, with a clear, sweet fragrance. Proportions are similar to standard-size roses. Very hardy plants, miniatures are best grown in containers.
- **Tree.** A composite of two or more rose plants produced by grafting. They range in height from 1 to 3 feet. Extra care is required for winter survival. Can be grown in containers.



A FEW FAVORITE ROSES

Choosing from all the possibilities can be a daunting task. We asked several rose experts to name their favorites and tell us why.

- **Steve Hutton of Conard-Pyle.** ‘New Dawn’. A large-flowered climbing rose. The flowers have a pearly luminescence, and change from pale pink to shimmering ivory to pearl pink. Zones 5 to 10. Hutton also named the ‘Peace’ rose as a favorite, introduced by his company in 1945.
- **Jerry Twomey, creator of five award-winning roses.** ‘Iceberg’. Floribunda. This rose, with 3-inch double flowers, is good for both cold and warm climates. Zones 4 to 9.
- **David Austin Sr., known as the father of English roses.** ‘William Shakespeare’. English rose. Each flower has 150 petals of velvety crimson that gradually turn to rich purple. And it has a strong, Old Garden Rose fragrance. Zones 5 to 9.
- **Scott Canning, former curator of the Cranford Rose Garden at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.** ‘Souvenir de la Malmaison’. Bourbon with double flowers. It’s an intensely fragrant repeat bloomer. Zones 6 to 9.
- **Brett McNish, curator of the Bruce Krasberg Rose Garden at the Chicago Botanic Garden.** ‘Therese Bugnet’. Hybrid rugosa. Its red canes add contrast to the snow in winter and the semidouble blooms have an intense damask scent. Zones 2 to 8.
- **Clair Martin, curator of the Rose Gardens at Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California.** ‘French Lace’. Floribunda. A fragrant pale peach rose, blooms continually, and is perfect for cutting or landscaping. Zones 7 to 10.
- **Shannon Sherrod, a Texas Rose Rustler.** ‘Emmie Gray’. China rose. It’s simple and not too big. This rose has a single, five-petal flower that opens pink and matures to red. Zones 7 to 10.

—Doreen G. Howard

SOME CHOICES FOR BEGINNERS

Great choices for apprehensive beginners or old hands who live in places with cold winters.

■ **SPECIES ROSES.** Species roses aren’t overbred, and their foliage and form are often desirable features. Most rugged of all are the rugosas, with their bright-pink, five-petaled blooms. Rugosas are good for hedges and wherever a barrier is needed in an exposed or difficult site. Of suckering habit (lots of new growth arises from the base each year), rugosas often naturalize into thickets on the seashore, where little else will grow. They are disease resistant, and their coarse foliage is dense. The plants are cold hardy to Zone 3 and tolerate salt spray and bitter ocean winds. Although their bloom is compressed into late June and early July, they produce a good crop of bright-red, crab-apple-size hips, which adorn the shrub well into winter.

‘Jens Munk’ blooms through more of the summer than the straight species. ‘Magnifica’ has deep-magenta flowers, and ‘Agnes’ produces fluffy yellow meringues. ‘Blanc Double de

Coubert’ hybrid rugosa puts out white powder puffs in June—wonderfully pure and sweet-smelling—effectively guarded by extremely prickly stems. Rugosas can be invasive, but there are times when only a bossy plant will do.

R. rubrifolia (also called *R. glauca*) is the soul of refinement in a species rose. Cherished for its choice reddish-purple leaves and canes that turn bright in the fall, the starry pink flowers are mere grace notes in June. It’s a classic rose for mixing into a perennial border, and makes a cloud of purple against which pink and purple flowers look spectacular. Gray foliage, such as that of ornamental sage, makes a good companion. This rose is cold hardy to Zone 4.

R. spinosissima (Zone 3) has creamy-white, fragrant blooms in early June. With fine, dense foliage that colors reliably in autumn; a hardy constitution; and bright, berrylike maroon hips, it’s good for an informal thicket, as cover for birds and wildlife.

THE BLOOMIN’ TRUTH

■ **The oldest rose planted today was in existence some 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. *R. gallica* var. *officinalis* migrated from Persia (Iran) through Turkey to France and finally into England in time to be renamed ‘Red Rose of Lancaster’, which figured prominently in the Wars of the Roses during the 15th century. It’s also known as ‘Apothecary’s Rose’, because it has been used by herbalists during the past thousand years.**

—Doreen G. Howard



—Heirloom Roses

■ **WHITE ROSES.** ‘Sea Foam’ (above) has a delightful personality. Justly famous for its heavy June bloom and broad habit, it spreads 3 to 5 feet while growing only 2½ to 3 feet tall, and blooms sporadically in summer. A second tide comes in as the days shorten, and its blossoms take on a distinct pinkness. This Zone 4 stalwart is a shrub rose good for planting on banks that need cover.

Bred for disease resistance, ‘Flower Carpet White’ (Zone 5) is



listed in catalogs as a ground-cover rose. It's showy and bushy, growing about 2 feet tall by 3 feet across. With a little bit of deadheading, it flowers all season, producing big, semidouble white blooms. This hardy rose, is nearly care-free.

■ **PINK ROSES.** 'Carefree Wonder' is a well-rounded shrub rose. It's 3 feet tall with a quiet character. This rose covers itself in clusters of double flowers, and requires only a little shaping in early spring and removal of spent blooms in summer. It is hardy to Zone 5.

'Carefree Delight', another long- and heavy-blooming pink shrub slightly harder than 'Wonder', has 1½-inch, flat, single blooms. It works well in a hedge or large shrub border.

'Carefree Beauty' (Zone 4), a long-blooming pink with a show-rose form and fragrance that is great for cutting. It combines hardiness, disease resistance, and good foliage with lovely, long-blooming flowers.

■ **RED ROSES.** 'Europeana' is a classic red floribunda performing well in varying conditions. It has dark-red blooms on a 3- to 4-foot-tall plant, and it's big enough for a specimen or focal point or for a large shrub border in a suburban setting. Hardy to Zone 5.

For a more saturated red, try 'Red Simplicity' (Zone 5). At 4 to 5 feet tall, this substantial shrub makes a good hedge and has earned its reputation for heavy flowering.

'Scarlet Meidiland' (Zone 5) has small blooms and a long season, and it's a spreader—good for informal landscaping on a steep bank or the rough edges of a garden.

'Scentimental' (Zone 5), a striking floribunda that grows 4 feet tall, has old-fashioned pinkish-red-and-white-striped flowers, good foliage, and strong form. Use it to flank a large structure, such as a toolshed, or even as a specimen in a roomy yard.

■ **YELLOW ROSES.** 'Harison's Yellow' (*below*, Zones 4 to 9), also called 'Pioneer Rose', blooms early, brightly, and sweetly and will survive Zone 4 winters.



—Kent Kruegh, woodlandrosesgardens.com

'Sun Flare' (Zone 5), a fragrant, medium-yellow floribunda noted for its disease resistance and anise-scented foliage, mixes well with 'Midas Touch' (Zone 5), a deep-yellow hybrid tea with rich green foliage.

Yellow blends may be easier to find than true yellows. 'Betty Boop' (Zone 5), a floribunda, has 4-inch semidouble flowers with pale-yellow centers and a wash of pink on the edges. Recognized for its spreading habit, continuous bloom, and large flowers, it is ideal for borders or hedges.

'Elina', a heavy-flowering hybrid tea that is hardy in the cold parts of Zone 5, has 4-inch, lemon-yellow blooms and grows about 4 feet tall. It's nice for cutting.

—Rosalie Davis

TIPS FOR NORTHERN GARDENERS

■ In Zones 2 and 3, select roses with exceptional winter hardiness and good disease resistance. Agriculture Canada has bred shrub and climber cultivars resistant to blackspot and powdery mildew that also flower freely through the summer. Most are also sweetly scented. Among those to try are:

Rugosa shrub types: 'Martin Frobisher', 'Jens Munk', 'Henry Hudson', 'David Thompson', and 'Charles Albabel'.

Climber types: 'John Cabot', 'William Baffin', 'Henry Kelsey', 'John Davis', and 'Louis Jolliet'

Shrub roses: 'Morden Blush', 'Morden Fireglow', 'Adelaide Hoodless', 'Morden Amorette', 'Morden Ruby', 'Winnipeg Parks', 'John Franklin', 'Champlain', 'Frontenac', and 'Simon Fraser'.

■ In Zones 5 and colder, before you buy a rose, first check the hardiness zone rating for that particular plant (*see the plant hardiness zone map on page 8*). Due to the variety of roses and the differences in weather conditions of each area, it may take several tries before you find a rose that will survive in your yard. Talk with a nursery worker or rosarian in your area for local recommendations on which varieties are best suited to your particular climate. (*See page 11 for overwintering guidelines.*)

TIPS FOR SOUTHERN GARDENERS

■ Aphids are common in the South, but many old roses can withstand an attack without damage. Old or antique rose varieties are more pest resistant than hybrid teas, though resistance will vary with varieties. Most plants will respond well to insecticidal soap rather than chemical pesticides, which can destroy ladybugs—a natural predator of aphids. Antique roses are also drought resistant.

■ During extended dry spells, resort to soaker hoses or drip irrigation. Sprinklers will wet the leaves, and roses will better resist disease if their leaves remain dry.

■ Pruning of old roses can be done in February in the South, and should focus primarily on thinning and removing old canes. Old roses do not require the heavier pruning of hybrid teas.

A ROSE SAMPLER



• Following is a gallery of some of the many beautiful roses that we have talked about in our publications over the years. In the caption we include the “fancy” name of the cultivar (usually a name chosen by the breeder or seller), the classification, and the hardiness zones. A special

thanks to all those nurseries who have loaned us their rose photos so that we can share their beauty with our readers. These companies, among others, also sell these plants either on-line or through their mail-order catalog. (See page 14 for a list of mail-order resources.)



'Betty Boop'. Floribunda. Zones 5 to 10
photo: www.waysidegardens.com



'Birthday Girl'. Shrub. Zones 5 to 10
photo: Heirloom Roses



'Carefree Beauty'. Shrub. Zones 4 to 10
photo: Kent Krugh, woodlandrosegardens.com



'Elina'. Hybrid tea. Zones 5 to 10
photo: Heirloom Roses



'Sally Holmes'. Shrub. Zones 5 to 10
photo: Heirloom Roses



'Midas Touch'. Hybrid tea. Zones 5 to 10
photo: www.waysidegardens.com



'Sentimental'. Floribunda. Zones 5 to 10
photo: Heirloom Roses



'Sweet Chariot'. Miniature. Zones 5 to 10
photo: Sequoia Nursery



'Ainsley Dickson'. Floribunda. Zones 5 to 10
photo: Heirloom Roses

A ROSE SAMPLER (continued)



'Daydream'. Shrub. Zones 5 to 10

photo: All-America Rose Selections

'Elle'. Hybrid tea. Zones 5 to 10

photo: All-America Rose Selections

'Europeana'. Floribunda. Zones 5 to 9

photo: www.waysidegardens.com



'Ambridge Rose'. Shrub. Zones 5 to 10

photo: www.waysidegardens.com



'Mme. Isaac Pereire'. Bourbon. Zones 5 to 10

photo: Heirloom Roses



'About Face'. Grandiflora. Zones 5 to 10

photo: All-America Rose Selections



'Maiden's Blush'. Alba. Zones 4 to 9

photo: Heirloom Roses



'Dixieland Linda'. Climbing shrub. Zones 5 to 10

photo: Heirloom Roses



'Mutabilis'. Hybrid China. Zones 7 to 10

photo: Heirloom Roses



'Lady Elsie May'. Shrub. Zones 5 to 10

photo: All-America Rose Selections



'Robusta'. Shrub. Zones 3 to 9

photo: Heirloom Roses

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A ROSE SAMPLER (continued)



'Fragrant Wave'. Floribunda. Zones 5 to 10

photo: Jackson & Perkins Co.



'Louise Clements'. Shrub. Zones 5 to 10

photo: Heirloom Roses



'Jude the Obscure'. Shrub. Zones 4 to 10

photo: Heirloom Roses



'Thérèse Bugnet'. Hybrid rugosa. Zones 2 to 8

photo: www.waysidegardens.com



'William Shakespeare'. Shrub. Zones 4 to 10

photo: Heirloom Roses



'Apart'. Rugosa. Zones 2 to 8

photo: Heirloom Roses



'Royal Amethyst'. Hybrid tea. Zones 4 to 10

photo: www.waysidegardens.com

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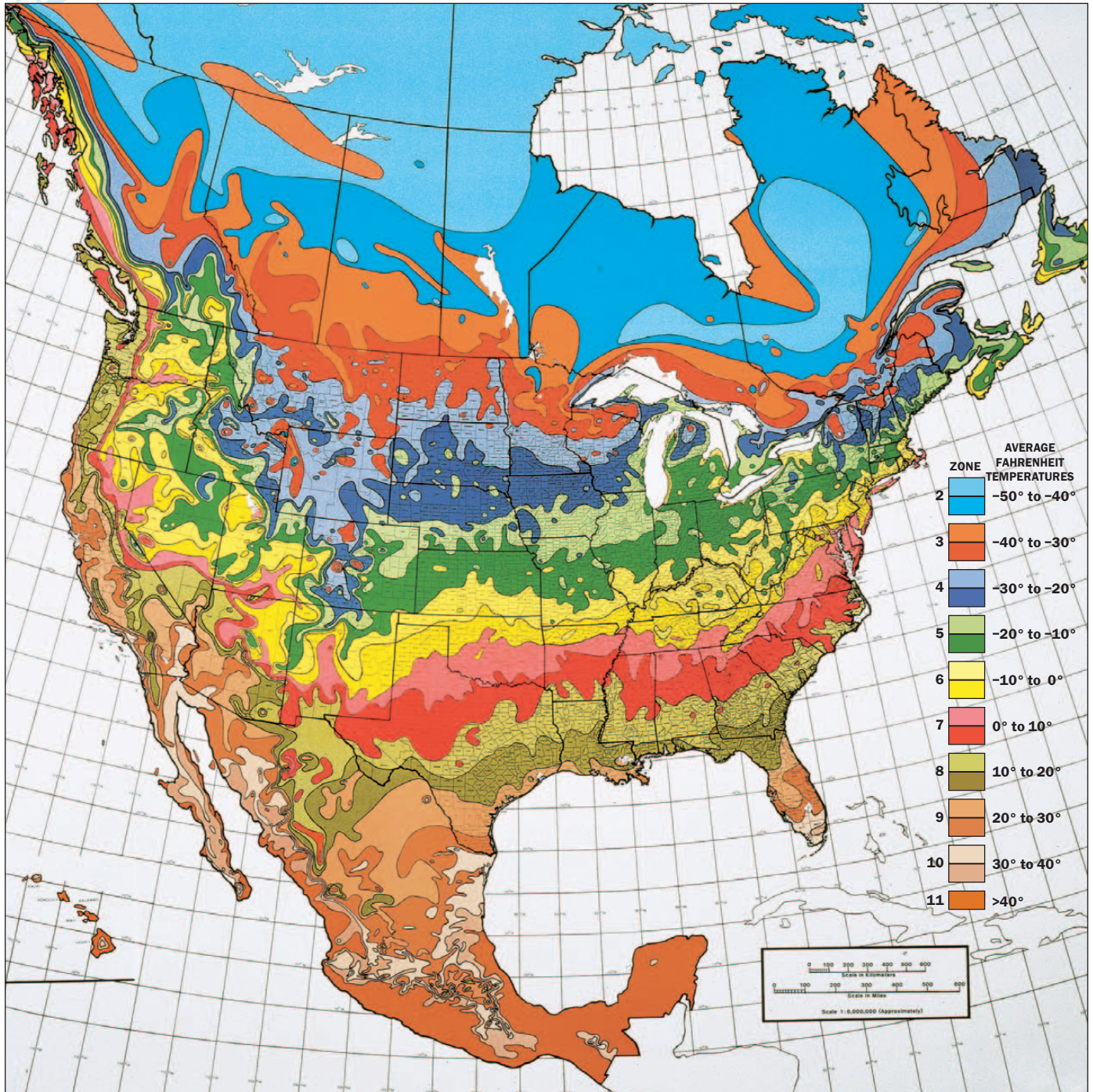


USDA PLANT HARDINESS ZONE MAP

- The plant hardiness zone map, developed by the USDA Agricultural Research Service, includes the average annual minimum temperature for each zone. You will find the zone numbers indicating the range of plant hardiness listed with the plant description in most plant catalogs. The smaller number indicates the northernmost zone in which a plant is likely to survive the winter, and

the higher number indicates the most southerly area in which it will perform consistently. Use this map to find the zone you live in and to determine if your final rose selection will survive in your backyard. And keep in mind that other factors such as wind, snow cover, altitude, amount of shade, nighttime temperatures, and rainfall will also greatly affect a plant's growth and survival.

■ To view this map online and get enlarged details for your region, visit www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html.





PREPARING THE SOIL

• **pH PREFERENCES.** Roses prefer a near-neutral pH range of 5.5–7.0. An accurate soil test will tell you where your pH currently stands and will specify the amount of lime or sulfur that is needed to bring it up or down to the appropriate level. A pH of 6.5 is just about right for most home gardens (slightly acidic to neutral). Acidic (sour) soil is counteracted by applying finely ground limestone, and alkaline (sweet) soil is treated with gypsum (calcium sulfate) or ground sulfur.

SOIL FIXES

- **For clay soil:** Add coarse sand (not beach sand) and compost.
- **For silty soil:** Add coarse sand (not beach sand) or gravel and compost, or well-rotted horse manure mixed with fresh straw.
- **For sandy soil:** Add humus or aged manure, or sawdust with some extra nitrogen. Heavy, clay-rich soil can also be added to improve the soil.

SOIL AMENDMENTS

- **Ground bark:** Made from various tree barks, will improve soil structure.
- **Compost:** Excellent conditioner.
- **Leaf mold:** Decomposed leaves will add nutrients and structure to soil.
- **Lime:** Raises the pH of acidic soil and helps loosen clay soil.
- **Manure:** Best if composted. Good conditioner.
- **Sand:** Improves drainage in clay soil.
- **Topsoil:** Usually used with another amendment. Replaces existing soil.

PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

- **Before you plant, be sure that you choose varieties proven in your climate.** When in doubt, All-America Rose Selections winners are good bets. Or check with your local nursery.
- **Plant roses where they will receive a minimum of five to six hours of full sun per day.** They would like even more. Roses grown in weak sun may not die at once, but they weaken gradually. In ten years you'll lose the plant. Give them plenty of organic matter when planting, and don't crowd them.

- **Wear sturdy gloves** to protect your hands from prickly thorns. And have a hose or bucket of water and all your planting tools nearby. Keep your bareroot rose in water until you are ready to place it in the ground (*see tips that follow for planting bareroot roses*).

And I will make thee beds of roses,

And a thousand fragrant posies.

—Christopher Marlowe



- **Roses can be cut back and moved in either spring or fall, but not in midsummer,** as they might suffer and die in the heat. Large rose canes can be cut back by as much as two thirds, and smaller ones to within 6 to 12 inches of the ground.

- **When you transplant your roses, be sure to dig a much bigger hole** than you think you need (for most types, the planting hole should be about 15 to 18 inches wide), and add plenty of organic matter such as compost or aged manure. This will feed your plant in the years ahead. Some old-timers recommend placing a 4-inch square of gypsum wallboard and a 16-penny nail in the hole to provide calcium and iron, both appreciated by roses.

- **If you order roses from a mail-order company, order early, in January or February** (March at the latest). They are usually shipped in the spring as bare roots when plants are fully dormant, well before they have leafed out. They'll look like a bundle of sticks on arrival. Note, they are not dead—simply dormant. Standard-quality stock is two-year-old, field-grown cuttings.

- **In a garden center, the grower has invested more time and materials in container-grown roses,** so they tend to be more expensive than bareroot ones. Because you are moving them from potting soil to a new medium when they are in active growth, they may be less adaptable to their new situation. Plant them by May or early June for best results.

TO PLANT A BAREROOT ROSE IN THE GROUND OR IN A CONTAINER, FOLLOW THESE BASIC STEPS:

- **As soon as your bareroot rose arrives, remove it from its packaging and soak the roots in a pail of water for a minimum of four hours before planting.**
- **Mound the soil in the center of the planting hole or large container, and place the roots over the mound as shown. Add some soil to hold the plant in place, then add water generously around the plant to firm the soil around the roots and remove air pockets.**
- **In mild-winter climates, gently fill the hole with soil so that the graft union on the rose stem (the knobby area) is even with or just above the soil surface. In cold-winter areas above Zone 6, the graft union should be about 4 inches below the surface of the soil. (If planting in containers, be sure to winter the pot in an area that will remain above freezing.*) As the soil settles around the rose, add more soil or potting mix to the proper height and water again.**
- **Use a little extra soil to form a mound around the planting to collect rainwater, guiding it toward the root system.**

—adapted from text by Doreen G. Howard

*For more information about growing roses in containers, see page 12.



—illustrated by Renée Quintal Daily

Almanac.com



WATERING

■ **Diligently water your roses.** Soak the entire root zone at least twice a week in dry summer weather. Avoid frequent shallow sprinklings, which won't reach the deeper roots and may encourage fungus. Roses do best with 90 inches of rain per year, so unless you live in a rain forest, water regularly. This will give you many more blooms than you imagined possible.

■ **Roses love water—but don't drown them.** That is, they don't like to sit in water, and they'll die if the soil is too wet in winter. The ideal soil is rich and loose with good drainage. One of the worst mistakes you can make is to not provide adequate drainage. (*To improve drainage and soil conditions, see Preparing the Soil on page 9.*)

■ **Use mulch.** To help conserve water, reduce stress, and encourage healthy growth, apply a 2- to 4-inch layer of chopped and shredded leaves, grass clippings, or shredded bark around the base of your roses. Allow about an inch of space between the mulch and the base stem of the plant.

FEEDING

■ **Feed roses on a regular basis** before and throughout the blooming cycle (avoid chemical fertilizers and pesticides if you're harvesting for the kitchen). Once a month between April and July, apply a balanced granular fertilizer (5-10-5 or 5-10-10). Allow three-quarters to one cup for each bush, and sprinkle it around the drip line, not against the stem. In May and June, scratch in an additional tablespoon of Epsom salts along with your fertilizer; the magnesium sulfate will encourage new growth from the bottom of the bush.

■ **Banana peels** are a good source of calcium, sulfur, magnesium, and phosphates—all things that roses like. There are three ways to serve them up: Lay a strip of peel at the base of each bush; bury one black, mushy banana next to each bush; or chop the peels, let them sit for two weeks in a sealed jar of water, and pour the mixture under each bush. The plus is that bananas add valuable potassium. The minus is that it will take some time before the plant benefits. Some rosarians feel that you are better off throwing them into a compost pile as part of an entire nutrient program. In addition, "a scientific handful" of phosphorus at the roots will please your plant more than a banana skin.

PRUNING

■ **Prune roses every spring**, and destroy all old or diseased plant material. Wear elbow-length gloves that are thick enough to protect your hands from thorns or a clumsy slip, but flexible enough to allow you to hold your tools. Always wear safety goggles; branches can whip back when released.

Start with pruning shears for smaller growth. Use loppers, which look like giant, long-handle shears, for growth that is more than half an inch thick. A small pruning saw is handy, as it cuts on both the push and the pull. Mark handles with bright paint so that you can easily find tools amid the mulch. And after trimming away diseased branches, clean tool blades with soap and water or a mild solution of household bleach and water.

■ **Deadhead religiously and keep beds clean.** Every leaf has a growth bud, so removing old flower blossoms encourages the plant to make more flowers instead of using the energy to make seeds. Clean away from around the base of the rosebushes any trimmed debris that can harbor disease and insects.

■ **Late in the season, stop deadheading rugosas so that hips will form on the plants;** these can be harvested and dried on screens, away from sunlight, then stored in an airtight container. Stop deadheading all your rose plants 3 to 4 weeks before the first hard frost so as not to encourage new growth at a time when new shoots may be damaged by the cold.



—Garden Works

■ **HYBRIDS AND FLORIBUNDAS.** Repeat-flowering roses generally bloom on new wood and need a good clearing out and cutting back very early in spring before they start greening up and branching. About the time forsythias bloom, take out all the dead wood, crossing canes, and spindly growth. Then shape and prune back everything else, taking into account the style of the garden and the size and nature of the variety. Cut back old wood about 30 to 40 percent before growth begins in late winter. Always cut to a live bud pointing away from the center of the shrub to encourage outward growth. Start deadheading after the first flush of flowers, and continue throughout the summer to encourage more blooms.

■ **SPECIES, OLD ROSES, AND ONCE-BLOOMING SHRUB ROSES.** Generally hardier than other roses, these more primitive types bloom first on old wood in June; rebloomers repeat on the current season's growth. Remove diseased, broken, or dead branches in early spring. After flowering, prune lightly and selectively to shape the bushes and control growth.

■ **CLIMBING AND RAMBLING ROSES.** These tend to bloom on old wood. It's fine to remove winter-killed branches or otherwise damaged wood early in the year, but defer your annual pruning until early summer, after the peak of bloom. Prune to remove undesirable canes and to shape and train growth. Side branches tend to flower more heavily than central leaders.

—Rosalie Davis



PESTS

- Healthy, vigorous plants are more likely to be able to thwart pests and diseases, and good gardening practices such as removing dead leaves and canes will also help. Remember that a disease-resistant rose does not mean disease-proof.

Stop and smell the roses, and while you're at it, check for any signs of disease or insect attack. Early detection and treatment will ensure a happy plant. Problems may vary depending on where you live and the type of rosebush you have. Find out which pests are most prevalent in your area by checking with your local nursery. Here are some of the more common problems:

- Nasty little insects called **stem borers** sometimes find their way into newly pruned rose stems. To keep the bugs from entering, seal the stem cuts with nontoxic wood glue.
- **Japanese beetles** are more attracted to very fragrant roses as opposed to those less aromatic. Control by picking them off and dropping into soapy water and use an organic spray on the plants.
- **Aphids** will cause deformed blossoms and can be controlled by using a strong stream of cold water; spray the plant with insecticidal soap every three to five days. Rinse the soap off after an hour to prevent damage to the leaves. Ladybugs can be imported to feast on aphids, but do not use insecticides, or you will harm the ladybugs.
- If you have experienced a lot of wet, humid weather, you may also encounter **black spot** or **powdery mildew** on your roses. Pinch off and destroy leaves or other infected spots, clean up debris that has fallen off the plant. Spray with a fungicide. Black spot will cause the leaves of roses to wilt, turn yellow, and fall off. One home remedy is to mix 3 tablespoons of baking soda into 1 gallon of water and spray the roses. Clean up and destroy any fallen leaves.
- Roses are a delectable tidbit to **deer**, so try planting lavender near your roses. Not only will you have the makings of a nice potpourri, but the scent of lavender will discourage browsers. You can also spread human or dog hair around the garden area.
- Insecticidal soap or a blast of water will help control **spider mites**, but be sure to spray the underside of the leaves as well as the tops. Spider mites are very tiny spiderlike creatures, and small webs may be a sign of trouble.

*You can complain because roses have thorns,
or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.*

—character in comic strip by Tom Wilson

WINTERIZING GUIDELINES: SOME DOS AND DON'TS

- Before cold weather sets in (from late October through November, depending upon where you live), give roses some special attention:

- **Do not prune roses in the fall. This will encourage new growth and make them subject to winter damage. Simply cut off any dead or diseased canes.**
- **Stop fertilizing six weeks before the first frost.**
- **Continue watering during dry autumn weather to help keep plants fortified during the dry winter.**
- **Mound, mulch, or add compost after a few frosts but before the ground freezes. Where temperatures stay below freezing during winter, enclose the plant with a sturdy mesh cylinder, filling the enclosure with compost, mulch, dry wood chips, pine needles, or chopped leaves.**
- **Don't use heavy, wet maple leaves for mulch. They hold too much water. Mulch instead with oak leaves, pine needles, compost, or straw. Piled high, these lighter mulches can also protect the canes from cold winter winds.**
- **Clean up the rose beds to prevent overwintering of diseases. One last spray for fungus with a dormant spray is a good idea.**

SOME LIKE IT HOT

Meet 'Marilyn Monroe'

- 'Marilyn Monroe' is a beautiful apricot hybrid tea, which was named in honor of the screen legend. This magnificent rose was hybridized by Tom Carruth of Weeks Roses, a longtime admirer of Ms. Monroe, who bred it specifically to honor the world's most famous blonde.



—John Mattia

'Marilyn Monroe' presents large, classically formed blooms on long stems that are perfect for cutting. The outer petals are washed with palest lime green, which is actually a hint of chlorophyll, and which belie the parentage of St. Patrick. The blooms unfurl slowly, from bud to voluptuous open bloom, with the added bonus of having a particularly long vase life.

This rose is the best apricot rose on the market for hot weather. It thrives in full sun, although it also does well with less. The plant is of medium height and is clothed in dark green foliage. Its strong, upright canes also present the most formidable battery of thorns I've ever seen, so be sure to wear protective gear when cutting or pruning. Blooms have a petal count of 30 to 35 and offer a mild citrus fragrance. As an extra bonus, this rose has excellent disease resistance.

—Suzanne Horn, consulting rosarian for the American Rose Society



GROWING ROSES IN CONTAINERS

by Doreen G. Howard

- Container gardening is a way to instantly introduce color, fragrance, and the beauty of roses to a deck, patio, porch, or balcony. And, for gardeners who are getting to know certain roses, growing them in containers makes it possible to try them out in different locations, to find the best site in the landscape before investing money in a rose bed.

THE RIGHT CONTAINER

- Be sure that any container you use has drainage holes. Without them, roots rot and the rose will die. For large roses, select containers that hold about five gallons of soil. Large pots insulate roots from temperature extremes, help retain moisture and nutrients, and can hold a rose two years or more, before repotting is necessary. Small roses will thrive in one-gallon pots. **Tip for Southern gardeners: Concrete and clay pots are durable but hard to move, so reserve them for permanent plantings in temperate climates. Such containers need frequent watering—as often as twice a day during the heat of summer.**

PLANTING TIPS

- Place the empty container where you want your rose to grow—and then fill with soil and plant the rose. Be sure that it is in an area that receives at least six hours of direct sunlight daily. **Tip for Southern gardeners: Morning sun is best in hot climates where the afternoon sun can scorch plants.**

Add a one-inch layer of fine gravel, horticultural charcoal, or clay pot shards to the bottom of the container so that water doesn't collect and potting mix doesn't compact. Use soil-free potting mix; not only is it light, but the fluffy blend provides roots with more oxygen and nutrients. Fill the container two-thirds full.

- **Make Your Own Mix.** This makes enough mix to fill four large (18-inch-diameter) containers. Store leftovers in a sealed container such as a plastic trash can.

1 bale (3.2 cubic feet) peat moss
1 bag (2 cubic feet) vermiculite
1 bag (40 pounds) composted cow manure
2 cups horticultural lime

- **To plant a potted rose:** **A** With your hands, make a hole in the potting mix about the diameter of the rose pot. **B** Knock the rose out of its pot, spread its roots slightly, and place it in the hole. Add more potting mix to bring the level up to 2 inches below the container top. **C** Water gently, press the mix to reduce air pockets, add more mix if necessary, and water again.



—illustrated by Renée Quintal Daily

ONGOING CARE

- **Keep the planting medium evenly moist. If it's dry, water thoroughly until it flows freely out of the container bottom.**
- **Use a liquid fertilizer once a week when you water. In early spring, add a tablespoon of Epsom salts to**

each container rose; sprinkle the salts around the rose base and water. This quick dose of magnesium promotes the formation of lush, deep-green foliage.

- **Remove any yellowed or diseased leaves. Snip off all faded blossoms to encourage continued blooming.**

OVERWINTERING

- **Northern gardens:** Prepare rose containers for storage in a cool area where temperatures remain above freezing. An unheated garage or a dark basement is ideal. Before storing, let the roses experience several heavy frosts so that they go dormant. Prune canes lightly if necessary for storage, but leave the main pruning for spring. Be sure to water roses every two or three weeks while they are in storage, to keep the roots from completely drying out. Bring containers outside in the spring when temperatures consistently stay above 25°F at night.

- **Southern gardens:** If your climate is tropical or never goes below 20°F, you can leave container roses outdoors for the winter. Water regularly to keep roots alive.

BEST CHOICES FOR CONTAINERS

- **'Sweet Chariot'; 'Alfie'; 'Sun Sprinkles'; 'Baby Paradise'; 'Mandarin Sunblaze Meidarin'; 'Flower Carpet' series pink, red, white, 'Apple Blossom', coral; 'Panda'; 'White Drift'; 'Knock Out'; 'Carefree Wonder'; 'Bonica'; 'Flower Girl'; 'Carefree Delight Meipotal'; 'Mix 'n' Match'; 'Starry Night'; 'The Fairy Gerald Carney'; 'Angel Face'; 'Betty Boop'; 'Marmalade Skies'; 'Passionate Kisses'**

- **The minis.** Most miniature roses produce blooms the size of a quarter and grow to about 18 inches tall, with proportions similar to standard-size roses. Miniatures are great for containers but also perform well outdoors, needing only a mound of leaves over the crown for winter protection. There are also miniclippers: 'Rainbow's End Yellow' and 'Jeanne LaJoie' are both good choices.



MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY FACE

COOKING WITH ROSES

The tart, reddish-orange hips of rugosa roses are loaded with vitamins and used for jams, jellies, syrups, pies, teas, and wine. The hips can also be dried and ground into powder, then added to recipes for a hint of tartness. The petals can be tossed into salads for color, candied to decorate cakes, or distilled to make rose water for use in some ethnic cuisines.

ROSE HIP JAM

water (1 cup per 1 pound of rose hips)
rose hips, with black ends removed
sugar per directions below

In a heavy, stainless-steel saucepan, add water and rose hips, and simmer until the fruit is tender. Drain and rub rose hips through a fine sieve, then measure pulp and return it to the saucepan with an equal amount of sugar. Simmer until thick. Pour into hot, sterilized, half-pint jars and seal. Store in a cool cupboard, and use within six months; refrigerate after opening. —Kathleen Halloran

ROSES AROUND THE HOME

Rose hips are mildly laxative and diuretic. Rose petals are brewed for tea blends and sometimes used in gargles and tonics to treat congestion, sore throats, and stomach disorders. Rose water is a refreshing skin splash. Roses and rose oil are useful in all fragrance crafts.

ROSE POTPOURRI

3 cups mixed rose petals
(pink, yellow, rose, lavender, red)
1 cup small rose blossoms
1 cup small rose leaves
1/2 cup statice blossoms (white)
1/2 cup globe amaranth blossoms
(white or pale pink)
1/4 cup cut orris root
10 drops rose oil



In a large nonmetallic bowl (or paper bag), measure out and gently mix all the dry ingredients. Scatter drops of rose oil over the mixture, stirring (or shaking) gently until thoroughly blended. Fill widemouthed glass or ceramic jars 3/4 full, cover tightly, and store in a cool, dark place. Gently shake the jar every day to distribute the fragrance throughout the mixture. Check the fragrance after several days and add more oil, if desired. Let your nose be your guide. Cure for two to six weeks. Place in glass bowls or candy dishes.

After about three months, the scent of the potpourri will start to diminish. Revive it by adding small amounts of rose oil; however, dry potpourri rarely keeps its true scent for longer than two years. —Betty Earl

TWO FLOWER FACIALS

Gentle, aromatic steam cleanses your pores. For oily skin, add a few rose petals to boiling water in a heatproof bowl. Make a bath towel tent and lean your face about 10 inches above the

water. It should feel warm, not hot. After 10 minutes, rinse your face with cool water, then blot dry.

Heat two cups of cream in a double boiler. Once it's hot, turn off the heat and add a cup of fresh rose petals and an eighth-cup of vegetable glycerin. Cool and mix in a blender, heat until warm, and then apply to the face. Rinse with cool water after 10 minutes.

—Martha White

CUT FLOWER CARE

Cut garden flowers in the morning or early evening, when the stalks are filled with water. Always use a sharp knife. Avoid scissors, which can pinch the water channels of the stalks. Place in a bucket with water and leave the flowers in a cool, dark spot for a few hours to let them stabilize before arranging.

If you want to shorten the stems on cut flowers before arranging them, cut their stems under water; otherwise, the stem can take in too much air, causing a blockage that keeps water from the flower. (This is especially true for roses.)

Don't worry about cutting flower stems at an angle if you're simply arranging them in a vase. It doesn't make much difference to the flower.

Remove all the leaves that will be under water in your vase, and remove any leaves above water that you don't really need. Foliage that sits in water will rot quickly.

Add a preservative to the vase water. Get one from your local florist. Or use a simple home remedy—any nondiet carbonated drink that contains lemon and sugar, the same ingredients as in a floral preservative.

Don't put flowers into cold water. They prefer water that is 80° to 110°F.

Use a vase that's large enough to provide plenty of room for all the stems, with a mouth that's wide enough to allow for good air circulation.

Display the bouquet away from full sun and hot and cold drafts.

Remove old blossoms and yellow leaves from aging bouquets. Change the water and preservative often—ideally every other day.



RESOURCES



Antique Rose Emporium
9300 Lueckemeyer Rd.
Brenham, TX 77833
800-441-0002
www.antiqueroseemporium.com
Catalog free.

Carroll Gardens
444 East Main St.
Westminster, MD 21157
800-638-6334
www.carrollgardens.com
Catalog \$3.

Dutch Gardens
144 Intervale Rd.
Burlington, VT 05401
888-821-0448
www.dutchgardens.com
Catalog free.

Garden Valley Ranch Nursery
498 Pepper Rd.
Petaluma, CA 94952
707-795-0919
www.gardenvalley.com
Catalog free.

Heirloom Roses
24062 Northeast Riverside Dr.
St. Paul, OR 97137
503-538-1576
www.heirloomroses.com
Catalog \$5.

Hortico
723 Robson Rd., RR#1
Waterdown, ON L0R 2H1
905-689-6984
www.hortico.com
Catalog online.

Jackson & Perkins Co.
1 Rose Ln.
Medford, OR 97501
877-322-2300
www.jacksonandperkins.com
Catalog free.

Justice Miniature Roses
5947 Southwest Kahle Rd.
Wilsonville, OR 97070;
503-682-2370
www.nurseryguide.com/members/11309
Catalog free.

Lowe's Roses
6 Sheffield Rd.
Nashua, NH 03062
603-888-2214
www.lowesroses.com
Catalog online.

Miniature Plant Kingdom
4125 Harrison Grade Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472;
707-874-2233
www.miniplantkingdom.com
Catalog online.

Nor'East Miniature Roses
P.O. Box 440
Arroyo Grande, CA 93421
800-426-6485
www.noreast-miniroses.com
Catalog free.

Pickering Nurseries, Inc.
3043 County Rd. #2, RR#1
Port Hope, ON L1A 3V5
866-269-9282
www.pickeringnurseries.com
Catalog \$4.

Regan Nursery
4268 Decoto Rd.
Fremont, CA 94555
800-249-4680
www.regannursery.com
Catalog online.

Sequoia Nursery
Moore Miniature Roses
2519 E. Noble
Visalia, CA 93292
559-732-0309
www.sequoianursery.biz
Catalog free.

Spring Valley Roses
P.O. Box 7
Spring Valley, WI 54767
715-778-4481
www.springvalleyroses.com
Catalog online.

Wayside Gardens
1 Garden Ln.
Hodges, SC 29695
800-213-0379
www.waysidegardens.com
Catalog free.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

American Rose Society

www.ars.org

Members encompass all levels of experience. To join, visit their Web site or contact them at 8877 Jefferson Paige Rd., Shreveport, LA 71119; 318-938-5402. Share information with rose lovers nationwide. Regional societies given; site also displays rose of the month with photos.

All-America Rose Selections

www.rose.org

An association of growers dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. Since 1938, the AARS seal of approval has graced outstanding new rose varieties that have withstood the test of time. This Web site also has a directory of public gardens to visit. Lists rose winners with photos and where to buy them, plus tips on designing with roses.

International Rose Directory

www.combinedroselist.com

The combined rose list is a 260-page softcover book that contains information on more than 14,000 roses and over 300 mail-order nurseries. *Combined Rose List 2005* will be available for shipment in March (2005) for \$20 postpaid in the USA.

THE BLOOMIN' TRUTH

Approximately 60 million rosebushes are sold in the United States every year. Top rose-producing states are California, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Colorado, and New York. Roses are grown in every state.