



Ahh – To Grow A Rose – Tree That Is , So Get Up and Get Growing –Taylorsville City - Tree Of The Month Article – June 2008

Roses are our national floral emblem and the most readily recognized, widely grown, and deeply loved of all flowers. For over 2,000 years, roses have been grown and loved for their special beauty and fragrance. And what flower is more symbolic of romance than roses? The popularity of the rose is also attested to by the many songs that have been written extolling it. Poets as well as lovers since civilization began have made it their favorite subject. As early as 600 B.C., the Greek poetess Sappho named the rose the "Queen of Flowers," a title it still bears. It has had an important part in human culture all down through the ages, playing a role in religion, art, literature, and heraldry.

The history of the rose in America actually began, as far as we know, 40 million years ago. It was then that a rose left its imprint on a slate deposit at Florissant, Colorado. Fossilized remains from 35 million years ago have also been found in Montana and Oregon. This makes the rose as native to America as our bald eagle. And speaking of native, there are 35 rose species indigenous to the United States. No other shrub or flower will produce the quantity or quality of blooms all summer long like roses either - even the first year they're planted. In fact, you'll get fresh-cut roses worth many times the purchase price from each bush every year. All this makes roses one of the best gardening buys around. In talking about roses you'll hear terms like hybrid tea, floribunda, or grandiflora. These refer to the growth and bloom habit of different types, or classifications, of roses. Learning about the various rose classifications will help in choosing the best roses for different uses in landscaping your yard.

One point to remember is that as hybridizers explore the possibilities of new roses, the lines between the various classifications become less and less distinct. Still, it is helpful to both gardeners and scientists to group roses by growth habit and flowering characteristics. The thousands of rose varieties we have today were developed, either in nature or by man, from the 150 to 200 rose species (those found growing in the wild). After the species, these varieties can be divided into four major classifications: bush, climbing, shrub and ground cover, and tree roses. A tree rose is any one that has been bud-grafted on a straight, sturdy trunk. These trunks may be 1 to 2 feet tall for types like miniatures and floribundas or 3 to 4 feet tall for hybrid teas. Climbers budded on 6-foot trunks create a weeping effect. Any of these require careful pruning and special winter protection in all but the mildest areas.

Roses are among the most widely adaptable and resilient of plants, yet to do their best a well-chosen site will make a great deal of difference. Carefully selecting, buying, choosing a site, and planting will go far in ensuring continued pleasure. **Light** - Roses need 8 or 10 hours of direct sun each day. Morning sun is essential, but light afternoon shade is tolerated and even beneficial in hot climates. **Air** - Good air movement helps the dew and rain to dry quickly, thus discouraging disease. Too much wind, however, can damage foliage in the summer and canes in the winter. **Drainage** - Wet feet, especially in the winter, will be the death of roses. **Soil** - Luckily, roses are tolerant, and all soil types can be readily improved with organic matter. **Competition and hazards** - Don't plant roses too near large trees or shrubs that will compete for light, water, and nutrients. **Access** - Grow roses where you will see them every day. Successfully grown rose bushes will reward you year after year with their beautiful flowers.

