



Ahh – To Grow A Garden – So Get Up and Get Growing –Taylorsville City - Tree Of The Month Article – February 2011 - Growing Roses In Your Garden - For reference Taylorsville City is USDA Hardiness zone 7A.

Plants in the Rosa genus come from the Rosecea family, which has over 20,000 cultivars and are commonly known as roses. These beautiful flowers originated more than 4,000 years ago being cultivated in the fertile land between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers in the Middle East. However, wild roses have been growing in the wild for millions of years, forty million to be exact. The term rose bushes refers generally to all roses, regardless of form, which can range from miniature, shrubs to sprawling climbers. Use the following formula for growing rose bushes, for maximum success. A good source of information on roses can be found at the rose file www.rosefile.com and for the care and meaning of roses as gifts see www.rose-gardening-made-easy.com/gardening-caring-for-roses.

First select a suitable site. Roses need six hours of sun per day, it does matter what part of the day those six hours come from. Six hours of morning sun however, is preferable to six hours of afternoon sun, for two reasons. First, rose bush foliage prefers to be dry. The quicker the dampness from the night is burned off the foliage, the less likely disease is to become a factor. Second, the afternoon sun is often excessively hot. Roses profit from some afternoon shade. If a rose variety is said to be shade tolerant, it means that it needs from four to six hours of direct unfiltered sunlight daily. Some roses will survive on less, but few will thrive and bloom well.

The Second rule is to keep insect pests off your rose bushes, try companion planting with garlic. And once per month, while watering your rose bushes, apply a mixture of some dishwashing soap into a hose sprayer to wash your rose bushes. Of course true insecticidal soaps exist that you can buy.

The Third rule roses thrive on neutral or slightly acid soil with a PH ranging from 6.5 to 6.8.

The Forth rule is to fertilize roses monthly with rose food.

The Fifth rule is roses need a lot of water. How much will depend on many factors. On the average it is best to water rose bushes twice a week, and to water them thoroughly. It is better to water twice per week deeply than shallower more frequent watering. An inch of water per week is considered the minimal amount for plant maintenance. In hot weather and growth periods a rose can benefit from twice the amount of water, or two inches of water per week. But, roses do not like wet feet.

The Sixth rule is to select a suitable rose for your needs.

There are three main varieties of roses. First are wild roses, which are the parents of old garden and modern roses. Some of the types of wild roses include New England Wild Roses and Desert Wild Roses. In fact wild roses grow over the entire United States and the world. Roses have been growing for millions of years in the wild. The second type of roses is the old garden roses, those cultivated before 1867, which was the year the first hybrid tea was introduced. The third type of roses is the modern garden roses, those cultivated after 1967. Roses after the first three categories are divided by their growth habit.

Old Garden Roses, heritage roses, antique, or old world roses, are roses from the past, cultivated and made popular in England and France in the 1600 to the 1800, and include the following rose types:

Alba: Mostly white flowered, or pale pink roses that only bloom once. The foliage is the color of sage green or grayish green.





Bourbon: The very first roses that repeat blooms. They were introduced on the Isle of Bourbon in the Indian Ocean. That's where these roses got their name. Bourbon roses are very fragrant.

Centifolia: Are known as the Cabbage Roses. The flowers look like cabbages, and usually have over 100 petals. These roses only bloom once a season.

Damask: The flowers are intensely fragrant and come in white, pink, or red colors. Some varieties are repeat flowering.

Hybrid China: These roses are tender and not for cold climates north of zone 7. Most are repeat flowering.

Hybrid Gallica: These roses are almost always thornless roses. These once-flowering blooms are usually pink, red, or purple and have a strong rose fragrance

Hybrid Perpetual: These are very fragrant pink or red roses that are repeat bloomers.

Moss: Mostly once-blooming fragrant roses that produce a sort of sticky moss-like growth on their flower stems and buds.

Noisette: Large, sort of sprawling rose plants that are best used as climbers. They have small clusters of fragrant flowers. These roses are cold-tender and best suited for warmer climates.

Portland: Roses that are very fragrant, usually pink blooms that are repeat flowering.

Tea: These roses have canes with few thorns. The flowers come in light yellow, pink, or white and are repeat bloomers. They do best in UDSA hardiness zones 7 and south.

Modern Garden Roses are also divided into subdivisions. These are the main type roses used for landscaping and home gardens. Most of them are repeat flowering.

Hybrid Tea: Is the most popular type of the roses, and most varieties reveal a beautiful rose fragrance. They have long-stemmed flowers that are high-centered with usually one flower per stem. They bloom on upright, rather narrow plants and flower in flushes every six weeks. This is the classic rose for cut flowers.

Floribunda: Is a shrub rose with clusters of flowers with continuous blooms. The growth habit is bushy and full. Floribunda roses are usually hardier than hybrid teas.

Grandiflora: Is a cross between the floribunda and the hybrid tea. These are tall and vigorous plants that grow up to six feet high and can produce flowers singly or in clusters. They are very similar to hybrid teas, except for their size.

Polyantha: Are small flowered roses in large clusters on small compact free-flowering rose bushes.





Shrubs: This is a large group of various roses that vary widely in height and habit. This group includes the old English Roses and are generally more disease resistant than other roses.

Landscape Roses: grow close to the ground like ground cover and have a spreading habit.

Miniatures and Mini-Roses: These are scaled down versions of the larger modern garden roses. They are the smallest of the rose family and range in height from 6-inches to 2-feet tall. Their flowers and leaves are proportionally small. These roses are hardy and generally flower continuously and are perfect for container rose gardening.

Climbers: Are a mixed group of roses with long arching canes that can be trained on a support such as arbors, trellises, fences. These roses are also hardy and generally flower continuously.

Tree Roses: Are made up of hardy root stock grafted to a rose bush at the top of the stem. The tree rose is a lovely addition to the garden, but extra care is needed to insure it's survival over the winter months. **See my article on Tree Roses written in June of 2008.**

Considerations When Giving Roses As Gifts: When giving cut roses as gifts, a time-honored formula takes into account the rose color. The formula matches a rose's color to its intended meaning as a gift. Avoid giving roses of the wrong color to friends on Valentine's Day, which would simply convey the wrong meaning. The following are the meanings traditionally attached to the most popular rose colors; so use this list as a guide when giving roses as gifts.

Red roses mean romantic love; they're the "Valentine roses," *par excellence*, and are used to convey deep emotions. A **deep red** rose can be used to convey heartfelt regret and sorrow. **Lavender roses** signify that the giver has fallen in love with the recipient at first sight. **Purple roses** are used as expression of fascination and adoration. **Blue roses** embody the desire for the unattainable and say "I can't have you but I can't stop thinking about you." **Green roses** are the color of peace and tranquility and usually symbolize best wishes for a prosperous new life and wishes for recovery of good health. Meanwhile **coral roses** signals desire and passion. And **orange roses**, along with **apricot roses**, are used to connote enthusiasm. The meaning of **yellow roses** is used to convey joy, friendship, and caring. We express our gratitude and appreciation with **pink roses**. **Light pink roses** are used to convey the feelings of admiration and sympathy. While **Peach roses** have a more ambiguous meaning and can signify either sympathy or gratitude. **White roses** convey the meaning of reverence and humility, new beginnings, true love, or just sympathy. **Mixed roses** infer, "I don't know what my feelings are for you, but I sure do like you."

What about **black roses**? Do they exist and, if so, what is the meaning? While no jet-black rose exists, there are some such as the deep red as to suggest black, such as Rosa 'Black Magic.' Alternatively, some florists dry fresh roses and dye them black. And what is the meaning? There is some disagreement on this point. Many say **black roses** represents death and can thus be used as a symbol to express vengeance towards a foe. But others interpret the meaning more liberally, suggesting the meaning for **black roses** as the death of old habits, thus signaling rebirth. And what does the French saying of, "**One must wake up and smell the roses,**" really mean. "It means to get serious or real about a problem." And what does the English saying, "**As lovely as a rose,**" really mean. It means that the beholder sees someone is very beautiful.

You and your garden are growing together. When the outside world seems like a crazy, baffling place, your garden says I'm growing and glowing with life and beauty. Nurture me, cherish me. Let us grow together with sights, sounds, tastes, and aromas that will both simulate and nurture your soul.

