

ROSES ARTICLE: CULTURE AT A GLANCE{PRIVATE }

By John Mason

Principal, Australian Correspondence School

A beautiful bed of roses can be a gardener's pride and joy. Roses are generally very healthy plants and they live a long time if their health is maintained. Always buy healthy plants and choose a sunny well drained position to plant them in. As they have a shallow fibrous root system, avoid planting near large trees which have shallow spreading roots.

Providing good soil conditions will help ensure your roses stay healthy. Most roses will tolerate a wide variety of soil types, but prefer reasonable drainage. Adding gypsum to clay soils will help improve soil structure. Adding well rotted organic matter to the soil will help retain moisture, improve soil structure and nutrition, and help maintain soil temperatures at suitable levels for growth. If your soil has an acid pH adding lime will generally prove beneficial. The lime can be added to the soil prior to planting, or sprinkled onto the soil surface for establishing roses.

Roses respond well to feeding. A slow release fertilizer or well rotted manure is best. Roots can be burnt if they come in contact with strong fertilisers. Be careful to keep rotting material away from the base of the rose.

Watering is essential if a rose is to flower well. Avoid watering the foliage - it's better to make a dish in the soil at the base of a plant and fill it with water to allow slow penetration. Don't let plants dry out.

Annual winter pruning is essential to rejuvenate the plant and encourage growth of young wood (flowers form on these young shoots... the more young shoots, the more flowers). In temperate climates at least half of the top growth is removed each winter. In snow areas cut plants back very hard (ie 95% and cover with straw over winter. Roses are usually budded. When you prune them do not cut below the bud. Plants pruned regularly can last more than 100 years.

Roses are largely sold bare rooted in winter. You will buy the best selection of plants early winter when they are first released onto the market.

Aphis and caterpillars are major problems. They can be controlled with pyrethrum, malathion or rogor sprays. Black spot, mildew and rust are common fungal problems (use Benlate to control these -be careful not to get Benlate on your skin!) To minimise pest and disease problems always remove and burn fallen leaves, prunings and mildew infected shoot tips. Ensure that plants won't be overcrowded. Good ventilation around your roses help prevent fungal infections occurring.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT ROSE

Deciding which roses to grow can be quite a task. There is an abundance of varieties to choose from with different styles, colours and growth habits. Start by looking at the style of rose that would best suit your garden. Different styles of roses include bush roses, climbers, ramblers, miniatures, standards and weeping roses.

BUSH ROSES

Hybrid Tea roses are the most popular group of roses. The flower stems are long and the blooms are usually on single stems or with several side buds. The flowers are very shapely, of medium sized or large with many petals forming a central cone. They flower from late spring to autumn and make excellent cut flowers.

Floribunda roses are often said to be more colourful than the hybrid tea rose as their flowering is more profuse. They stand up to wet weather better, and are unrivalled for providing a colourful bedding display. The floribunda bears its flowers in clusters or trusses and several blooms open at one time in each cluster. It can be grown as a bush or as a standard rose and flower continuously from late spring to late autumn.

STANDARD ROSES

Standard roses are either hybrid tea or floribunda roses grafted on to a tall root stock to give the appearance of a long stem with an abundance of carefully pruned branches. It is a miniature stylised tree with bright blooms. The standard rose is excellent for formal gardens due to its elegant formal appearance.

MINIATURE ROSES

Miniature roses have increased in popularity in recent times. They can be used as a border plant for such things as a rose garden containing larger roses e.g. bush or standard types, or for a perennial bed. They are great tub plants and can be taken inside while in flower. The miniatures have small leaves and a profusion of small bright flowers. Their full flush of flowers is during summer and autumn but they will flower all through the year in warmer districts. Pruning should be kept to a minimum, only shaping if required.

Miniatures can also be grafted on to a long stem to produce a standard with a rounded top.

CLIMBERS & RAMBLERS

Climber and rambler are a group of roses that require support and training.

Rambler have long pliable stems that bear large clusters of small flowers. Their growth is often very vigorous but they provide a mass of colour in summer. Miniature climbers are also available. These will climb to a height of 1- 1.5 metres when trained on a trellis or they can be used as ground covers. They are also useful as hanging basket plants.

PATIO ROSES

This is a new group of roses that can be used in cottage gardens as potted plants or as a rose garden edge. They are compact and grow to a height of no more than about 50cm. They differ from miniatures, as the foliage and flowers are larger. Some patio roses that suit cottage garden are 'Cosette', 'Poker Chip', 'Frilly Dilly', 'Marlene', and 'Pinkie'.

GROUND COVER ROSES

A popular new group of roses, Ground Cover roses are mostly miniature climbing roses that are vigorous and will trail. They are low growing and will spread to approximately 2-3 metres in width. Flowers are small but prolific and produce a very showy display when grown in rockeries, over banks, or at the base of shrub roses. These roses also make very good hanging basket or tub plants.

SHRUB ROSES

This group of roses are neither hybrid tea or floribunda but are old fashion or species roses. They are commonly misunderstood roses and are often accused of only flowering once or of being very large growers. This is not always the case as many have repeated flowering and most grow to the same height as floribundas. Many of these shrub roses will thrive in conditions that are unsuitable to hybrid teas or floribundas. The shrub roses are the ideal cottage garden type, typically with pink shades, overblown and full of fragrance.

ROSES OF OLD FOR TODAY

The old time rose greats still readily find a place in today's cottage garden. One of the most popular is the yellow banksia rose. It is a rose that can ramble over a trellis or an unsightly object, and you can be assured that it will flower profusely. For the white garden enthusiast a white form of this rose is available. Other popular old roses are 'Felicite et Perpetue', 'Fortunes Yellow', 'Devoniensis', 'Gloire de Dijon' and the moss, cabbage and China roses.

The Cabbage roses were developed in the 16th century and the beauty of this type of rose was often captured by artists. The cabbage rose has open growth with large and small thorns, the leaves are large and rounded, the flowers are as the name suggests globular or cabbage like in a range of pinks and whites. Examples are *Rosa bullata*, *Rosa centifolia* and *La Noblesse*.

The Moss roses are offspring of *Rosa centifolia* and have moss like sticky hairs over the buds and stems. Examples of moss roses are 'Henri Martin' and 'Chapeau de Napoleon'.

China roses were the start of the development of modern day roses, as these roses were perpetual flowering and were bright and showy. Through breeding with the old roses the Bourbons rose and hybrid

RESTORING OLD ROSES

When you first move into a home that was advertised as a renovator's delight, not only does the home confront you but so does the garden. Often there is an old rose bush or bushes that are over grown and are in need of attention. The first thought is normally to pull them out, but you could be losing a potentially beautiful old rose.

Begin to restore your old roses by removing the old dead wood and the crossing branches. Feed the roses with a complete fertilizer and ensure that each rose has adequate air movement around it. Wait a season to see whether the rose is showing signs of improvement and if the blooms are worthwhile. Once the initial steps have been taken then a normal maintenance program for your roses can be commenced including winter pruning, mulching, regular watering, and pest and disease control.

ROSES FOR THAT SPECIAL OCCASION

The rose has always been a symbol of affection. We often give rose blooms to loved ones for birthdays, Valentine's Day or just to say I LOVE YOU. The humble rose can also mean much more. Many roses have been developed to commemorate an occasion, such as the rose named 'Wedding Day'. We can use the names of roses or the year in which they were released to commemorate our own special occasions. If you had been invited to a 40th birthday in 1992 a rose that would have been suitable is the 1952 Scarlet Fire, or a rose named with the birthday person's name such as 'Felicia', 'Penelope', 'Sonia', or 'Julia' Rose'.

Consider the following suggestions:

The birth of a baby - try 'Great News'.

To ask for forgiveness give a gift of the 'Peace' rose.

Try a rose with long stems and rich coral orange flower such as 'Romantica' as a romantic gift.

For a welcome to a new home 'Sweet Home'.

As a congratulation for obtaining a new position how about 'Madam President'.

To a dear friend or loved one 'Dearest' says it all.

To that special person in your life 'First Love'.

For a win in a sport 'Gold Medal' is a great way to celebrate.

If it is the year that is important ask your nurseryman which rose was released in that year.

Some examples are; 1937 'Nancy Hayward'

1942 'Spring Gold'

1957 'Gay Vista'

1950 'Doreen'

1968 'Iceberg Climbing'

1971 'Devotion'

1987 'Lovely Lady'

1986 'Elina'

1990 'Old Fragrance'

ROSES BY COLOUR

RED ROSES

Black Beauty	Hybrid tea	bush or standard rose	fragrant velvet red flower
Mr Lincoln	Hybrid tea	bush sometimes standard	deep red double cut flower rose
Mme G Deibard	Hybrid tea	bush or standard rose	bright deep red weather resistant
Europeana	Floribunda	bush or standard	deep crimson open rosette flowers, fragrant
Fiona	Shrub rose	ground cover slightly fragrant	double blood red
Grande Duchesse	Shrub rose	shrub	tomato red flower
Charlotte	Old fashion		slightly fragrant
William Lobb	Species rose	moss rose	semi-double purple magenta, fragrant
Altissimo		climber	single blood red slightly fragrant
Crimson Glory	Hybrid tea	climber	double deep crimson very fragrant

Little Flirt		miniature	red-orange reverse yellow small flowers
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Scarlet Gem		miniature	bright red, popular pot plant
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WHITE\ CREAM ROSES

John F Kennedy	Hybrid tea	bush or standard	white large double, blooms fragrant
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Pascali	Hybrid tea	bush or standard	white with cream centre resistant to black spot and mildew
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Virgo	Hybrid tea	bush or standard	pure white semi- double, fragrant
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Champagne	Floribunda	bush or standard	lovely cream tones, with reflexed petals
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Iceberg	Floribunda	bush or climber	pure white double, very fragrant
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Sea form	Shrub rose	ground cover	small white star weeping standard	blooms
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Pour Toi		miniature	white with creamy yellow tinge at the base
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Madame Alfred Carriere	Old fashion	climber	double white flushed pink, very fragrant
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Boule de Neige	Old fashion	shrub rose	ivory white double very fragrant
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YELLOW ROSES

Diamond Jubilee	Hybrid tea	bush or standard	deep buff yellow very fragrant
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Helmut Schmidt	Hybrid tea	bush or standard	pure clear yellow free flowering
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Northern Lights	Hybrid tea	bush or standard	primrose yellow sometimes flushed pink, very fragrant
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Friesia	Floribunda	bush	bright deep yellow very fragrant
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Gold Bunny	Floribunda	bush	soft gold blooms
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Canary Bird	Old fashion species rose bush		single canary yellow fragrant
Mermaid	Old fashion	climber	single primrose yellow, fragrant
Royal Gold		climber	double deep yellow slightly fragrant
Rise 'N'Shine		miniature	deep yellow large blooms
Yellow Doll		miniature	creamy yellow good pot plant

PINK ROSES

First Love	Hybrid tea	shrub or standard	lovely soft pink semi double
Olde Fragrance	Hybrid tea	shrub or standard	highly scented cerise produces an abundance of blooms
Prima Ballerina	Hybrid tea	shrub or standard	rich rose pink double
Bella Rosa	Floribunda	shrub or standard	salmon pink flowers
Dearest	Floribunda	shrub or standard	soft rosy salmon very fragrant
Frilly Dilly	Patio rose	small shrub	shell pink flowers
Cornelia	Old fashion	shrub rose	double apricot pink very fragrant
Rosa cenifolia 'Chapeau de Napoleon"	Old fashion	shrub rose	double rose pink fragrant
Cecile Brunner	Old fashion	shrub rose or climber	double shell pink slightly fragrant
Candy Rose	Old Fashion	shrub rose	semi double pink no fragrance
Dorothy Perkins		rambler	double rose pink no fragrance
Rosy Mantle		climber	double deep rose pink fragrant
New Penny		miniature	semi double blooms

Angela Rippon		miniature	double blooms are pale carmine pink
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BLUEMAUVE ROSES

Blue Moon	Hybrid tea	bush, standard or climber	deep mauve blue very fragrant
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Lady X	Hybrid tea	bush or standard	soft mauve double fragrant
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Shocking Blue	Floribunda	bush or standard	magenta -crimson very fragrant
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Lavender Jewell		miniature	deep lavender double fragrant flowers
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Veilchenblau	Old fashion	climber	semi double violet fading to light grey fragrant
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ORANGEAPRICOT

Apricot Nectar	Hybrid tea	bush or standard	rich deep apricot
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Copper Gem	Hybrid tea	bush or standard	copperty apricot fragrant
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Ginger Meggs	Floribunda	bush	carrot red blooms fragrant
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Lovely Louise	Floribunda	bush	copperty salmon buds salmon blooms
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Orange Honey		miniature	soft honey orange yellow base, fragrant
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Holy Toledo		miniature	bright pinkish-apricot
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Orange Cascade		climbing miniature	orange yellow buds fragrant
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Woburn Abbey		climbing	cooper orange yellow very fragrant
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Felicia	Old fashion	shrub rose	double apricot pink very fragrant
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Buff Beauty	Old fashion	shrub rose	double flowers, apricot, fragrant
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FURTHER INFORMATION: