

Roses - There are many roses which we can grow **easily**. I am a selfish gardener. I love to play and experiment in the garden but I do it on my terms, when I feel like it. With few special exceptions, my plants are maintenance free. Most of the roses in my garden are no exceptions

An exception. A Hybrid Tea Rose in our climate is a prize. The large perfumed blossoms to cut and enjoy in the house for a week is worth the few minutes of maintenance it requires in the fall and spring. Plant your hybrid tea roses in rich well drained soil in full sun and protected from winter winds. Fertilize generously with Osmocote 14-14-14. Water often and deeply during the growing season and mulch the soil well (3-4”).

Winter care for hybrid tea roses is most important. Let the last few roses of the season ripen to hips on the plant. After the first few hard frosts and the leaves have frozen or start falling from the plant (late October?) remove any remaining leaves by gently pulling up and away from the stem (this helps send the rose into dormancy). After a few days mound clean soil (from somewhere else in the yard) mixed with good compost (50:50) up 12-18” around the base of the rose. Prune canes: There are two techniques commonly used in cold climates, the first may work best in warmer locations with better snow cover, the second in the open, high-desert areas east of Truckee.

1) prune canes down to 2’ (reasoning that there will usually be some winter die-back requiring spring pruning and it is better to have more to work with in the spring. Longer canes should be bound together with tree tape to prevent splitting.) When the soil begins to freeze but before too much snow settles cover the soil encrusted, dormant rose with a foot of loose straw then lay fir boughs over the straw to shade the rose and hold the straw. You may lay fir boughs over the snow covering your rose if there is already snow. - **Or** -

2) Prune to 10”. When the soil begins to freeze cover the entire rose with a loose mixture of soil and compost that will freeze in place. When the soil has frozen, cover the mound with a thick layer of straw or pine needles, and lay fir boughs over them. In the spring, wait. Wait as long as possible before removing the mulch and soil. Remove the mulch in layers, slowly, over time. Prune back dead canes, fertilize, water, etc. Simple really. Similar mulching is recommended for Florabunda and Grandiflora type roses.

Hybrid Tea Roses: Rosa odorata is a Tea Rose and one of the ancestors of the many thousands of hybrids considered Hybrid Teas.

The Rest of the Roses. There are hundreds of species of “Wild” roses all over the world with different flowers, foliage and growth habits. There are also many “nearly wild” (close to wild type) roses. All of these that are cold hardy require no maintenance other than water. If you fertilize and occasionally thin the excess canes they will perform even better, but you don’t have to.

Rosa x chinensis minima, (Fairy Rose), ‘Dreamboat’, R. Roulettii, 3’ (-40F). Many, many varieties which all perform well in our climate. Prune hard then water and fertilize well in the spring. They will bloom all summer. Great in rock gardens.

Rosa californica ultramontana, (Wood’s Rose) R. woodsii, our Sierra native rose with 3” pink flowers on 1-6’ canes. Vigorous growth spreading by underground stems. Tolerates shade but blooms best in full sun. Thrives in large thickets along the Truckee River

Rosa foetida, The Austrian Brier. An upright shrub to 8’, small leaflets and deep yellow, fragrant flowers. Persian Yellow is a double form (often confused with Harison’s Yellow). Austrian Copper is a bicolor with striking copper- red inside and yellow outside. Plant in a dry sunny spot and leave alone.

Rosa glauca (rubrifolia) - Red-leafed rose - 6-8’ ball of purple leaves and dark pink flowers. Great red-orange fall color and persistent red hips. See: 7-11 at Ponderosa Palisades.

Rosa harisonii, Harison’s Yellow Rose. Thickets of thorny stems 6-8’ tall and at least as wide. Buried in clear yellow, fragrant blooms in late spring. Planted throughout the west by pioneers. Originally a hybrid between R. spinosissima and R. foetida from New York.

Rosa hugoensis, (Father Hugo Rose) 6-8’ dense ball of pale 2” yellow flowers. Vigorous, drought tolerant. Appears similar to R. harisonii from a distance.

Rosa moschata hybrid, Hybrid Musk Rose. Semi-climbing shrub with clusters of fragrant flowers. Several hardy hybrids.

Rosa moschata hybrid ‘Marjorie Fair’. A cheerful shrubby rose with large, showy clusters of small, single, bright magenta-rose blooms nearly all year on 2-3’ plants. Has an “old-fashioned” look which blends into borders nicely. Easy and fragrant. Hardy to -30F (U.S.D.A. Zone 4)

Rosa moschata hybrid ‘Ballerina’. This 3-4’ charmer bears very large, hydrangea-like clusters of small, single, wavy-edged, “wild rose” looking blooms. Petal edges are pink blending into white centers with conspicuous gold stamen. Easy and lightly fragrant. (Looks more like a giant polyantha.)

‘Newport Fairy’ and ‘Fairy Queen’ appear very similar to ‘Ballerina’

Rosa nutkana, Nootka Rose. Native from northern Alaska to northern California. Vigorous with deep rose-pink single flowers.

Polyantha Roses are long blooming small shrubs with clusters of small flowers. Good for edging or in masses.

Rosa multiflora hybrid, (Baby Rose, Polyantha Rose), 'The Fairy', R. polyantha, 4 (-30F), A small, spreading rose growing 2-3' covered with large clusters of small, warm pink, double rosettes which fade to a soft shell pink. Nearly everblooming, tops for vigor and hardiness. Very pretty.

Rosa x rehderana 'Red Sunblaze, (Polyantha Rose), R. x polyantha, 4 (-30F) Hardy and beautiful variety of miniature rose growing 10-15" and producing masses of rich red, double blooms from spring through fall. Wonderful border or container plant or can be grown indoors in sunny window. Also a pink variety

Tomato Rose

Rosa rugosa, (Tomato Rose), Plants are 3-8' tall and may be pruned as a hedge. Leaves are robust in appearance, glossy green and heavily veined. Flowers are doubled, fragrant, appear throughout the growing season and the hips are bright red.

'Hansa' is a bright magenta and very fragrant, the hardiest of the shrub roses.

'Therese Bugnet' (it's French) is a delicate light pink. Most years these will not die back at all during the winter.

'Snow Owl' has fragrant white flowers on a compact 3' shrub. It looks like a gardenia and is nearly as perfumed.

'Topaz Jewel' the first yellow Rugosa rose!

Rosa spinosissima, (R. pimpinellifolia), Scotch Rose or Burnet Rose. 3" white to pink flowers on 2'-6' canes. Vigorous growth spreading by underground stems. Unique purple to near black hips in late summer.

Rosa spinosissima 'Petite Pink'. A lovely 10-12" trailing rose from the National Herb Garden. Tiny leaves densely cover the long, sprawling, slightly arching stems which bear masses of dainty, petite pink blooms. Vigorous and hardy groundcover.

Rosa villosa, (Apple Rose), pink or white, similar in many ways to the rugosa types but with apple green hips.

Shrub Roses

Rosa wichuariana, (Memorial Rose), (Shrub Rose), This Groundcover rose will grow 4' or more from the base in a summer. Eventual spread as much as 20' in diameter with clear white flowers. Ancestor to many hardy climbing roses.

Rosa 'Nearly Wild', (Shrub Rose), Old fashioned-type hedge rose which forms compact 3' bush is constantly covered with clusters of extra large, single, wavy, saucer-shaped, bright rose blooms fading to delicate shell-pink. A charming sight along fence or wall or used as a hedge. USDA zone 4 (-30°F)

Rosa 'Morden Fireglow' (Shrub Rose), a combination of hardiness and brilliant scarlet color. Upright plant to 2' tall.

Rosa 'Rosalina' (Shrub Rose), a Rugosa hybrid with a very wild look. 3-4' tall with deep pink blossoms.

Climbing Roses

Rosa 'Altissimo', (Climbing Rose), The deep green foliage is a perfect background for the large, single blooms of glowing, velvety red. Classified as a modern climbing rose which grows to an impressive 10' tall x 6' wide.

Rosa 'Blaze', (Climbing Rose), red, very tall, upright, very hardy. Blaze is the time tested performer among climbing roses in Truckee. It is a classic.

Rosa 'Golden Showers' (Climbing Rose), hardy yellow climbing rose producing flowers throughout the season.

Rosa 'Newport Fairy' (Climbing Rose), large clusters of mid-sized single pink blooms adorn this extremely hardy and reliable rose. Found in many old gardens on the east side of the Sierra.

Floribunda Rose

Rosa 'Iceberg' ['Schneewittchen'] ['Fee des Neiges'], (Floribunda Rose), Considered one of best floribunda roses ever. Beautifully shaped buds open to 3" cupped, fully double flowers of pure white carried in large trusses. The foliage forms lush, bushy 3x2' plant with light green, glossy leaves. Excellent. USDA zone 4 (-30°F)

Rosa 'Otto Linne' ['Gartendirektor'], Everblooming cultivar which forms an impressive, 6' arching plant smothered with beautiful cup shaped, semi-double to double blooms of bright rose-pink. Easy care; excellent for landscaping; lush dark green, glossy foliage. USDA zone 4 (-30F).

The rose is a rose,
And was always a rose.
But the theory now goes
That the apple's a rose,
And the pear is, and so's
The plum, I suppose
. . . What will next prove a rose

(Robert Frost, 'The Rose Family')

O my luv'e's like red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June
(Robert Burns)

What's in a name? That which we call a rose,
By any other name would smell as sweet
(Romeo and Juliet', ii., 4)