

# INFORMATION

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## ROSE GUIDE

There are many different types of rose, each having different cultural techniques.

**HYBRID TEA** These are of course the modern roses we all know so well. Few, if any, plants can provide such a brilliant display of colour over so long a period of time. The flower stems are long and the blooms are shapely, usually in perfect conical formation. The typical Hybrid Tea bears blooms which are medium sized or large with many petals forming a distinct central cone. The blooms are borne singly or with several side buds. A good fragrance is to be found in the Hybrid Tea and they are excellent plants for growing in beds.

**FLORIBUNDA** This rose bears its flowers in clusters or trusses and several blooms open at one time in each truss. It is unrivaled for providing a colourful, reliable & long lasting bedding display. The floribunda, which usually have smaller flowers in large sprays, are grown with massed effect in mind.

**CLIMBERS & RAMBLERS** These roses are seldom better displayed than when they look down at us from above. There seems to be almost unending possibilities for the use of climbers and there can be few plants more essential for the garden. The most important of these uses is of course the clothing of the walls of the house and elsewhere, but roses are also excellent for growing on pillars, arches and pergolas and over fences. Climbing roses differ from rambling roses in that they have larger flowers, similar to other garden roses, usually held singly or in small groups and generally have the ability to repeat flower after the first period of bloom.

**RAMBLING ROSES** Usually have numerous small flowers held in large bunches and have the ability to send strong, frequently long, stems from the base of the plant. They flower with great freedom, giving a mass of bloom. Their growth is robust but graceful and they are ideal for covering large areas. Usually they require little pruning except for the removal of older growth when this becomes too dense. This should be done after flowering.

**OLD ENGLISH ROSES** A comparatively new group of roses, that first came to prominence in the 1970's. They originated from crosses made between certain Old Roses, Hybrid Teas and Floribundas. Not only bred for the beauty of their individual flowers, but also for natural and shapely growth; making them ideal plants for the garden. English roses are above all very fragrant; even more fragrant than many of the Old roses. We recommend that these roses should be planted in close groups of two, three or more of one variety. In such groups they will grow together to form a dense shrub that will flower more continuously and make a more definite statement in the garden. Of course, in small gardens, a single plant is entirely satisfactory. A mulch of compost or farmyard manure and a little rose fertilizer in the spring, followed by another after the first flush of flowers, will give greatly improved results.



**PATIO MINIATURES** Miniature Roses grow to a height of 12-18", sometimes more according to conditions and have tiny miniature flowers. They were a rather insignificant group but have been greatly improved in recent years and the newer varieties include excellent bushy plants with prettily formed little flowers. They are useful for window boxes & tubs but are particularly useful for very small modern gardens. It should however be remembered that even here, a few slightly larger roses help to give height and style.

**STANDARD ROSES** Can be valuable in the garden, particularly in the more formal areas. They create a pleasing effect when allowed to grow above shorter plants or roses in formal beds. Alternatively, they may be used as specimens in a lawn or alongside a path. A well grown Weeping Standard will make a graceful centre piece or focal point. Firm support in the form of a stout stake, immediately after planting, is essential. Standard roses require ample manuring.

**GROUND COVER & SHRUB ROSES** Providing a carpet of colour, their flowers, stems and leaves help to stop the soil drying out and keep down weeds. Ground Cover roses can be combined with dwarf conifers and other low-growing shrubs such as Lavender or Spiraea japonica. Alternatively, grow them with perennials such as Sedum, Thyme and Veronica.



Shrub roses have many different uses in the garden. Most are best grown on their own as specimen shrubs, while others make excellent hedges. Some also bear attractive hips in autumn. This often makes them popular with the birds. Many Shrub roses will thrive in conditions which

would not support a Hybrid Tea and both pruning and upkeep are simple. Nearly all Shrub roses flower on old wood. They should therefore be pruned only once every four to five years after they have flowered, rather than annually like hybrid teas and Floribundas.