

Coming Up Roses

Climber

Trained to a trellis, fence or arbor, these roses produce long, arching canes with prolific blooms. On a wall or wire, they will dress up any garden.

Tree

Hardy rootstock is grafted to a long-stemmed rose then grafted again to a rose bush at the top of the stem to make this elegant rose. Additional care is necessary to maintain these specimens.

Miniature

Perfect for container gardening, these very resilient roses range from six inches to two feet in height. They flower consistently and are great for small spaces. My favorite is called Sun Sprinkles with creamy butter yellow florets on a plant that is only about one foot tall.

Grades

When you buy a rose, you'll see a number

on the tag: 1, 1 ½ and 2. These are grades showing the size and quality of the plant with the best being No. 1, which will have bigger and better canes, will grow faster, and provide more blooms in the first year. It is always worth buying the best quality rose appropriate for your particular micro-climate.

Patents

Some breeders have registered their roses with the patent office so that they cannot be duplicated. This means that you cannot legally propagate it without permission.

Growing Roses

The most important thing to remember for pest protection is to buy a top quality specimen that is appropriate for your conditions. Although most roses prefer full sun, there are varieties that grow beautifully in light shade. Roses need good drainage in acidic soil. Improve clay soil by

... continued from page D12



Shrub roses, also called carpet roses, blanket this hillside with frilly blooms.

working organic matter into the beds to a depth of 12 inches. Gypsum, pine needles, redwood leaves and coffee grounds will reduce alkalinity. Fertilize in March with a mixture of alfalfa pellets and diatomaceous earth. For insect control, companion plant with lavender and alliums.

Deadheading and Pruning

After blooms are spent, deadhead to encourage repeat blooming. Don't worry about how you cut the stems. Roses aren't fussy. You can pinch off the blooms with your fingers or use a sharp shear to cut to the fifth leaf. Once a year at the end of January, prune the wood to half size for all modern varieties. For floribundas, hybrid teas, and grandifloras, early spring just as the buds are swelling is a good time to prune. Old-fashioned roses and climbers need pruning after flowering as they bloom on old wood. If you don't know what kind of rose bush you have, don't worry. Prune in late January or February and let nature do its magic. Roses cannot

be killed by heavy pruning.

Rose Hips

If you don't deadhead, you'll notice tiny little orange to red balls forming where the bloom used to be. The birds love these rose hips as nutritional food and they are also food for humans, especially flavorful in teas. However, by allowing rose hips to form, the bush will stop blooming as the hips signal it is time for a rest. Make sure to prune them off to enable lots of spring flowers.

Thorns

Most roses do have thorns, some more so than others. I am willing to put up with a few cuts now and then because of the pleasure roses provide. I repeat what our great president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, had to say about roses: "Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns. I am thankful that thorns have roses."



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TARGET ZONE

If a tree fails in a field, damages would be minor. But if it fails and strikes a person or property the consequences would be severe. The risk of an ISA certified arborist from Advance Tree Service assess and considers both the likelihood of failure and the likelihood of impacting, the identified targets. The target zone for dead trees is larger than those with live, flexible branches, because dead and brittle branches are more likely to shatter on impact spreading debris.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local ISA certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you be safe.

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