

“The rose speaks of love silently, in a language known only to the heart.”
–Unknown

SELECTING, PLANTING & GROWING

Roses That Thrive in Atlanta, Georgia (and the entire temperate Southeast)

Where do roses want to be in your garden?

Like people, roses can be particular about where they find themselves, so let's survey your yard. Where is there morning sun? Does that spot get at least 6 hours of sun? Does a gentle breeze run through it to dry leaves from morning dew? Is the soil rich and slightly acidic? Is it near a water source? Does it drain well? Is it not too cold and not too hot?

All that would be ideal, but if like most yards yours isn't quite perfect, remember that the real key to enjoying a flourishing rose garden, be it one rose or many, is to match the right rose to the right spot.

A rose is a rose, but which is best here?

Before you check our list of Recommended Roses below, consider these questions:

Do you have a little more shade than most roses like? Try

climbers such as the Georgia state flower and species rose Cherokee, the beloved species Lady Banks, or the nearly thornless Bourbon rose Zephirine Drouhin. Other choices include polyantha roses such as Cecile Brunner (also known as the Sweetheart Rose), and the hybrid musk rose Ballerina. These can do with 4 to 6 hours of sun, though they'll welcome more.



Blanc Double de Coubert Rose
Photo courtesy of mobot.org

Looking for drought-tolerance? Plant rugose roses such as the incredibly fragrant Blanc Double de Coubert, or the beautiful Hansa and Therese Bugnet selections. The shrub roses in the Carefree series, and the China rose named Spice are also said to be drought resistant.

What about disease-resistant roses? While no rose is entirely free from black spot, powdery mildew or insect damage, some are much less susceptible, including the climbing roses

Climbing Pinkie, New Dawn and Red Cascade, the ground cover roses such as Carefree Marvel and Sea Foam, and shrub roses Carefree Beauty (Katy Road Pink) and the color-changing Butterfly Rose or Mutabilis.

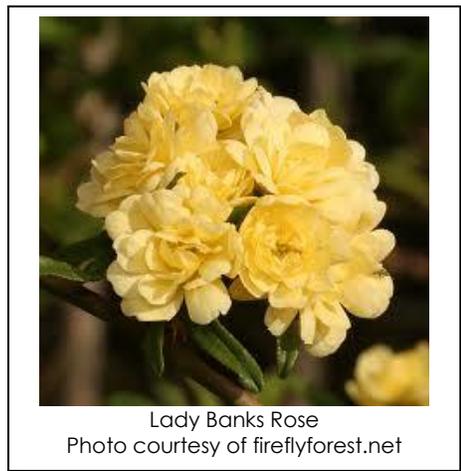
Are there thornless roses? Thorns are rare on climbers Climbing Pinkie, Lady Banks and Zephirine Drouhin, and polyantha Marie Pavie, making these beauties ideal by gates, paths, play areas and neighbor-friendly fences. As a bonus, the last two are also wonderfully fragrant.

Consider your garden's design

From the romance of a rose-draped arch to the perfectly practical cutting garden, there's a rose for every purpose. Cover a vast expanse with shrub roses, or on a slope try spreading ground cover roses. Compact polyanthas are lovely front row. David Austin® roses exude old-fashioned charm for eyes and nose. Back of the border belongs to tall, large China and rugose roses, while tea roses are long-stemmed cut-flower favorites.



Purchase, prepare, then plant



The ideal time to plant in Atlanta is November through March. But roses sold in containers can be planted almost anytime, as long as they receive an adequate supply of water.

Order your roses from highly regarded local nurseries, or trusted on-line sources, and make sure you're getting top quality number 1 grade plants with 3 to 5 canes 18 inches long. Plants will be either in pots or bare root.

Prepare your rose beds by mixing equal amounts compost, peat moss and coarse sand into the top 12 inches of soil. Space your plantings according to the mature size indicated by the grower, usually 3 to 4 feet apart. Holes should be about 2 feet wide and 18 inches deep.

For bare root roses, shape a mound of the mixed soil at the bottom of the hole to support the plant's roots, and removed damaged canes. **For container roses**, place the root ball on top of a layer of prepared soil in the hole. Keep in mind, when you add soil around the plant, you want the crown of the bare root rose to end up just above ground level, and the potted rose to be at the same depth as it was in the pot. Pack soil around your new roses, mulch with a 3-inch deep layer of pine straw, pine bark, or hardwood mulch, and water well.

Now what?

Water your roses deeply with one inch of water or 4 to 5 gallons per plant once a week. In summer's intense heat, you may need to water more often, especially if there's been no rain.



Carefree Beauty (Katy Road Pink) Rose
Photo courtesy of
jeanniesgarden.blogspot.com

Irrigation with soaker hoses or drip irrigation lines will keep water off the foliage and discourage black spot and other leaf diseases. If spray irrigation is used, then it is best to water in the morning so that the sun's rays will have time to dry the leaves.

Feed your roses from mid-March through Labor Day. Use a 16-4-8 formula monthly, either granular or liquid, synthetic or organic. If you'd prefer to fertilize less often, use a timed-release fertilizer such as Osmocote® every 3 months.

Organic options have their own benefits in that they include micronutrients and encourage the presence of beneficial earthworms and other organisms. Organics can be either store-bought pre-mixed solutions, individual ingredients such as bone meal, blood meal, alfalfa meal, Epsom salts and composted manure, or homemade compost or even coffee grounds. Several can be "brewed" into "teas" you pour on the soil around your roses. However you feed, **always water well after fertilizing.**

Prune in early spring before growth begins to remove dead, damaged or crisscrossing canes. **With hybrid teas**, leave 4 to 6 strong canes, cutting to 24 to 30 inches high, just above a bud, and also remove any suckers. **Climbers** require less pruning. They are pruned to train them to fence or trellis, and after they've bloomed to remove canes older than 2 years to promote continued flowering. **Shrub roses** (including rugose roses, polyantha roses, David Austin® roses, and China roses) are pruned to maintain shape.

Enjoy the color, fragrance and beauty of your new garden!

If you'd like help, Botanica Atlanta would be happy to assist with designing, selecting, installing and maintaining your new rose garden. Contact us [here](#) for a consultation.



Cherokee Rose (The Georgia State Flower)
Photo courtesy of
flickr.com/photos/earl2susie/page10

Recommended Roses

The following roses are known to do well in the South, with little disease or pest problems.

China Roses:

Mid to large sized, repeat bloomers, heirloom roses, generally tolerate poor soil

- [Ducher](#) – ivory white
- [Louis Philippe](#) - red
- [Old Blush](#) – pink
- [Spice](#) – blush pink to white

Climbing Roses:

Long arching canes, sizes range from very large (20-ft.) to compact, generally tolerate less sun than other roses.

- [Cherokee](#) – species, white, fragrant, good for naturalizing
- [Climbing Pinkie](#) – reblooming, nearly thornless
- [Lady Banks](#) – species, very large, yellow small but profuse flowers, nearly thornless,
- [New Dawn](#) – pale pink, fragrant, vigorous grower
- [Red Cascade](#) – miniature red blooms, disease-resistant, can also be ground cover
- [Reve d'Or](#) – medium yellow, vigorous grower, few thorns, long bloom period
- [Zephirine Drouhin](#) – dark pink, very fragrant, thornless, less resistant to black spot

David Austin® English Roses:

Medium to large size, repeat bloomers, fragrant, multi-petaled, cup-shaped blooms, grow as shrubs or short climbers

- [Abraham Darby®](#) – apricot and yellow tinted with pink, arching growth
- [Heritage®](#) – soft pink, few thorns
- [Graham Thomas®](#) – yellow, good as a climber
- [Mary Rose®](#) - pink, early bloomer

Ground Cover Roses:

Low-growing, spreading, reblooming

- [Carefree Marvel](#) – pink
- [Meidiland Alba](#) – white
- [Meidiland Red](#) – red
- [Sea Foam](#) – white, can be small (10-ft.) climber
- [Wiltshire](#) – deep pink

Polyantha Roses:

Compact rebloomers, delicate flowers in clusters, lovely for edging or front of the garden

- [Cecile Brunner \(Sweetheart\)](#) – pink
- [La Marne](#) – pink and white blend
- [Perle d'Or](#) – peach
- [The Fairy](#) – light pink, good groundcover or in containers
- [Marie Pavie](#) – light pink, thornless, very fragrant

Rugose Roses:

Tall, tough, wide-branching, fragrant, colorful hips in fall through winter, shade and drought tolerant, avoid placing near a path due to spiny thorns

- [Blanc Double De Coubert](#) – white
- [Hansa](#) – red-violet
- [Rosa rugosa](#) – species, red
- [Therese Bugnet](#) – lilac pink

Shrub Roses:

Near-constant blooming in clusters, ideal for mass plantings, hedges, high traffic areas

- [Ballerina](#) – pink
- [Belinda's Dream](#) – pink
- [Bonica](#) – pale pink
- [Butterfly \(Mutabilis\)](#) – color changing from orange to yellow to pink to crimson
- [Caldwell Pink](#) – pink
- [Carefree Beauty \(Katy Road Pink\)](#) – pink
- [Carefree Wonder](#) – pink
- [Else Poulsen](#) – pink, fragrant
- [Grandma's Yellow](#) – yellow, long blooming
- [Iceberg](#) – white
- [Marie Daly](#) – dwarf, pink
- [Souvenir de St. Anne's](#) – light pink, very fragrant, long blooming

Tea Roses:

Cut-flower favorites, fragrant, vigorous growers

- [Duchess de Brabant](#) – pink
- [Georgetown](#) – dark pink center that fades to light pink
- [Madame Antoine Mari](#) – pink blend
- [Marie Van Houtte](#) – yellow to pink
- [Mister Lincoln](#) – classic red
- [Mrs. B. R. Cant](#) – rosy red

Sources:

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