

RED BUTTE GARDEN

UTAH'S BOTANICAL GARDEN

Garden Plant Collections

Roses



Roses belong to the genus *Rosa*, a beloved group of flowering plants that have been cultivated for over two thousand years. In the wild, roses have only five petals, but over centuries, selections with more petals have been chosen, creating the roses we're all familiar with today.

Roses are native to temperate regions in the Northern Hemisphere and are now cultivated all over the globe. Many varieties thrive in Utah because of our favorable climate: hot, sunny summers and winters that are generally less harsh than other regions. In addition, our low humidity reduces less disease occurrence.

At Red Butte Garden, our Rose Collection consists of a wide variety of roses that are not only beautiful, but winter-hardy and disease-resistant. The Garden showcases roses and how they can be used in the landscape with other garden plants.

DESIGNING WITH ROSES

Roses can be used well in many garden settings: in containers, as hedges or groundcovers, or climbing on walls and trellises. They are beautiful on their own, or as part of a mixed border combined with perennials, annuals, bulbs, trees, and other shrubs. There are many characteristics that can be considered when designing with roses: flower color and size, bloom type, blooming period, foliage texture, growth habit, and fragrance. Some roses have noteworthy features such

as attractive thorns, and colorful fruits, called hips, which occur in the fall.

Choosing rose cultivars that are resistant to insect and disease problems and that are well-suited to Utah's environment, will allow you to enjoy these beautiful flowers with less care and chemical input.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Roses will grow well if given at least six hours of full sun per day, good drainage, nutrients, and water. Organic matter, such as compost, added to the soil will improve soil structure and drainage. The best rose food is a balanced organic fertilizer, such as compost, that releases nutrients slowly into the soil. Roses typically require about one to two inches of water, including rainfall, weekly, though some hybrids and species can survive on less water once established. Watering early in the morning, or using drip irrigation, reduces development of fungal diseases on the foliage.

Roses can be purchased as either bare-root or container-grown plants. Bare-root roses are sold in late winter or early spring and should be planted as soon as the ground thaws. Container Roses can be purchased and planted at any time.

Pruning methods depend on the type of rose and whether it is repeat-flowering or once-flowering. Repeat-flowering roses, such as hybrid teas, floribundas, and shrub roses, should be pruned

in late winter or early spring, around the time that new growth starts to emerge. Prune to remove old, spent canes and shorten the remaining top growth by one-third to one-half. Once-flowering roses require minimal pruning once flowering is complete. During the blooming season, deadhead flowers as needed to tidy the plant and encourage more blooms. Remove flowers by making a cut right above a leaf or lateral branch.

DID YOU KNOW

There are about 150 distinct species of roses throughout the world, all of which are found naturally only in the northern hemisphere. Roses have been admired for centuries. Ancient texts discuss the cultivation of roses by the Greeks and Romans, and some ancient hybrid roses have been grown in China for thousands of years. Modern rose varieties began to appear in the mid- 19th century when repeat-blooming roses, introduced from China, were crossed with European roses to produce the first hybrid tea, “La France.”

In addition to beauty, the rose is valued for its many uses. Attar of roses, or rose oil, has been highly prized for centuries as a perfume, and is also used as a nourishing skin treatment in creams. Fragrant rose petals are used for potpourri, and to flavor foods and drinks. Rose hips, one of the richest sources of vitamin C, are used to make tea, wine, jams, and jellies. Large rose hips, such as those of *Rosa rugosa*, can be eaten fresh.

WHERE TO SEE THIS COLLECTION

Roses are located throughout Red Butte Garden, with the greatest diversity of the collection in the Rose Garden. Catch the peak bloom in early summer when all the roses, including once-blooming varieties, come into bloom. Then visit throughout the summer as repeat-blooming roses continue to flower, and again in the fall to see late blooms along with colorful foliage and hips.

