Roses for Utah Landscapes

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Recommended Citation
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Roses for Utah Landscapes

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Roses are the most popular flowering shrubs in Utah. Their long blooming season and the great diversity of size and color of the blossoms are unequaled. Most roses are easy to grow when given the right growing conditions and the pest problems are controlled.

The rose is known as the “Queen of the Flowers.” Gardeners have cultivated them for thousands of years. They were grown in Greek and Roman times and many cultivars descended from plants in ancient gardens in China, Persia or Turkey.

Roses belong to the genus *Rosa* - they are part of a larger Rosaceae plant family. This family includes numerous blooming and edible plants, including apple, pear, cherry, peach, plum, hawthorn, strawberries, raspberries, cotoneaster, pyracantha, firethorn, potentilla, serviceberry and spirea.

**Selecting Roses**

Roses are classified by their growth habits and flowering characteristics. Select roses by size, shape, color, and desired bloom period. Provide the right growing conditions to stimulate abundant, attractive blooms. Roses are short lived if planted in poor or hostile sites.

Because of their long history as a cultivated plant and the huge number of cultivated varieties, classifying roses is a difficult and ongoing task. Experts do not agree on the number of categories or the characteristics which separate those roses as there are more than 20,000 named rose cultivars (cultivated varieties).

The American Rose Society (ARS) has 56 variations, the World Federation of Rose Societies uses 37 classifications and the British Association of Rose Breeders recognizes 30. Understanding the classifications helps you learn about the necessary care of roses.

The ARS breaks roses into three major groups – Species, Old Garden and Modern Roses. After a rose is classified according to the three main groupings, it is then further classified by color, scent, growth habit, ancestry, introduction date, blooming characteristics and size.

Species roses occur naturally and are found throughout the northern hemisphere. They are vigorous, hardy and disease resistant and flourish in temperate climates. They produce colorful hips that provide winter color and bird food.

These are known as “wild roses,” which are thorny shrubs or climbers, and normally bloom once with five petals. Popular species roses include Cherokee, Dog, Gallic, French and Redleaf Roses.
Old Garden or Antique Roses are those that were grown before 1867. They are usually fragrant and very cold hardy. Most Old Garden Roses produce clusters of 5 to 7 flowers if they are single and 3 flowers to a cluster when they are double flowers.

Most of these bloom once per season, usually in late spring. The flowers grow on a variety of shrub and vine sizes. The blossoms are typically white or pastel in color but there are other colors. They are easy to care for.

This group is further divided into Old European Roses and Hardy Repeat Blooming Old Roses. Old European Roses include Albas, Centifolias, Damasks, Gallicas and Mosses. Hardy Repeat Blooming Old Roses include Bourbons, Portlands and Hybrid Perpetuals. China, Tea, Sepervirens, and Any rose developed after 1867 is considered a Modern Rose. This group began with the introduction of the first hybrid tea rose cultivar, La France. These roses typically have rich, vibrant colors. Many are fragrant and flower repeatedly. Noisette are also Old Garden roses. Old Garden Roses are the predecessors of most Modern Roses.
Any rose developed after 1867 is considered a Modern Rose. This group began with the introduction of the first hybrid tea rose cultivar, La France. These roses typically have rich, vibrant colors. Many are fragrant and flower repeatedly.

This group is further divided into hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, climbers, ramblers, landscape, and shrubs. These roses largely came about with the cross-breeding hybrid teas with polyanthus.

In exchange for the diversity of colors, sizes, and shapes, these modern roses often lose their fragrance, disease resistance, and cold hardiness. Hybrid teas are the most widely grown roses. They have showy blooms throughout the growing season. Plants grow 3 to 6 feet high depending on cultural conditions and pruning techniques. Flowers are single or double. Buds are long and pointed with single flowers or clusters of three to five flowers per stem. They are used as ornamental plants or for cut flowers. They are not completely hardy and need winter protection.

Grandiflora roses are offspring of hybrid tea roses. These flowers are borne singly or in clusters on longer stems and the flowers resemble hybrid teas. The bush size is generally taller than the hybrid tea and are larger than hybrid teas.

Floribundas and Climbing Floribundas, as the name indicates, produce clusters of blossoms on bushes ranging from 2 to 6 feet tall. They bloom throughout the growing season and are some of the most floriferous roses available.
Disbudding will produce floribunda rose flowers similar in size, shape and color to hybrid tea blossoms. Most floribunda roses are hardy, disease resistant, low growing shrubs. Use them in beds for showy floral displays.

Polyanthas and Climbing Polyanthas grow cluster of flowers on compact bushes that are generally smaller than the floribundas. These first appeared in the 1880s and reached the peak of their popularity in the 1920s. Their use declined as miniature roses became more popular.

Miniatures and Climbing Miniatures are true genetic dwarfs. The name more directly refers to the size of the blossoms rather than the size of the bush. Their plant height ranges from six inches to three feet or more in height to climbers reaching 10 feet or more. Miniatures are hardier than larger types and some are shade tolerant. Use them in mass plantings, borders, specimens or indoor plants.

Mini-Flora is a new sub-class recently recognized by the ARS to recognize larger miniature rose forms. These are usually larger than the traditional miniatures but smaller than floribundas.

Shrub roses are hardy, spreading plants that require little maintenance. Varieties grow 4 to 12 feet tall with many canes and thick foliage. Flowers can be single or double and are borne at the ends of the canes or on branches along the canes. Some flower once in the spring while others flower continuously. Shrub roses produce many rose hips after flowering.

Shrubs, characterized by their spreading habit, hardiness and prolific blooming include five
subdivisions: hybrid *kordesii*, hybrid *moyesii*, hybrid musk, hybrid *rugosa* and shrub. The English Roses or David Austin roses belong to this class.

Landscape roses are similar to shrub roses. The plants are well adapted to mass planting, are low maintenance and spread rather than growing taller. Groundcover roses are shorter plants that spread sideways or lie on the ground and form dense growth suitable for covering wide areas.

Climbing and rambler roses have long, arching canes. Roses do not actually climb and must be attached to trellises, arbors or fences. Climbing roses are available in many different colors or types of blooms.

Large-flowered climbers have stiff, thick canes up to 10 feet long and bloom through the summer and fall. Ramblers have long, thin canes and small clusters of flowers that bloom in early summer.
Tree roses are classified by growth form rather than flower types. They are created by grafting other rose cultivars onto an upright trunk. Use them as accents in formal gardens or as specimen plants. Tree roses are not cold hardy and need special winter protection in Utah.

Air movement discourages diseases, but heavy winds damage blossoms. Roses grow best by themselves because other plants compete for light, water and nutrients.

Successful growing starts with correct planting techniques. Dig holes large enough to accommodate roots without crowding. Soak bare root roses for 12-24 hours before planting. Plant bareroot roses on a soil cone inside the hole, which supports the bud at the correct height. In our area, set the bud 2 inches below the soil level to prevent winter kill. One disadvantage of burying bud unions is that suckers and crown gall (a bacterial disease) are more difficult to control.

Prune to the three to four healthiest canes spaced around the plant. (Purchased plants have already been pruned.) Cut canes 12 inches long and 1/4 inch above an outward facing bud. Remove broken, dead, or diseased roots and set the plant in place. Add soil and water to firm the soil and eliminate air pockets. Plant containerized roses the same way after inspecting for girdling or encircling roots. If plants are root bound, cut 1 inch deep slits down the side of the root ball to eliminate potential problems. Water every 7 to 10 days. Overwatering is a major cause of death of newly planted roses. Roses are drought tolerant but lack of water impairs flower quality and quantity. Roses benefit from a thick mulch layer to hold moisture and prevent weeds. Use wood chips, bark, compost, sawdust or similar products.

Planting Roses

Roses tolerate many soils and climates but do best in light, well-drained soils. Use raised planters or beds in areas with poorly drained or salty soil. Problem soils cause root rot and micronutrient deficiencies. Avoid areas with difficult to control perennial weed such as field bindweed, white top or quack grass. Roses need at least 6 hours of full sun.
Buying Roses

Rose plants are sold in three grades; one, one and a half, or two. Grades are based on the size and number of canes. Number one roses are best and have at least three canes 3/8 of an inch or more in diameter. Top grade plants produce superior blossoms much sooner. Cheap bargain roses are disappointing in the quality and quantity of the blooms. Roses are sold bare-root or as packaged bare-root plants with shavings around the base. Potted roses are often started in a greenhouse to have them in bloom for early sales.

Fertilizing Roses

Established roses benefit from fertilization. A good rule of thumb is to feed repeat-blooming roses in the spring right after pruning. Fertilize again when plants develop flower buds and in August or two months before the first fall frost. Older varieties that bloom only once are fertilized in the early spring. Fertilizers are available as dry formulations or liquids. Follow label directions for application instructions. Organic fertilizers include steer manure, blood meal, bone meal or fish emulsion.

Pruning Roses

Pruning improves plant appearance and health by removing dead, diseased, weak and broken wood. It controls suckers from the rootstock and promotes large, beautiful flowers. Unpruned plants become overgrown with small, poor quality flowers. The type of rose dictates how and when to prune.
Prune bush roses (hybrid teas, grandifloras, and floribundas) in the spring before growth starts. Remove all dead wood. Cut at a uniform height, leaving as much good wood as possible. Make cuts ¼ inch above a strong outward facing bud. Canes can be left as long as 24 to 30 inches, but after most winters they are pruned to 12 inches because of winter damage. After severe winter damage, it may not be possible to do more than keep the surviving wood without regards to correct plant shaping. More severe pruning is done on hybrid teas to induce longer stem length and larger blossoms.

Prune hardy rambler and climbing roses after flowering. Remove dead or diseased canes and take out old, weak canes. Do not let canes grow for more than three seasons nor allow them to get too crowded. Many hybrid tea climbers and large-flowered ramblers are not vigorous or cold hardy and broken, diseased or dead wood is removed during the dormant season.

Prune climbing roses to make them fit the growing area. Training canes horizontally produces more flowers. Heading back long canes stimulates lateral growth for more blossoms and foliage.

Prune old-fashioned or species roses according to their bloom. Single season bloomers are pruned after they bloom. Cut long canes back a third and trim the lateral canes back a few inches. Repeat bloomers are pruned to shape and are not cut back. Remove damaged canes or unwanted, misdirected growth and old canes as they lose vigor or become too crowded.

Treat large pruning cuts with pruning sealer to prevent borers from entering the stem. Use high quality tools including fine tooth saws, loppers and hand shears.
Pruning roses, greenwood is alive and brown wood is dead

Roses before pruning

Cut off dead and damaged wood as low as necessary

Cut above an outward facing bud at a 45 degree angle

Rose after pruning

After severe winters it may only be possible to keep the surviving wood without regard to correct plant shaping
Remove dead, broken or diseased canes whenever they are visible.

Prune single bloom roses after they flower because they bloom on 2 year old wood.

Prune climbing roses to make them fit the growing area.

Seal canes after pruning with silicon seal, waterproof glue, pruning sealer or similar products if borers are a problem.

Select the right tools and equipment to make rose pruning easier.
Summer Pruning

Summer pruning improves rose quality. Remove unwanted growth including suckers, weak or spindly shoots, and damaged canes. Cutting flowers also prunes and keeps buds developing. Leave at least two or more five leaflet leaves on the remaining canes if possible. Remove only the flowers so that the maximum leaf surface is left on newly planted roses. Don’t allow seed pods or rose hips to form until time for the plants to harden for winter.

Disbudding is removing all side buds to allow the terminals to develop larger, showier blossoms.

With the first killing frost, the roses stop blooming for the season

Summer pruning is mostly dead heading

Prune out dead, broken or diseased canes

Letting rose hips form stops plants from blooming, but allows them to harden off for winter
Winter Protection

Roses vary in their hardiness. Tree roses are the tenderest, while most shrub roses are completely hardy in all areas of Utah. Winter protection lessens the effects of freezing and thawing. It also keeps branches from whipping in the wind which causes the roots to loosen. Winter protection of some sort is needed where temperatures go below 20°F.

Prune back the bushes to 1/2 their original height and in high winds areas, tie the canes together with twine. Form mulch mounds over the base of the roses to prevent severe winter damage. Use soil, compost, wood chips, bark, or other material. Do not use straw, which contains grain as it may attract mice that feed on the canes. Mound the mulch up over the top of the plant to protect the crown and buds.

Colder winter temperatures require deeper mounds. Some gardeners use Styrofoam cones, baskets or other methods to completely enclose the plants.

In areas with extremely cold temperatures, remove climbers from their trellises, and cover them with mulch material. Remove foliage from the plant and surrounding soil to reduce overwintering diseases.

To prevent winter wind and snow breakage, remove the top growth or candelabras

Leave canes long and delay final pruning until spring

Cover the base of tender roses with a large cone of soil or compost
Tree roses need special winter protection

Construct rose cylinders and fill them with dry leaves to protect tree roses

Dr. Huey rootstock after grafted rose has died off from winter kill

Dr. Huey roses from rootstock

References

Re American Rose Society www.ars.org/

All-American Rose Selections www.rose.org/

Bob Bauer - Rose photo gallery www.bauerphoto.com/roses/roses.html

Bob Bauer, local rosarian http://www.rose-roses.com/

Utah Rose Society http://www.utah-rose.com/

Managing Pests of Roses http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7466.html
Public Rose Gardens in Utah

Thanksgiving Point Gardens Visitor Center

Ogden Botanical Garden

Sarah J. McCarthey and Family Rose Garden Red Butte Garden

Nephi City Rose Garden

Territorial State House Rose Garden
# Rose Varieties Proven in Utah

**Grouped by American Rose Society Color Classifications**

## Rose Class Types
- HT = Hybrid Tea
- FL = Floribunda
- SH = Shrub
- CL = Modern Climber
- M = Miniature
- GR = Grandiflora
- R = Hybrid Rugosa
- A = Austin/English
- HP = Hybrid Perpetual
- O = Old Garden Rose

**A Great All Time Rose**

### Red Blend
- **Double Delight** - HT
- **Granada** - HT
- **Eye Paint** - FL
- **Sentimental** - FL
- **Fourth of July** - CL
- **Glowing Amber** - M
- **Hurdy Gurdy** - M
- **Rainbow’s End** - M

### Mauve and Mauve blend
- **Barbra Streisand** - HT
- **Lady X** - HT
- **Angel Face** - FL
- **Blueberry Hill** - FL
- **Escapade** - FL
- **Purple Tiger** - FL
- **Shocking Blue** - FL
- **Fragrant Plum** - GR
- **Route 66** - FL
- **Incognito** - M
- **Winsome** - M

**Reine des Violettes**

### Orange and Orange Blend
- **Fourth of July** - CL
- **Glowing Amber** - M
- **Hurdy Gurdy** - M
- **Rainbow’s End** - M

### Dark Red
- **Veteran’s Honor** - HT
- **Black Magic** - HT
- **Mr. Lincoln** - HT
- **The Prince** - SH, A
- **Europeana** - FL
- **Lavaglut** - FL
- **The Dark Lady** - SH, A
- **Don Juan** - CL

### Medium Yellow
- **Gold Medal** - GR
- **Graham Thomas** - SH, CL, A
- **Sunflare** - FL
- **Rosa foetida persiana**
- **‘Persian Yellow’** - Species
- **Grandpa Dickson**
- **aka Irish Gold** - HT
- **Topaz Jewel** - R

### Orange and Orange Pink Blend
- **Touch Of Class** - HT
- **Anisley Dickson** (aka Dicky) - FL
- **Bill Warriner** - FL
- **Lilian Austin** - SH, A
- **America** - CL
- **Millie Walters** - M
- **Pierrine** - M

### Medium Pink
- **Brigadoon** - HT
- **Our Lady Of Guadalupe**
- **Color Magic** - HT
- **Gemini** - HT
- **Tiffany** - HT
- **Lynn Anderson** - HT
- **Sonia** - GR
- **Ballerina** - HM, SH
- **Carefree Delight** - SH
- **Pink Meidiland** - SH
- **Sharifa Asma** - SH, A
- **Handel** - CL
- **Een** - CL
- **Minnie Pearl** - M
- **Rosa Mundi** - O, Gallica

### Orange and White Blend
- **Iceberg** - FL
- **Fragrant Cloud** - HT
- **Frau Karl Druski**
- **aka Snow Queen** - HP
- **Garden Party** - HT
- **Pristine** - HT
- **Moonstone** - HT
- **French Lace** - FL
- **Margaret Merrill** - FL
- **Nicole** - FL
- **Gourmet Popcorn** - M
- **Irresistible** - M
- **Alba Semi-plena** - O
- **Alba**
- **Madame Hardy** - O
- **Damask**

### Yellow Blend
- **Peace** - HT
- **St. Patrick** - HT
- **Summer Fashion** - FL
- **Flutterbye** - CL
- **Circus** - FL
- **Rainbow’s End** - M, CL

### Apricot and Apricot Blend
- **Brandy** - HT
- **Singin In The Rain** - FL
- **Brass Band** - FL
- **Abbay de Cluny** - SH, H
- **Evelyn** - SH, A
- **Autumn Sunset** - CL

### Deep Yellow
- **Henry Fonda** - HT
- **Sunsprite** - FL
- **Golden Celebration** - SH, A

### Deep Pink
- **Elizabeth Taylor** - HT
- **Fame** - GR
- **Yves Piaget** - HT, SH
- **Paul Neyron** - HP
- **Baronne Prevost** - HP
- **Rosarium Uetersen** - CL
- **Peter Frankenfeld** - HT
- **Electron** - HT
- **Apothecary’s Rose**
- **O, Gallica**

### Light Pink
- **Frederic Mistral** - HT
- **Bride’s Dream** - HT
- **Heritage SH** (Austin)
- **New Dawn** - CL
- **Pearly Gates** - CL

### Orange Red & Orange Red blend
- **Fragrant Cloud** - HT
- **Trumpeter** - FL

### Russet
- **Hot Cocoa** - FL
# Rose Diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pests</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Controls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Spot <em>Diplocarpon rosae</em></td>
<td>Round black spots with fringed yellow margins on leaves or stems. Infected leaves drop off and leave plants almost completely defoliated. Weakened plants often die in winter.</td>
<td>Select resistant varieties. Fungus survives in fallen leaves so remove them each fall. Avoid water on leaves. Choose sunny locations so plants dry after watering, rain or dewy nights. An infrequent problem in Utah. Use a fungicide when new leaves appear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown Gall</td>
<td>Irregularly shaped, bulbous galls on stems near the soil line. Gall can get several inches across. Severely infected roses are stunted and do not flower well.</td>
<td>Avoid buying infected plants. Avoid injuring plant stems. Maintain vigor with fertilization and watering. Remove infected plants. No chemical controls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powdery Mildew <em>Sphaerotheca pannosa</em></td>
<td>White powdery growth on leaves, stems, buds or flowers causes curled and deformed tissues. More serious when nights are cool. Grows well even in dry weather.</td>
<td>Plant resistant varieties. Do not plant in shade or in moist areas. Improve air circulation. Use preventive fungicides if needed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Rose Diseases (cont’d)

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosette and Witches Broom</td>
<td>Rapid stem elongation is an early symptom. Canes have thick, thorny stems, short, deformed shoots and tiny red misshapen leaves. Shoots develop witches brooms and die within one to two years.</td>
<td>The exact cause of this disease is unknown and infected plants cannot be cured. To protect other plants, remove diseased plants. No chemical controls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rust Phragmidium sp.</td>
<td>Orange or rust colored growths on the leaf underside. Older leaves show symptoms first. Severe infections cause premature defoliation.</td>
<td>Plant resistant varieties and keep leaves dry. Plant roses in full sun areas that allows air to flow freely around the plants. Usually not serious in Utah. Use fungicides as a last resort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem or Cane Cankers Several fungi</td>
<td>Different fungi cause different cankers. Most are brown, oval shaped, sunken or shrieveled areas with small, black spore containing structures. If canker girdles canes, they die from that point.</td>
<td>Plant disease free material. Prune cankered stems well below the infection and destroy them. Protect the plants from winter damage. Keep plants vigorous with proper fertilization, watering and disease control. No chemical controls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aphid</td>
<td>Green, yellow, brown, white, purple or black soft-bodied insects, 1/16 to 1/8&quot; long. Aphids prefer new growth.</td>
<td>Curls and distorts leaves and flowers and yellow leaves. Honeydew makes plants sticky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katydid</td>
<td>Bright green, grasshopper-like insect with long antennae and hind legs and leaf-like wings.</td>
<td>Fond of rose leaves, petals and buds. Serious only when numerous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafcutter Bee</td>
<td>Grayish colored bees about the size of a honey bee.</td>
<td>Cut circular sections that are smaller than a dime out of leaves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafhopper</td>
<td>Adults are small (1/8&quot;), greenish; immature stages are similar. Winged adults jump when disturbed.</td>
<td>Stippled or yellow leaves from plant sap removal. Can defoliate plants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root Weevil</td>
<td>Shiny tan or black, long-snouted weevils, 1/8 to 2/5&quot; long. Enter home in winter.</td>
<td>Notches on leaves. Larvae feed on roots, weakening or killing plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Rose Sawfly</td>
<td>Primitive wasps with slug-like, brown or light green larvae about ¾” long.</td>
<td>Removes leaf surface leaving only the veins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slugs and Snails</td>
<td>Large mollusks. They are black, gray brown or yellow and covered with thick mucus.</td>
<td>Large, ragged holes in leaves or petals and slime trails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Carpenter Bee</td>
<td>Small bees, 0.18&quot; long and metallic blue or blue-green.</td>
<td>Burrow into the pith of cut stems to lay eggs. Damage occurs only in pruned stems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spider Mites</td>
<td>Very small (the size of a sugar grain), eight-leg, chlorophyll sucking arachnids.</td>
<td>Light numbers fleece foliage, heavier feeding causes bleached, dried and dropping leaves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrips</td>
<td>Very Small insects, less than 0.05” long. Color varies from reddish-yellow to mid-dark brow</td>
<td>Raspining mouthparts on thrips sandpaper and then suck up the plant juices. They damage buds and petals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation
with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Noelle E. Cockett, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State
University.