

Rose Classifications

In the world of the Rosarian, roses are divided into different classes based on several defining characteristics. Knowing these characteristics can be beneficial in helping rose enthusiasts to choose which ones will provide the most enjoyment.

Hybrid Tea Roses

The most popular rose by far, Hybrid Teas provide a tremendous range of color, fragrance, form, and disease resistance. Most roses that are given on Valentine's Day (or any other occasion for that matter) are Hybrid Tea roses. They are the most likely to produce a perfectly formed long-stemmed high centered bud that swirls open to reveal a many petaled beauty. While Hybrid Teas have beautiful flowers, they often lack scent and can be terribly prone to disease. Recent breeding has focused on increasing disease resistance and adding fragrance. **Grandiflora Roses** share most characteristics of Hybrid Teas, but have in addition taller stature and larger flowers.

Floribunda Roses

Flowers occur in clusters and are typically smaller than Hybrid Tea roses, but have an excellent range of color and fragrance and are suitable for cutting. Plants are usually rounder and more shrubby in shape, so they fit easier into a landscape scenario, rather than a rose garden. Disease resistance varies.

Heritage Roses

These are roses which have been in cultivation since 1850 or earlier. Moss roses, Musk, Bourbon, Alba and Damask roses are found in this group. Many of these are very large shrubs (think blackberry brush) with incredible old-rose scented flowers. Some will bloom only once per season for a few brilliant weeks in spring, and a few will repeat bloom. Pruning - Plan to have a pair of shears in one hand and a tome on old roses in the other!

English Roses

One of the newest races of roses, bred by [David Austin](#). These combine the very large, densely petalled look and rapturous heavy scent of antique roses with modern virtues of smaller sized bushes and repeat bloom. Many grow as the Hybrid Teas, upright and shrubby, but a few, like 'Graham Thomas', can grow to be very large and treated as a climbing rose. Sometimes growth is spindly the first couple of years, but eventually they form a strong plant.

Romantica Roses

Romantica roses are bred in France by the Meiland Rose Company. Many have the large, many-petaled form of old roses, and some are strongly scented, while others have little scent. Many colors are available, and some are shrubby, while others are rambling climbers.

Landscape Roses

These roses vary greatly in growth from ground cover roses (1-2 feet tall x 4-5 feet wide) to large shrub roses, over 6' tall. Flowers come in a wide range of colors and are typically small, occurring in clusters & requiring no deadheading. Landscape roses can easily take the place of another flowering shrub in the yard and are typically easier to take care of than other roses, requiring little pruning or spraying. Not to say that they are free of disease; this is Portland after all.

Rugosa Roses

Our hardiest and most disease resistant roses, with flowers that often smell strongly of cloves, and giant orange & red rose hips in fall. Foliage has a quilted texture and requires no spraying. The species *Rosa rugosa* grows as a vast multi-stemmed thicket, so it requires plenty of space, and is a perfect barrier. It's many relatives are better behaved and well-suited to city gardens.

Climbing Roses

Modern climbing roses are no more than very tall-growing versions of shrub roses. Most grow to about 8-12' tall, and require tying and support. They will not twine around a post on their own. Climbing roses that are grown only vertically will produce flowers only on the tips of their growth, so for best flower production, train upward and then outward.

Miniature Roses

These are like smaller versions of Hybrid Tea Roses. They are miniature in flower, leaf and overall size, although some can grow as tall as 3 feet. They tend to be a bit fussy in relation to disease & require attention. Small pots of miniature roses are sold frequently as houseplants and can be moved outdoors successfully in spring.

Species Roses

These are "wild" roses, as they occur in nature, not a hybrid. Northwest native roses are part of this group and are typically found with our Natives selection. Species roses have only one annual bloom and typically have good disease resistance.