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April 2011

A Rose is a Rose is a Rose ... NOT!



For many years roses were one of the gardener's greatest challenges, and one that often led to failure. And, of course, we took it personally. "Why can't I grow a rose? For heavens' sake, they've been around for eons!"

The root of the problem was the growing pains of mass production. All roses, whatever the brand, were grown in one region in California. The monocropping of this picky plant led to a devastating virus that infected most roses for many years, often not showing up until the rose was planted in the garden. Hence, the lousy reputation and dismissal of this amazing plant.





Due to diligent plantsmanship, the destruction of millions of plants, cleansing of the crop area and, most notably, massive improvement in their genetics, roses are making a huge comeback. Any gardener with a sunny spot and a yen for long bloom times and fragrance should consider adding roses to the garden. The next challenge is exactly what kind of rose do you want?

The most traditional is the Hybrid T. They produce long stems with sensational individual blooms. These are often the most fragrant and the very best for arrangements, and they will take the most care. The hybrid Ts we carry this year are:

**John F Kennedy • Fragrant Cloud
Memorial Day • Rose Peace**

Floribundas have multiple flower buds on each cane. They have great colors and are more vigorous plants than the Ts. Fragrance and long bloom time make the floribunda one of my favorites.

**Angel Face • Betty Boop • Cinco de Mayo
Julia Child • Hot Cocoa • Marmalade Skies • Mardi Gras**



Climbers are actually just plants that tend to grow taller than 5 feet. They need training to grow up a trellis. But what beats walking beneath a flowering rose canopy?

**4th of July • Golden Showers
Joseph's Coat • Valentine's Day**

The most advanced work has been done on the shrub roses, which are truly a class act. The Knockouts have swamped the market, and with good reason. They perform incredibly well with very little maintenance. I've seen them planted in a median in the middle of a city doing just great. We have pink and red Knockouts in stock.

Other trade names have had a hard time competing with the Knockout name. Our supplier, Bailey Nursery, has offered a two-year guarantee on their Easy Elegance roses, which we offer.

**Easy Elegance Grandma Blessing
Easy Elegance Yellow Brick Road
Easy Elegance Kiss Me**

Care and maintenance of roses

Plant roses in a sunny spot with very fertile soil and great drainage. Slight hillsides are preferred. Add plenty of organic matter and rosetone fertilizer to the soil and mix in well. Cut out any broken or dead canes. Water regularly once a day for a week, once a week for a month, and once a month for the growing season. Adjust for substantial rainfall.

Deadhead spent flowers and keep the area around the roses free of leaf litter and debris, which can harbor disease. Fungus is a problem in our mountain climate. Use Actinovate organic fungicide preventively every 10 days to two weeks. Japanese bean beetles can be a major problem. Chemical controls are harsh and rather ineffective. Remove bugs into a jar of gas, trim off buds and let the plant rest for the five to six weeks that the Japanese beetles are out.

**Be sure to look for our ads in the Hinton News,
the Beckley Register-Herald and the Mountain Messenger.
We'll be part of the Lewisburg Farmer's Market
on Saturdays from April 16 through July.
Our regular hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week, until July 5th.**

Groundworks Nursery is on the web!

All our plant varieties are listed on our website. Click through to [Groundworks Nursery](#) on the web to see what's available.

Forward to a Friend

Do you know someone who wants to improve and beautify their lawn and garden? Please forward this newsletter!

Do you know someone who wants to improve and beautify their lawn and garden? Please let them know about our services. We are currently accepting new clients for the 2024 season. We are looking for clients who are interested in lawn care, fertilization, and pest control. We are also looking for clients who are interested in garden maintenance and landscaping. We are currently accepting new clients for the 2024 season. We are looking for clients who are interested in lawn care, fertilization, and pest control. We are also looking for clients who are interested in garden maintenance and landscaping.

Look for the next issue of eGleanings in a month or so. We look forward to your visits throughout the growing season.
We're located along the Greenbrier River east of Hinton, WV, on Route 3.
Questions? Comments? Call us at 304.466.4440.

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