

Special EarthKind™ Roses

Begun as a scientific experiment by Texas A&M University in 1996 under the direction of Dr. Steve George, the EarthKind™ Rose Program has gained great respect and recognition in Texas. In 2002 at the conclusion of the first five-year study 11 cultivars were designated as EarthKind™ Roses. By 2008, through additional rigorous study, the list of EarthKind™ roses had increased to a total of 19 cultivars. Additionally there is now an annual designation of a special EarthKind™ Rose of the Year. Here are the roses that have been so honored:

2008—**Madame Antoine Mari** is a French rose that appears to be quite at home in Texas. Its camellia-like pale pink blooms are double, full and large with particularly beautiful buds. The 3-5 foot shrub works well in the landscape or in a container.

2007—**Perle D'Or**, an old garden rose, is very drought tolerant and healthy and produces highly fragrant, peachy white blooms from spring until fall. This small shrub works well in containers, but will not tolerate "wet feet" or highly saline irrigation water. Plant near your patio to enjoy the outstanding fragrance.

2006—**Carefree Beauty**, also known as Katy Road Pink, produces successive flushes of semi-double blossoms in a deep, rich pink color. Developed by Dr. Griffith Buck at Iowa State University and introduced in 1977, this rose is moderately fragrant and produces large orange hips.

2005—**Mutabilis** is a large shrub that is extremely attractive in the landscape and easy to grow. Blooms appear as a soft yellow color, then turn pink and finally crimson. It is sometimes called the butterfly rose as the blooms look like butterflies hovering about the bush.

2004—**KnockOut** is every gardener's new favorite rose because it is easy to grow and produces a profusion of cherry-red blooms from spring until frost. It is highly resistant to disease and tolerant of a wide variety of growing conditions.

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