Growing Roses in South Texas - Being Earth-Kind

ROSES ON THEIR OWN ROOTS

Compiled by Marie Graham

W. C. Welch – Old Rose Collectors consider 75 years as an Antique “Old Rose”

American Rose Society considers Old Roses introduced before 1867

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WHAT'S (EK) EARTHKIND® LANDSCAPING

USES RESEARCH-PROVEN TECHNIQUES

OBJECTIVE IS TO COMBINE THE BEST OF ORGANIC & TRADITIONAL GARDENING

ENCOURAGES:

1. WATER CONSERVATION
2. LANDSCAPING FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION
3. REDUCTION OF FERTILIZER & PESTICIDE USE
4. REDUCTION OF YARD WASTES ENTERING LANDFILLS

TIPS FOR GROWING ROSES

- EK Research by Texas AgriLife Extension started in 1990
- EK Rules included: must grow on own roots, no deadheading, minimal pruning, reduced watering schedule, winter hardy without protection, tolerant of salt, soil, wide range of pH values, heat, drought, wind, rabbit injury, no applications of fungicides, insecticides, miticides or commercial fertilizer.
  - 1. LOCATION/PLANTING SITE
  - 2. BED PREPARATION
  - 3. MAINTENANCE
- SHORT-TERM CARE AFTER 8 WEEKS
- LONG-TERM CARE
- PROPAGATION (own roots)
- THINGS TO CONSIDER
- SOME COMPANION PLANTS FOR A ROSE BED
- PICTURED ROSES
- HIGHLIGHTS OF THOSE ROSES
- WEBSITE, BOOK, DR. WELCH'S TALKS TO Master Gardeners - REFERENCES

LOCATION / PLANTING SITE

- PLANT IN FULL, DIRECT SUNLIGHT 8+ Hours/Day
- TO GET GOOD AIR MOVEMENT OVER LEAVES (NOT TOO CLOSE TOGETHER OR PLANTED IN ENCLOSED AREAS)
- AT FULL MATURITY, AT LEAST 1 FOOT OF OPEN SPACE IN ALL DIRECTIONS

BED PREPARATION

- ADEQUATE BALANCE OF AERATION, DRAINAGE, & WATER-HOLDING CHARACTERISTICS
- SANDY/LOAM SOIL - USE 3 inches OF PLANT-DERIVED COMPOST.
- CLAY SOIL – LIKE ABOVE, PLUS 3 more inches OF COMPOST OR 1-time EXPANDED SHALE (to improve aeration & drainage). Mix well. Create a higher center promoting drainage for rose.
- YEAR ROUND 3-inch LAYER OF ORGANIC MULCH! (not too close to base)
  - conserves water,
  - reduces weeds & soil-borne plant diseases,
  - moderates soil temperatures,
  - provides nutrients as it decomposes.

MAINTENANCE

- WATER IF SOIL DRY IN ROOT ZONE TO a DEPTH of 1 inch
- TOO MUCH WATERING promotes ROOT DISEASE
- NO SPRINKLER IRRIGATION, DRIP IRRIGATION is BEST.
- IF SALTY WATER, DRIP IRRIGATE. ELIMINATES FOLIAGE BURNS
- REMOVE DEAD, DISEASED, OR BROKEN STEMS
- REPLENISH MULCH. MAINTAIN 3-inch LAYER (nutrients/health)
- LOAM OR CLAY SOIL - FOLLOWING ALL EK PRACTICES MEANS FERTILIZERS NOT REQUIRED (Environmental Victory)

SHORT-TERM CARE AFTER 8 WEEKS

- Roots should have formed. If not, leave in original container.
- Never allow plant to dry out.
- Even if planted in ground, do not disturb roots.
- If containerized and root bound, never size up the pot more than 2 inches. Use a good potting mix in the new container. Do not disturb roots.
- If plant loses all it leaves & stem does not turn brown, there is still hope it will survive.
- Plant a container rose in ground so base remains at same level or slightly deeper.

LONG-TERM CARE

- Compost can supply adequate nutrients
- Blood meal is a good organic fertilizer
- Never prune more than a third of the plant - cut directly above a bud facing out from the center of the plant
- If soil is dry down to 2 inches, apply 2 or 3 gallons of water.
- Mulch with organic products: pine bark, cypress bark, & compost
- Mulching benefits
  - reduces disease & weeds
  - conserves water
  - keeps soil temperature cooler in summer and warmer in winter

PROPAGATION (own roots)

50-75% Success Rate

- Make 45 degree 6-8” cutting on recent blooming stem. Insert in water.
- Protect from direct sunlight, extreme heat & cold.
- Remove leaves on lower half & any flowers, buds, or hips. More success in cooler months. Slightly moisten soil mix before sticking cutting.
- To sand, add 1/4-1/3 peat moss + composted pine bark.
- Or 50% sand & 50% sphagnum peat moss
- Or 50% perlite & 50% potting soil
- Rooting hormone not necessary.
- Firm soil around stem. Water. Keep cuttings moist to form roots. Label with rose’s name & date struck. Never allow to dry out. Roots form in 6-8 weeks
- Vulnerable for first year. Don’t fertilize until in ground awhile.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- CHOOSE A ROSE THAT FITS AVAILABLE SPACE.
- WATER BEFORE A FREEZE. Warning: CERAMIC CONTAINERS MAY BURST.
- CAN PROTECT ROSES IF TEMPERATURE DROPS BELOW FREEZING.
  - MOUND SOIL OR COMPOST OVER ROSE BASE. REMOVE AFTER IT PASSES.
- IF FERTILIZING - Mid-MARCH & Early-OCTOBER is BEST.
- MORNING - BEST WATERING TIME BECAUSE WET LEAVES DRY SOONER.
- CLAY SOIL - ROSES PERFORM THEIR BEST.
- EVENING - BEST TIME TO CUT FLOWERS FOR AN ARRANGEMENT.
- REMOVE HIPS IF WANT MORE FLOWERS.
- FIRST BLOOMING SEASON, RESIST URGE TO PRUNE.
- WINDY SITES AFFECT GOOD FLOWERS & FOLIAGE.
- GOOD DRAINAGE – USE RAISED BEDS.
- SUCCESS in PROPAGATION: BETTER from NOVEMBER thru FEBRUARY

Some Companion Plants for a Rose Bed

Abelia (Edward Goucher)
Artemesia
Daylilies
Hardy Hibiscus
Mealy Cup Sage
Mexican Bush Sage
Mexican Mint Feathergrass
Mexican Mint Marigold
Petunias
Purple Fountain Grass
Rosemary
Sedum
Spring Bulbs
Spiraea

SELECT 3-5 TYPES OF HERBS, ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, EVERGREEN SHRUBS, OR SMALL ORNAMENTAL TREES.

PLANT IN DRIFTS (Reds with Pinks) (Yellow with Apricot) …

SELECT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE WITH BUNCHING GROWTH.

AGGRESSIVE GROWERS & RESEEDERS CAN BECOME HIGH MAINTENANCE.

A VARIETY OF PLANT SPECIES WITHIN THE BED, REDUCES PEST PROBLEMS.

GOAL – REDUCE PRUNING OF ROSES, SO CONSIDER MATURE SIZE OF THE ROSE.

Pictured Roses

Double Knock-Out

Belinda’s Dream

Archduke Charles

Mrs. Dudley Cross

Climbing Pinkie

Grandma’s Yellow Rose

Souvenir de St. Anne’s

Craimoisi Superieur

Yellow Lady Banks

Blumenschmidt

Rose de Rescht

Mutabilis

Louis Philippe

Zephirine Drouhin

Marie Pavie

Aimee Vibert

Dame de Coeur

La Marne

Highway 290 Pink Buttons

Climbing Don Juan

Peggy Martin

DOUBLE KNOCK OUT®

2025 EARTHKIND® SHRUB

6 FT. X 6 FT.

BLOOMS SPRING - FALL

NO FRAGRANCE

LONG-LASTING BLOOMS

RESISTANT TO BLACK SPOT

FOUND IN VEG - DAYLILIES



BELINDA’S DREAM
Shrub Rose

INTRODUCED IN 1992

TEXAS SUPERSTAR®

FIRST EARTH-KIND® AWARD

EVERBLOOMING, LARGE FLOWERS

MODERATE FRAGRANCE

IN VEG, TEXAS SUPERSTAR AREA



ARCHDUKE CHARLES
China Class

INTRODUCED PRIOR TO 1837

SOLID RED IN SUMMER

EVERBLOOMING

GREAT AS A MEDIUM HEDGE

IN VEG, ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



MRS. DUDLEY CROSS
Class - Tea

INTRODUCED IN 1907

NEARLY THORNLESS

FRAGRANT, LARGE BLOOMS, EVERBLOOMING

MAKES A GREAT CUT FLOWER ESPECIALLY IN DECEMBER

IN VEG, ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



CLIMBING PINKIE
Polyantha - Class

INTRODUCED IN 1952

EARTHKIND® AWARD

CLIMBING POLYANTHA OR AS A SHRUB

TOLERATES POOR SOIL

NEARLY THORNLESS

IN VEG ENTRANCE



GRANDMA'S YELLOW ROSE

Rosa 'Nacogdoches'

Class - Hybrid Tea

(Thrives – TX Heat)

EARTHKIND® ROSE AWARD

TEXAS SUPERSTAR®

4-5 FT x 3-4 FT

BLOOMS SPRING TO FROST

SPICY FRAGRANCE

IN VEG, SUPERSTAR AREA



Souvenir de St. Anne's
Class - Bourbon
(Class named after French Island)

INTRODUCED IN 1950

2009 EARTHKIND® ROSE OF YEAR

A FEW HIPS, BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

VERY FRAGRANT

IN VEG, ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



HERITAGE™
Class – Shrub

INTRODUCED 1983 by David Austin

NEARLY THORNLESS

BLOOMS IN FLUSHES

SPICY SCENT

IN VEG, ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



CRAMOISI SUPERIEUR

Class - China

INTRODUCED IN 1832

NEARLY EVERBLOOMING

SHRUB & CLIMBER FORMS

(BOTH IN VEG)

IN VEG, ROSE ARBOR &
ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



YELLOW LADY BANKS
Species Rose

ENGLAND INTRODUCED - 1824

FRAGRANT, 10 – 20 FT SPREAD

SPRING BLOOMING CLIMBER

PRUNE ONLY RIGHT AFTER IT FINISHES BLOOMING

NOT FOUND IN VEG



BLUMENSCHMIDT
Class - Tea
(China Heritage & Fragrance)

INTRODUCED IN 1906

GREEN EYE

TURNS PINK AS AGES

IN VEG, ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



ROSE de RESCHT
Class – Hybrid Perpetuals

UNKNOWN INTRODUCTION

VERY FRAGRANT

REBLOOMS WELL

PROPAGATES EASILY

IN VEG, ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



MUTABILIS

Class - China

INTRODUCED PRIOR TO 1896

OPENS YELLOW, TURNS PINK, & FINALLY CRIMSON

CAN REACH 7 FT X 7 FT

IN VEG, ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



LOUIS PHILIPPE
(loo-wee fee-leep)
Class- China

Introduced in 1834

3 ft – 5 ft tall

Occasional white streak

In VEG, near Rose Arbor



ZEPHIRINE DROUHIN
Class - Bourbon
(Good cold hardiness)

Introduced – 1868

Blooms Spring & some in Fall

Highly fragrant

Beautiful form

In VEG Antique Rose Section



MARIE PAVIE
Polyantha Class

INTRODUCED IN 1888

EVERBLOOMING

INTENSELY FRAGRANT

MEDIUM SHRUB

IN VEG ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



AIMEE VIBERT
(ehm MAY vee BEHR)

INTRODUCED IN 1828

NOISETTE CLASS ORIGINATED IN USA

VIGOROUS REPEATING CLIMBER

CLUSTERS OF PINK BUDS OPEN WHITE

FRAGRANT

IN VEG ROSE ARBOR



DAME de COUER

Class- Hybrid Tea

INTRODUCED IN 1958

REPEAT BLOOMER

VERY FRAGRANT

Peace crossed with Independence

NOT CURRENTLY FOUND in VEG



LA MARNE
Polyantha Class
(low borders, mass planting, containers)

INTRODUCED IN 1915

EVERBLOOMING

FRAGRANT MEDIUM SHRUB

MAKES NICE HEDGE

IN VEG ANTIQUE ROSE SECTION



HWY 290 PINK BUTTONS

Found Rose

FOUND ACROSS Central & South Texas

BLOOMS Late Spring - Fall

1-3 FEET TALL

GREAT IN BORDERS OR POTTED

In VEG, Antique Rose section



Climbing Don Juan

Class – Hybrid Tea

Introduced in 1958

Fragrant

No Hips

Climbs to 15 feet

May take 3 years before it blooms

Found in VEG on Rose Arbor



Peggy Martin

Climbing Rose

Known as Hurricane Katrina Rose

12-15+ feet tall

Not fragrant

Blooms Spring, reblooms in Fall

Thornless, but has prickles

May bloom white its 1st year

In VEG 2 locations: Rose Arbor & side of Greenhouse



Website, Books, Dr. Welch's talks (several years) to Master Gardeners, & Personal Experience were Referenced

Antique Roses for the South by William C. Welch

Perennial Garden Color by Willliam C. Welch

Heirloom Gardening in the South by William C. Welch and Greg Grant

The Rose Rustlers by Greg Grant & William C. Welch

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindroses/about/

2001 Intern Class Visit to Montgomery County Extension

MY GREAT-NIECE

SMELLING A ROSE

HAPPY

GARDENING !

