

# Earth-Kind® Roses



*A Somervell County Master Gardener Association Publication*

## About Earth-Kind® Roses

Earth-Kind® is an important designation given to select roses by the Texas A&M University Agriculture program. Earth-Kind® Roses have been through rigorous state-wide testing and evaluation by a team of horticultural experts and found to possess the high level of landscape performance and outstanding disease and insect tolerance/resistance required for this special designation. Once established, these roses have tremendous heat and drought tolerance.

Earth-Kind® Roses are among the most thoroughly tested and environmentally responsible plants for use in Texas landscapes. These roses do very well in almost any soil type, from the well-drained acid sands of East Texas to the poorly aerated, highly alkaline clays of Central and Southwest Texas. In most soils, these roses do not need commercial synthetic or organic fertilizers with the correct compost and mulch approach to soil management.



*Belinda's Dream*

Earth-Kind® Roses are certainly not immune to pest problems. However, their tolerance to pests is so great that they rarely require the use of chemical pesticides.

## Choosing Your Earth-Kind® Roses

When deciding which Earth-Kind® Rose you want to plant, there are several things to consider. The most obvious and probably most important to most people would be color. Earth-Kind® Roses come in all shades of whites, pinks, reds, yellows, apricots and some with multiple colors. This is strictly a

personal choice.

Mature size of the rose is also a large deciding factor. Earth-Kind® Roses may be small shrubs barely reaching 3' in mature height, all the way to 10' tall climbing roses.

Fragrance and bloom type may also be used as selection criteria.

Each Earth-Kind® Rose varies in degree of fragrance and whether they are single or double blooming. For more specific information on the different varieties of Earth-Kind® Roses, visit:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/roses/varieties/>

### Earth-Kind®

Earth-Kind® uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum gardening and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting our environment.

The objective of Earth-Kind® is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a new horticultural system based on real-world effectiveness and environmental responsibility.

### Principal goals of Earth-Kind® include

- Water Conservation
- Landscaping for energy conservation
- Safe use and handling of fertilizers and pesticides
- Reduction of yard wastes entering landfills

As your interest and knowledge in these areas grows you will have an increased awareness of the many programs, practices and activities that are Earth-Kind®. Working together we can make a difference in conserving and protecting our valuable natural resources.

### For more information

see our Web site:

[somervellmastergardeners.org](http://somervellmastergardeners.org)



## Planting Site:

Just as in real estate, the most important factor in choosing a home for your Earth-Kind® Roses is location, location, location.

First and foremost, the roses need to be planted in locations where they receive direct sunlight for eight hours or more each day.

They need to be in a location with plenty of room. Plant for mature

plant size and leave room for plenty of air circulation. (i.e. do not plant in enclosed areas like courtyards or small backyards which are ringed by 8' fences).

And lastly, they need to be in a location with no overhead irrigation during the evening hours or at night.



*Mutabilis*

The 3" blooms open pale yellow in color and slowly change to shades of pink and eventually crimson.

## Bed Preparation:

Roses really respond to well-drained soils. Thus, here are the bed preparation recommendations for the two major soil types:



*Fully finished compost.*

Sandy and loam soils: Incorporate 3-6 inches of organic matter such as compost.

Clay soils: Incorporate 3 inches of organic matter (e.g. compost) and 3 inches of expanded shale. Plant on raised beds that are at

least 4-6 inches above the surrounding soil.

Don't plant too deep---dig the hole only as deep as the root system is tall....The top of the rootball, once planted, should be at the same level as it was grown in the pot.

## Maintenance:

Regardless of soil type, Earth-Kind® Roses need to be protected year-round with a layer of organic mulch (e.g. bark mulch from your local landfill, tree leaves) 3-4 inches thick. In addition to its many other benefits, this "living mulch" will act as a super-slow-release, all-natural fertilizer.



*Sea Foam*

Generally referred to as a climber, this selection also has broad use as a ground-cover.

In areas of the state plagued by salty irrigation water, it is very important to drip irrigate roses. Salty water applied to the leaves can burn the foliage badly.

Roses which have received the Earth-Kind® designation do not require regular pruning. If the bushes grow outside their bounds, a light

shaping is all that is necessary. We do recommend that you remove any dead wood as it develops. Research identified all of these Earth-Kind® Roses as self-deadheading (meaning they drop spent blooms on their own), however like all repeat-blooming roses, the bushes will set new buds faster if the spent blooms are removed. Depending on the cultivar, allowing the bushes to self-deadhead adds an additional 1 to 2 weeks to the bloom cycle.

## ***Fertilization:***

Earth-Kind® Roses planted with the addition of compost and mulched as recommended above do not need additional fertilizer. They will, however, respond well to the application of fertilizers, especially nitrogen.

If this is your choice, fertilize in March, June and lightly in late August. For the March and June

feedings, utilize fertilizers in which at least half of the nitrogen is in the slow release or slowly available form. In late August, apply fertilizers in which the nitrogen is readily available.

Base your selection of fertilizer analysis on the results of a soil test. For assistance in obtaining a soil test kit, contact the Somervell

County Extension Office, 254-897-2809.



*Blood Meal is an excellent organic source of nitrogen.*

## ***Earth-Kind® Rose Advisory Committee:***



The Somervell County Master Gardeners have set up an Earth-Kind® Rose Advisory Committee that is available to help local businesses and individuals with the selection of Earth-Kind® Roses. Though not landscape architects, this group can offer advice on choosing the right roses for the

right location and on proper planting techniques that will give these roses the best chance for outstanding performance that brought them the Earth-Kind® designation.

If you would like this group to visit with you, please call the Somervell County Extension Office, 254-897-2809 to set up a meeting.

## ***Somervell County Master Gardeners Association***

Somervell County AgriLife Extension  
P. O. Box 895  
Glen Rose, TX 76043  
<http://www.somervellmastergardeners.org>

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Fax: 254-897-9323  
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# Project 2010 Rosebush - ORDER FORM

A joint venture by  
**Somervell County/Glen Rose Chamber of Commerce &  
 Somervell County Master Gardeners Association**

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/roses/varieties/>

Rose Name	Bloom Color	Growth Habit	Price	# Order	Total
Marie Daly	Pink	Dwarf Shrub	\$12		
The Fairy	Light Pink	Dwarf Shrub	\$12		
Caldwell Pink	Lilac Pink	Small Shrub	\$12		
Perle d'Or	Apricot Yellow	Small Shrub	\$12		
Belinda's Dream	Pink	Med Shrub	\$12		
Carefree Beauty	Pink	Med Shrub	\$12		
Ducher	Pure White	Med Shrub	\$12		
Duchesse de Brabant	Rose Pink	Med Shrub	\$12		
Else Poulson	Pink	Med Shrub	\$12		
Georgetown Tea	Pink Blend	Med Shrub	\$12		
Knock Out®	Cherry Red	Med Shrub	\$12		
Cecile Brunner	Pink	Med Shrub	\$12		
La Marne	Pink/white	Med Shrub	\$12		
Mme. Antoine Mari	Pink Blend	Med Shrub	\$12		
Souvenir de St. Anne's	Light Pink	Med Shrub	\$12		
Spice	Blush Pink	Med Shrub	\$12		
Mutabilis	Yel/Pink/Orange	Lg Shrub	\$12		
Climbing Pinkie	Rose Pink	Climber	\$12		
Sea Foam	Creamy White	Climber	\$12		
New Dawn	Blush Pink	Climber	\$12		
Reve d'Or	Buff Yellow w/Apricot	Climber	\$12		
				Total	
				Tax 8.25%	
				<b>Total Order</b>	

All roses are in 1 gallon containers.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to GRCC (Glen Rose Chamber of Commerce)

Mail order form and payment to GR Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 605, Glen Rose, TX 76043