

Rose Classification Descriptions

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Bourbon: Bourbon roses produce large, full, cupped and often quartered blooms on a strong and vigorous growing bush. The bush may be shrubby or have long canes like a climber with glossy foliage. The blooms usually have a rich color and are very fragrant. Bourbon roses are repeat flowering with a strong profuse bloom in spring, followed by intermittent repeat blooms into fall. Most are hardy in zones 6-9.

China: China roses are generally small compact bushes with dense, twiggy light green foliage. Most are fragrant, heavy bloomers and very disease resistant. They are ideal for small spots in the garden and can be used as hedges, specimen plants, borders, or container plants. They come in a wide range of colors and are among the hardiest and best of Old Garden Roses for warmer climates. Most are hardy in zones 7-11.

Climbing Rose: Climbing roses make shoots of considerable length, suitable for training over a fence or trellis. They also may be formed into a weeping shrub. Most are hardy in zones 5-9.

Floribunda: Floribunda roses are compact bushes that bloom in clusters. They are used as hedges, mass plantings or may be planted in containers as a specimen plant. Floribunda roses have an excellent repeat bloom. Most are hardy in zones 6-9.

Grandiflora: Grandifloras are large bushes that produce large flowers on long stems with one or multiple flowers per stem. They are ideal as borders, hedges, and specimen plants. Most are hardy in zones 5-9.

Hybrid Musk: Hybrid Musk roses are vigorous with profuse blooms in arching clusters. They have beautiful foliage and make excellent garden scrubs or small climbers. These roses repeat bloom and will tolerate more shade than most varieties of roses. Most are hardy in zones 6-9.

Hybrid Perpetual: Hybrid Perpetual roses produce very large, fully double blooms on a stiff and leggy bush with sparse foliage. Flowering is recurrent, although the second flowering is less vigorous. These roses have a heavy rose fragrance, good disease resistance, and good tolerance to heat and cold. Most are hardy in zones 4-9.

Hybrid Tea: Hybrid Teas have large blooms on strong stems that make excellent cut flowers. These roses are suitable for beds, borders, and in some cases, hedges. They are usually very fragrant. Hardiness varies with the different varieties. Most are hardy in zones 5-9.

Miniature Roses: Miniatures are naturally dwarf roses and very abundant bloomers. These plants generally grow from 18 to 24 inches with the exception of the micro-minis, which generally range from 8 to 18 inches in height. Miniatures are rapidly increasing in popularity because of their beauty and versatility in adapting to almost any landscape situation. They may be used as borders, filler plants, container plants or grown in hanging baskets. Most are hardy in zones 5-10.

Noisette: Noisettes are vigorous climbers with small to medium size fragrant flowers blooming in clusters. The foliage is light green and glossy. Most varieties have a good repeat bloom and are excellent roses for arbors, fences, and trellis plantings. Most are hardy in zones 7-10.

Old Garden Rose: Commonly called Antique Roses. An Old Garden Rose is any rose of or belonging to a class prior to 1867. These roses are very disease resistant and hardy. They come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Hardiness varies with variety.

Polyantha: Polyantha roses are dwarf, low growing, compact bushes that have small semi-double or double flowers appearing in clusters. They bloom continuously through the season and make excellent low hedges, mass planting or container plants. These roses are hardy, disease resistant and usually fragrant. Most are hardy in zones 5-10.

Shrub: Shrub roses are more informal in their growth habit. The size, shape and habit vary according to the variety. In general, they are larger and leafier than hybrid teas and floribundas. In the landscape, they can be used in beds, as part of a garden border or as an individual specimen. Hardiness varies, but most are hardy in zones 4-9.

Species: A term loosely used for any wild rose. Species roses grow wild in nature and are very disease resistant and usually bloom only in the spring with good hip production after bloom. Hardiness varies with variety.

Tea: Tea roses have pointed buds and are born on slender, weak stems. These disease resistant roses repeat bloom well through the growing season and have a nice tea fragrance. Most are hardy in zones 7-10.