

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

Coming Up Roses

"I don't know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice." – Roland A. Browne



A rose garden can have various types and colors of roses.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Roses are the most popular bloomers in the world with a long and colorful history as symbols of love, war, beauty, friendship and politics. According to fossil evidence, the majestic rose is older than humankind, dating to over 35 million years ago. The cultivation of garden roses most likely began in China over 5,000 years ago. Throughout the Northern Hemisphere, the genus *Rosa* includes 150 species. Roses were used for celebrations, perfume, medicine, fashion and décor.

The Persians considered the rose a representation of love, the Romans planted extensive public rose gardens, the Greeks wrote about roses, and pagan goddesses were associated with this fragrant flower. During the 15th century, "The War of the Roses" saw the House of York with its white rose fighting against the red rose House of Lancaster for control of England. In France, Napoleon's wife Josephine planted an extensive rose collection at Chateau de Maimason which is where the famed illustrator, Pierre Joseph Redoute, completed what is considered one of the finest records of botanical illustration with his watercolor collection, "Les Rose."

Contrary to popular belief, roses are extremely

easy to grow with relatively low maintenance and rewards that far outweigh any efforts on their behalf. This is the time of year when heavy pruning is in order as well as planting bare root specimens.

Let's look at the different kinds of roses and how to care for them:

Floribunda

These versatile sun-loving shrubs have the most blossoms of the hybrid teas setting clusters of three to 15 blossoms per stem.

Hybrid Tea

Ideal for cutting, these tall, striking long-stemmed roses are the ones you will find in florist bouquets. Hybrid teas have only one flower per stem with many varieties revealing a lovely rose fragrance.

Grandiflora

These repeat bloomers are a cross between a floribunda and a hybrid tea. Growing up to six feet tall, these elegant roses feature clusters on shorter stems.

Shrub and Carpet

Disease resistant, compact growth, impressive clusters with little to no maintenance makes these a great selection for hillsides. These landscape roses spread growing

close to the ground, which is why they are often referred to as "carpet roses." Whack them off at the end of the season for even more blooms in the months to come.

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A bouquet of perfect red hybrid teas.



Salmon and orange-hued roses are welcome gifts any time of year.



A row of peach floribundas is a focal point of this landscape.