

LANDSCAPE DESIGN WITH ROSES

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Roses come in every size, shape, color and texture. Your task is to place them in your garden so that each can grow to its potential and not interfere with the growth of other plants or in the visible arrangement of the garden. Garden design using roses as the foundation plant is only limited by space, available sunlight and imagination. With more than 100,000 different roses commercially available picking the right rose for the desired landscape application may seem an overwhelming task. For the most part, these recommendations are based on performance evaluations of the identified cultivars in the National Earth-Kind® Rose Research Program funded by the Houston Rose Society. I have focused recommendations on the roses that have proven to be extremely hardy, require minimal maintenance and have a high floral impact in the landscape.

ROSES FOR SPECIAL LANDSCAPE APPLICATIONS

Accent & Stand-Alone Roses

Allister Stella Gray	Else Poulsen	Ole
Antoine Rivoire	Folksinger	Penelope
April Moon	Freckles	Perle d'Or
Barn Dance	Georgetown Tea	Pink Double Knock Out
Belinda's Dream	Griff's Red	Pink Knock Out
Blushing Knock Out	Home Run	Pink Home Run
Bon Silene	Jean Bach Sisley	Polonaise
Caldwell Pink	Katy Girl	Prairie Breeze
Carefree Beauty	Knock Out	Quietness
Carefree Marvel	Lena	Sea Foam
Cecile Brunner (shrub)	La Marne	Seminole Wind
Chireno	Lamarque	Souvenir de St. Anne's
Chuckles	Marie Daly	Spice
Country Dancer	Marie Pavie	Square Dancer
Deanna	McClinton Tea	Super Hero
Double Knock Out	Mme. Antoine Mari	Sven
Ducher	Monsieur Tillier	The Fairy
Duchesse de Brabant	Mrs. Dudley Cross	Winter Sunset
Earth Song	Mutabilis	
Elizabeth of Goshen	My Girl	

Low Hedges

Cinderella	Martha Gonzales	Souvenir de St. Anne's
Home Run	Petite Pink Scotch	Summer Wind
Marie Daly	Pink Home Run	
Marie Pavie	Roulettii	

Medium Hedges

Archduke Charles	Double Knock Out	McClinton Tea
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Belinda's Dream
Blushing Knock Out
Bon Silene
Caldwell Pink
Carefree Beauty
Cecil Brunner
Mme. Antoine Mari
Cramoisi Superieur

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Ducher
Duchesse de Brabant
Else Poulsen
Gruss an' Aachen
Isabella Sprunt
Katy Girl
Knock Out
La Marne
Louis Philippe

Mrs. Dudley Cross
Perle d'Or
Pink Knock Out
Pink Double Knock Out
Prairie Breeze
Spice
Winter Sunset

Tall Hedges

Ballerina
Cameron Bohls
Chireno

Monsieur Tillier
Mutabilis
Sally Holmes

Mannerly Climbers

Buff Beauty
Climbing Cecile Brunner
Climbing Pinkie

Cornelia
Crepuscule
Dublin Bay

Vigorous Climbers

The Cherokee Rose
Fortuniana
Lady Banks (white or yellow)
Lamarque

New Dawn
Peggy Martin
Reve d'Or

Pillars, Pergolas, Gazebos and Posts

Climbing Cecile Brunner
Cornelia
Dublin Bay
Fortuniana

Lady Banks (white or yellow)
New Dawn
Peggy Martin
Reve d'Or

Roses Than Can be Pruned to Grow as Trees

Allister Stella Gray
Cameron Bohls

Chireno
Mutabilis

Roses with a Rounded Mounding Habit

Chuckles
Country Dancer
Carefree Marvel

Deanna
Square Dancer

Unique Conversation Pieces

The Green Rose
The Swamp Rose

Ground Covers & Prostrate Roses

There are more roses with a prostrate horizontal growth habit than ones that are truly ground-huggers. Some roses may be marketed as ground covers, but in actuality the plants, once mature, are 4 feet tall and 8 feet wide. It is important to identify the variety's true mature size (not by the distributor's marketing material) when making your selection.

Ground Covers

The Drift Rose series (Conard-Pyle) (red, pink, apricot, coral, yellow/cream)

The Vigorosa series (Kordes) (white, raspberry, salmon, mauve, yellow). These roses also make excellent hanging baskets.

A large mass of ground cover roses in combination with a high-pruned specimen tree or sculpture makes a striking focal point. Ground cover roses placed near water create colorful patterned edges without making the water inaccessible.

Prostrate Roses

Crepuscule	Seminole Wind (Rosarium Uetersen)
Deanna	Sea Foam
Lamarque	The Fairy

Roses with a prostrate growth habit can be used to cascade over a wall or fence and can be a beautiful landscape application when allowed to scramble over rocks

Areas with Light Dappled Shade

"Dappled" shade is the kind of shade you get from trees with sparse leaves or high branches. It is bright with light but not in full-direct sunlight. For example, if you have an open area of turf with one single tree in the full direct sun, at certain times of day, the tree's canopy will create a pattern of shade with open patches of sunlight and shady imprints of the tree's leaves on the ground. That is light dappled shade. The area under the canopy of a 50 foot tall Southern Live Oak would be considered "dense" shade which is not conducive to successful rose growing. Roses need at least 6 (preferably 8) hours of full direct sunlight for optimum plant growth and bloom production. Restrictions of sunlight lead to incremental increases in the incidence of disease. Roses that have exhibited tolerance to light dappled shade conditions are:

Ballerina	Jaune Desprez	Pink Knock Out
Cecile Brunner (shrub)	Knock Out	Summer Wind
Cornelia	New Dawn	
Country Dancer	Penelope	



An example of light dappled shade

Tolerant of Saline Irrigation Water

Carefree Beauty
Climbing Pinkie
Knock Out

Lamarque
Mme. Antoine Mari
Marie Daly

Mutabilis
New Dawn

Roses That Produce Hips

Caldwell Pink
Carefree Beauty

Chuckles
Penelope

Prairie Breeze
Summer Wind

Patio Containers / Color Bowls

Cinderella
Chuckles
Drift Roses (any in the series)

Roulettii (Hwy 290 Pink Buttons)
The Fairy
Veranda Roses (any in the series)

With Trees as Supporting Structure. Training a rose to grow into a tree can create a lovely focal point in a landscape. A deciduous tree is best as it will have no leaves for part of the year – allowing more sunlight to the rose during the spring blooming period. The rose should be planted 6 to 8 feet away from the tree and on south side of the tree to ensure that the rose and the tree are not in competition with one another. Roses for this landscape application would be:

Cherokee Rose (*rosa laevigata*)
Fortuniana (*rosa fortuniana*)

Lady Banks (*rosa banksia* – white or yellow)

Roses with Exceptional Fragrance

Allister Stella Gray
Buff Beauty
Dublin Bay
Duchesse de Brabant

Gruss an' Aachen
Lamarque
Marie Pavie
McClinton Tea

Quietness
Souvenir de St. Anne's
Spice
Summer Wind

Thornless or Nearly Thornless

Barn Dance
Climbing Pinkie
Country Dancer
Jefferson Rose

La Marne
Lady Banks (white/yellow)
Marie Daly
Mrs. Dudley Cross

Penelope
Reve d'Or



ROSES BY COLOR PALETTE

Red and Red-Pinks

Archduke Charles
Cameron Bohls
Chireno (raspberry)
Cramoisi Superieur
Double Knock Out
Dublin Bay

Griff's Red
Home Run
Louis Philippe
Martha Gonzales
My Girl
Knock Out

Pink Home Run
Polonaise
Red Drift
Super Hero
Square Dancer

Pinks

Antoine Riviore
Ballerina
Barn Dance
Belinda's Dream
Blushing Knock Out
Bon Silene
Caldwell Pink
Carefree Beauty
Cecile Brunner
Chuckles
Cinderella
Climbing Pinkie
Country Dancer
Deanna (pink / white stripe)
Duchesse de Brabant

Earth Song
Else Poulsen
Freckles
Georgetown Tea
Jean Bach Sisley
Katy Girl
La Marne
Lena (white/pink)
Marie Daly
Mme. Antoine Mari
McClinton Tea
Mrs. Dudley Cross
Mutabilis
New Dawn
Peggy Martin

Petite Pink Scotch
Pink Drift
Pink Double Knock Out
Pink Knock Out
Pink Home Run (red-pink)
Quietness
Roulettii
Souvenir de St. Anne's
Spice
Pink Drift
Sven (pink / white)
The Fairy
The Swamp Rose

Corals & Blends

Carefree Celebration
Carefree Marvel
Coral Drift

Monsieur Tillier
Seminole Wind (Rosarium Uetersen)
Summer Wind

Peach, Apricot

Apricot Drift
Folksinger

Jaune Desprez
Perle d'Or

Gruss an' Aachen (peach / yellow)

Winter Sunset

Yellow

April Moon
Buff Beauty
Crepuscule

Isabella Sprunt
Lady Banks Yellow
Reve d'Or

White & Creams

Allister Stella Gray
Cherokee Rose (*rosa laevigata*)
Ducher
Fortuniana (*rosa fortuniana*)
Jefferson Rose
Lady Banks White
Lamarque

Marie Pavie
Mrs. Dudley Cross (cream with pink edges)
Ole
Penelope
Sally Holmes
Sea Foam
Popcorn Drift

Green

The Green Rose

Purple / Mauve

Chireno (raspberry)
Elizabeth of Goshen (dark purple)
Twilight Zone (royal purple)
Poseidon (orchid)
Blue for You

Prairie Breeze (mauve pink)
Love's Touch (orchid)
Plum Perfect (mauve / orchid)
Lavender Veranda (orchid)



Common Design Mistakes to Avoid

- An equal mix of exotics with native plants looks unnatural
- Using too many different brightly colored flowers looks unnatural, busy and confused
- Strong colors (like yellow and orange) mixed with other bright colors can be jarring. To fix this use plants with silver foliage as a transition between groupings of strong colors.
- Do not plant roses near strong woody plants or trees where the roots of one will touch the roots of another.
- Rhododendrons, azaleas and gardenias do not do well planted among roses because their pH needs are so different from roses. (If planted together, one of the plants will suffer).
- Xeriscape plants (plants with minimal water needs) typically do not do well planted in the same bed as roses. This would include succulents, Ice Plant, and black foot daisy.
- Avoid planting companion plants too close to roses. Maintain at least a 2 foot stem-to-stem spacing between mature plants
- Avoid overcrowding as this becomes a maintenance nightmare when plants are fully mature
- A riot of color is seldom impressive – it is more often – a riot
- Avoid selecting plants whose mature size is larger than the garden space allotted to them (you quickly get a jungle requiring more maintenance to control)
- Avoid a heavy reliance on annual plants as these must be replaced every year (or every few months depending on the variety). A better use of annuals is to provide short-term color when roses are not in bloom (e.g. pansies in January – February, cyclamen in December)
- Carefully select trees for inclusion in the garden and site them so that they will not affect the amount of sunlight available to your roses once the tree is mature.

A wild prairie is beautiful because
the flowers exist in drifts
punctuated by waving grasses and
is repeated over and over –



Tips for a Successful Design

- Repeating themes and colors will tie a landscape design together and provide pleasing unity
- White, gray and blue colors provide rest for the eye between strong colors
- Groupings of flowers in the same color family make a more powerful landscape statement than flowers of many colors planted together.
- Plant in odd numbered groupings of 3, 5, 7, etc. of the same plant
- The eye sees white colors first. If white is used in the garden it should either be as a focal point or as a punctuation to accent a focal point (i.e., white alyssum under planting a bird bath draws attention to that feature)
- Make a small garden space look larger, deeper or longer by hanging a large inexpensive mirror on the house or fence to capture the reflection of the plants
- Do the best site preparation possible to ensure the long-term health of the soil and the plants in the garden. Following Earth-Kind® Landscape Management Principles is strongly recommended.
- Be sure to include walkways or paths through the garden. This gives you access to maintain the plants and can be an effective design feature to make a small space look larger
- Focus your design on using roses as the foundation plants as most are in bloom from March-April through December (many antique or old garden roses bloom in February). Roses will carry the visual load. Include herbs, perennials and bulbs with staggered blooming periods to ensure a continual compliment of color/foliage throughout the seasons. Staggered bloom periods also keep your garden fresh and exciting to you.
- Big yards call for big plants. Small yards need small plants.
- Large landscaped areas can tolerate the inclusion of more masses of different colors than small gardens can handle.
- Ornamental grasses and plants with architectural foliage (e.g. cannas, banana, horse tail) can provide a sculptural element and create a dramatic effect as a border or backdrop. Tall grasses can act as backdrops, screens and hedges to promote privacy and create “garden rooms”.
- Always include a focal point in your plan



Selecting the Right Roses for You

Roses are easily grouped into three categories when it comes to landscape design:

Almost No Maintenance. This group includes roses that have been scientifically proven to require almost no maintenance (these have been designated by Texas AgriLife Extension as “Earth-Kind”) and have a high tolerance if not resistance to disease, pest and are heat/drought tolerant and winter hardy. Earth-Kind Roses will also tolerate a substantial decrease in supplemental irrigation if Earth-Kind Landscape Management Practices are in place.

Some But Not Much Maintenance. This group is made up of roses that require some maintenance (may need to be sprayed once or twice in the spring and fall, depending on the weather) and may or may not require deadheading in order to rebloom.

Higher Maintenance. Everything else. Typically roses with high maintenance requirements are hybrid tea, grandifloras, floribundas and miniature roses.

When it comes to roses, “maintenance” means more than whether or not a rose requires chemical applications in order to keep it performing at optimum levels. Maintenance also includes whether or not a rose must be deadheaded (cutting off spent blooms) in order to rebloom, whether or not a rose must be pruned on an annual basis, whether or not the rose must be sprayed with pesticides, as well as the level of fertilization and supplemental irrigation needed to support bloom production, etc.

For a successful landscape it is critical that you select roses for your landscape plan based on the amount of maintenance you want to give them. This is important!