

Plant roses in winter for a beautiful summer bloom

Written by Dan Gill

Tuesday, 29 January 2013 16:29 -

Now is an excellent time to consider adding roses to your landscape. For many gardeners, particularly those just getting into roses, a rose is a rose.

But several different categories or types of roses are available, and within each type are numerous varieties. Before you go to the nursery, it's important to think about the type of roses you want to grow so you make proper selections.

First, decide how you want to use roses in the landscape and why you intend to grow them. The trend these days is to incorporate roses into landscape plantings just like any other shrub. This works particularly well with the old garden roses, landscape roses, polyanthas and floribundas.

The following is not a complete list of all the many types of roses, but it includes some of the more popular categories that will do well in our area. Repeat-flowering (everblooming) roses bloom intermittently from around late April to early December. Once they begin blooming, roses bloom profusely around May and produce few or no flowers afterward.

Modern roses

These types were developed after 1867, the year the first hybrid tea was introduced:

- Hybrid tea roses Large, exquisitely shaped flowers generally produced singly on long stems. An amazing range of colors is the hallmark of hybrid teas. The plants range in size up to more than 6 feet, and can be leggy and awkward in appearance. Often highly susceptible to black spot disease, these roses generally require regular spraying and pruning to remain healthy and vigorous. Repeat flowering.
- Polyantha roses Excellent in landscape plantings, polyantha roses are vigorously growing, bushy plants that produce small flowers in large clusters or sprays. Most are relatively disease resistant. They are some of the more reliable and easy-to-grow roses for our area. Repeat flowering.
- Grandiflora roses These are tall plants that produce hybrid tea-like flowers singly or in clusters

Plant roses in winter for a beautiful summer bloom

Written by Dan Gill

Tuesday, 29 January 2013 16:29 -

of a few flowers on long stems. Generally comparable to hybrid teas, they also require similar care. Repeat flowering.

– Floribunda roses A useful type of rose for landscape planting, the shrubby growth is less ungainly than hybrid teas. The flowers are smaller than hybrid teas, often brightly colored and produced in clusters. Fragrance is light or lacking entirely. Repeat flowering.

– Landscape roses This is a catchall category for roses that tend to be bushy, disease-resistant and useful for landscape planting. This category includes English roses, ground cover roses (such as Drift roses), landscape roses, hedge roses and others. Currently, the Knock Out rose and its several color forms are a very popular part of this category. Repeat flowering.

– Climbing roses and ramblers These roses produce long canes that can be tied or trained on a support. Some roses have been bred to climb, while others are vigorous mutations of bush roses. Ramblers and many climbers are once-blooming, but some climbers are repeat-flowering, so check before purchasing. Members of this group can be modern or old garden roses.

Old garden roses

These were developed before 1867. The term “old garden rose” is a catchall term used for many distinctly different categories. Some grow better than others in Louisiana. The following are just a few of the many categories:

– China roses Known by its botanical name, *Rosa chinensis* was the first repeat-blooming rose discovered, and the China roses are derived from this species. (All repeat-flowering roses likely have *R. chinensis* in their breeding.) The abundant flowers are not highly scented and have thin, delicate petals. The foliage is neat, dark green, pointed and rarely bothered by black spot disease. These roses have a bushy, twiggy growth habit that fits in well with landscape planting. Repeat flowering.

– Tea roses Wonderful roses for Louisiana, teas produce relatively large flowers in pastel shades and light reds. The fragrant flowers are produced continuously on robust bushes that are rugged and disease-resistant. Repeat flowering.

– Noisette roses Mostly climbers, although a few are robust shrubs, these roses thrive in the Deep South. The pastel-colored flowers are fragrant and produced in clusters that hang down from the canes. Repeat flowering.

– Bourbon roses Though more susceptible to black spot disease than the previously mentioned old garden roses, many of the Bourbons will thrive in our climate. The flowers are usually quite fragrant and produced on large, robust shrubs. Many are repeat flowering.

On another note, don't forget that late January through mid-February is when we prune repeat-flowering (everblooming) roses.

Plant roses in winter for a beautiful summer bloom

Written by Dan Gill

Tuesday, 29 January 2013 16:29 -

Dan Gill is a horticulturist with the LSU AgCenter and is known as a reliable source of helpful, useful advice on lawn and garden topics. He can be reached at DGill@agcenter.lsu.edu