

## Hello Master Gardeners!

Everyone I talk to is looking forward to spring with it's warm weather. Winter has it's beauty, but we are ready for something new! Already our landscapes are beginning to explode with new life with more to come in the next weeks. It's amazing how spring brings with it a new desire to work outdoors, to be a part of the change that is taking place.



From planting vegetables and flower seeds, bringing in tulips and daffodils to enjoy inside, and finishing all the garden cleanup I didn't get done last fall, spring will be busy time for all of us.

As the spring season begins, we focus in this month's newsletter on planting- ferns, herbs, shrubs, and roses, one of the most popular garden flowers and also the United States national flower. Roses make a valuable contribution to any garden. They offer beauty, fragrance and three seasons of color.

Many types of roses can be grown in Nebraska, such as hybrid tea and English roses, or the lower maintenance shrub roses. But no matter if you are growing florist quality hybrid tea roses or the tough shrub roses, there is a variety that will fit into almost every garden. *-Betty Hamata*



**Master Gardener Shirts**  
**Have Arrived! Please stop**  
**by the office to pick yours up.**

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*Please Join Us!*  
**Newsletter Committee Meeting**

**April 27th**

6:00–7:00 pm

UNL Extension Office

1206 W. 23rd Street

Fremont, NE.

Join us to brainstorm newsletter article ideas for our June/July issue of the Going & Growing Newsletter. 2009 meeting dates: 7/27, 10/26

# From The Garden To The Table

## Companion Planting

By Bonnie Parrish

Companion planting with herbs is said to help to deter garden pests and encourage growth. Here are some examples of companion planting combinations to try in your vegetable and herb garden.

- **BASIL**- Plant three basil plants to every tomato, may help improve growth and flavor. May repel flies and mosquitoes.
- **BORAGE**- May help strawberries to thrive. Said to protect against tomato worm. Attracts bees to your garden.
- **CHAMOMILE**- Plant with onion and cabbage.
- **CHIVES**- Plant near carrots and apple trees.
- **DILL**- Plant near cabbage to improve growth and health; also with lettuce, corn, and cucumber.
- **GARLIC**- Plant near fruit trees and tomatoes. May repel red spider mites, Japanese beetle, aphids, weevils, and fruit tree borers.
- **GERANIUM**- Plant near corn and grapes, said to be effective against red spider mites.
- **HORSERADISH**- Loves potatoes - may repel potato bugs.
- **LAVENDER**- Use against clothes moths by drying and placing in garments.
- **MINT**- Plant near cabbage, but never near parsley. Said to repel white cabbage moth.
- **NASTURTIUM**- Loves cole crops, fruit trees and radishes. May repel aphids, squash bugs, striped pumpkin beetles, woolly aphids.
- **OREGANO**- Loves cole crops and grape vines. Possible repellent for cucumber beetle.
- **PARSLEY**- Loves tomatoes, carrots, chives, and asparagus - but not mint.
- **POT MARIGOLD**- Use against pickleworms, aphids, leafhoppers, spider mites, harlequin bugs, imported cabbage worms and many others.
- **ROSEMARY**- May protect against cabbage moths, bean beetles, and carrot flies. Loves beans, carrots, cabbage and sage - but not potatoes.
- **RUE**- Use against Japanese beetles. Use near strawberries, but never near basil. Plant where you don't want cats to go.
- **SAGE**- May protect against cabbage moths, carrot flies, and ticks. Keeps company with rosemary, cabbage, and carrots - but never with cucumbers.
- **SUMMER SAVORY**- Use against bean beetles.
- **TANSY**- Likes fruit trees. Said to protect against flying insects, Japanese beetles, striped cucumber beetles, squash bugs, and ants.

### Going & Growing Newsletter Contributors:

Lorraine Urban  
Mary Svoboda  
Sarah Browning  
Rich Apking  
Betty Hamata  
Bonnie Parrish

## Rosemary Lemonade

1 ½ cups of water  
1 ½ cups of sugar  
1 ½ cups of lemon juice  
Grated rind of one lemon  
2 sprigs of rosemary  
Ice cubes  
Cold water or club soda

Combine water and sugar in a saucepan and bring the mixture to a boil over high heat. Boil the liquid three minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the lemon juice, lemon rind and rosemary. Refrigerate at least one

hour or until very cold. Strain the mixture into a storage container. When you want lemonade, place 5 or 6 ice cubes in a drinking glass, fill one-third full with the lemon syrup, add water or club soda, stir and drink. Makes about 3 cups.

In the original story of "SLEEPING BEAUTY", the young woman was revived from her slumber with a whiff of rosemary-scented water. Rosemary is said to revive sluggish summer appetites.

# Ferns for Nebraska Gardens

By Lorraine Urban

I like ferns. I had grown some at my previous residence, watching them emerge each spring, their little “fiddleheads” poking up through the soil, and admiring the stately, feathery fronds that made a nice variation of texture and color against my foundation.

When I moved to a different house, the same friend who shared before gave me more clumps for my new garden. And, as had worked for me before, I put them on the north side of my house where they would get little direct sunlight and be sheltered from the harsh winds of winter. Even though as plants go they are slower to get established, they don't seem to be doing well. I'm trying to figure out why.

Ferns, which grow from spores – not seeds, like heavily organic, well-drained soil which should be kept moist, especially while the plants are getting their footings. They also like a mulch year round. It can be made of their own browned fronds (chopped up) in the fall, or a rotted compost or manure in the spring which helps keep that moisture in. (I haven't done that for mine.)

Ferns are classified into two groups based on their growth habit: Running (or creeping) ferns and clump-

ing ferns. The ones I have are the “running” kind, running all over but not getting very large.

I am not giving up, however. Ferns are listed in my book of “care free plants.” It says they don't need spraying or staking, or dividing to grow well. Perhaps I didn't plant



them deeply enough. Sources give varying degrees of depth from “just below the surface” to 2” deep. Since I didn't have really good “organic” soil, I may need to give them some half-strength controlled-release fertilizer. Full strength could damage the roots.

I'm going to try some different types. Most of those that are hardy here in Zone 4/5 are “deciduous.” Here are some of the varieties listed for Zones 3-8 that I'm considering.

**Autumn fern**, *Dryopteris erythrosora* “Brilliance”, with orange-red fronds and red spores on the undersides of the emerging ones. It is somewhat “drought-tolerant.”

**Cinnamon fern**, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, which does well even in dryer soil and has central spore-covered stems that are attractive to wildlife.

**Hay-scented fern**, *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*, fast-growing, inexpensive, and smells like hay when the fronds are rubbed or bruised.

**Japanese painted fern**, *Arthyrium niponicum*, that has gray-green fronds with wine-red stems.

**Lady fern**, *Athyrium filix – femina*, also happy even with a lot of sun, as long as it is kept moist.

**Dre's dagger**, *Arthyrium “Cruciato-cristatum*, a dwarf form with fronds with a distinctive criss-cross pattern. Some sources that offer more than just one or two varieties are Van Bourgondien, Heronswood, White Flower Farm, Fancy Fronds, Jung, Wayside Gardens, and Park Seed nurseries. And the internet offers many more.

When I get my “patch” going, and I will, I'm going to try sinking a potted caladium or two in among the ferns for a “tropical effect.”

# Earth-Kind® Roses: Join the Brigade!

By Mary Svoboda

Earth-Kind® is Texas Cooperative Extension's BANNER Program, focusing on how to preserve and protect valuable natural resources through the use of "environmentally friendly" landscape practices.

The objective of the Earth-Kind® program is to combine the best of organic and traditional landscaping principles to create a system based on research, real-world effectiveness and environmental responsibility. The principle goals include: water conservation, safe use of fertilizers and pesticides, and the reduction of yard wastes.

Part of this effort has been the Earth-Kind® Rose Program, led by Dr. Steve George, Texas Agricultural Extension Service horticulturist.

## Researching Roses

In 1996, Dr. George began a 5-year research study that evaluated 117 rose cultivars and was designed to identify the most beautiful, care-free roses for southern gardens.

Study growing conditions replicated the harshest environment roses would be subjected to in home gardens. The roses were grown in highly alkaline (8-8.4 pH) clay soil, with no soil amendment. During the study plants were never fertilized, never sprayed with fungicides or insecticides, never pruned, and received no supplemental watering after the first year. Plants received a 4-inch layer of hardwood chip mulch.

In the first phase of the study, plants that receive the coveted Earth-Kind® designation were shown to be the **best** flowering varieties with outstanding disease and insect tolerance/resistance. They **reduced** the need for pesticides by 95% and the need for supplemental watering by 70%.

Earth-Kind® roses are all grown on their own roots and are either highly tolerant or tolerant to black spot. Research showed that affected bushes dropped 25% or less of their leaves due to black spot annually.



## 'Carefree Beauty' Rose This Griffin Buck rose has received Earth-Kind® designation

In January 2002, at the end of the first 5-year study, 11 rose cultivars were designated as Earth-Kind® roses. Of the original 11, eight are hardy in Nebraska gardens. See *listing of 2002 Earth-Kind® Roses on page 6*.

When results of the first study were released, the Houston Rose Society recognized the significance of the project and agreed to provide funding to expand the Earth-Kind® rose program to identify additional southern rose cultivars, and 30 cultivars that will grow equally well throughout the United States.

## Earth-Kind® Rose Brigade

Public response to the research has been overwhelming, and in 2004 the Earth-Kind® Rose Brigade was formed. Membership in the Rose Brigade is open to homeowners, nurseryman, and staff of botanic or public gardens, and allows them to participate in the rose research. There are no registration fees and no meetings to attend.

Members are asked to grow roses that have been identified as possible candidates for the Earth-Kind® program for three years, never spray them with pesticides and report their observations of plant performance to Dr. Steve George. Members may grow as many, or as few plants as they wish.

## Nebraska Display Gardens

There are six display gardens, that we know of, in eastern Nebraska.

1. Haworth Park (Bellevue, NE) contains the largest Earth-Kind® test site outside of Texas with 30 central rose cultivars selected by Texas A & M and 20 northern cultivars selected by the University of Minnesota. Planted in 2007-2008, it is the first cold weather test site and Midwest Center for Earth-Kind® roses.
2. Lauritzen Gardens (Omaha, NE)

# Buck Roses: From Corn to Roses

By Mary Svoboda

Dr. Griffin Buck was a plant breeder at Iowa State University breeding new varieties of soybeans and corn, but roses were his true love and passion.

He started breeding roses around 1950 using strains of very cold hardy roses combined with modern hybrid teas and others. He planted them outside in the field and those that survived harsh Iowa winters of 20-30 degrees below zero with absolutely no protection were the seedlings he chose to introduce.

His goal was to produce roses that were disease resistant and hardy, and cultivars that produce spectacular blooms on plants with strong genetic traits.

Dr. Buck has been likened to the artist Vincent Van Gogh, whose paintings were never appreciated during his lifetime, but Dr. Buck was an artist of rose breeding. His creations are now gaining the acceptance and popularity they have so long deserved.

When considering the impact of Dr. Buck's work, we must remember that when he started his work, gardeners cared nothing about disease resistance. They wanted showy blooms on long stems. The Buck philosophy was that if roses are too hard to grow, people will simply grow something else.

## The Minnesota Tip

In Ames, Iowa where Dr. Buck lived and worked, growing roses was la-

bor intensive. With sub-zero temperatures, gardens stay blanketed with snow and ice for months at a time. Summer temperatures soar, and droughts are not uncommon. Prior to the introduction of Buck roses, gardeners in Iowa (US hardiness Zone 4-5) started a month before winter preparing their bushes with a Minnesota tip.

This involved first digging a trench beside the rose, then unearthing one side of the root ball and "tipping" the bush over into the trench. The trench was then filled with soil and the bush left buried until spring. In spring, the process was reversed and the bush replanted.

## Lost Buck Roses

**Red Sparkler (1967)**- Hybrid tea rose with double, cupped-to-flat, 4 to 4 1/2-inch blooms of dark wine red with a lighter reverse and striped with varied widths of pale red, pink and white. Intense damask fragrance.

**Andante (1962)**- Salmon pink shrub rose with small clusters of double, cupped 4 to 5-inch blooms. Slight Sweetbrier fragrance.

**Cantabile (1962)**- Light pink shrub rose with clusters of 3-5 fragrant, double, medium sized blooms of light camellia rose with darker shading.

**Pizzicato (1962)**- Light pink shrub rose with clusters of 1-6 slightly cupped, double, 3-4 inch salmon-rose blooms with a moderate wild rose fragrance.

**Prairie Heritage (1978)**- Orange-pink shrub rose with clusters of 1-10 fragrant, double cupped and quartered, 4 to 4 1/2 inch coral pink/peach blooms. Become tinted with orange-gold as the flowers age.

**Polka Time (1984)**- Orange pink shrub rose with cluster of 1-10 salmon buds that open to fragrant double cupped 4 to 4 1/2 inch blooms of salmon tinted yellow veined with flamingo pink petals.

**Kissin' Cousin (1979)**- Shrub rose with clusters of 1-5 coral-pink with medium rose reverse, opening to fruity scented, double high-centered, 4 to 4 1/2 inch blooms that develop orange-pink tones with age.

**Paraglider (1984)**- Shrub rose with clusters of 1-10 orange-red buds opening to fragrant, double, cupped 4 to 4 1/2 inch blooms of orange pink with deep apricot reverse.

## Earth-Kind® Roses, continued

has an Earth-Kind® test bed, planted in 2007, with five rose cultivars, replicated three times.

3. The Betty Ford Rose Garden, planted in 2007, is an Earth-Kind® display bed featuring 88 roses.
4. Joslyn Castle (Omaha, NE) hosts another Earth-Kind® display bed planted in 2002, with 120 roses.
5. Memorial Park (Omaha, NE), site of the Omaha Rose Society Test Garden, contains 98 Easy Elegance roses planted in 2007 using the Earth-Kind® manner.
6. Tekamah, Nebraska Master Gardeners have established a test site and display garden featuring Earth-Kind® roses in their city park.

### Bed Preparation

Although the Earth-Kind® roses in the study were established without any soil amendment, roses will perform better in amended soil. In areas of poor drainage or very heavy clay soil using raised beds can dramatically improve soil drainage. It's not always necessary to building formal raised structures, even mounding the soil 4-6 inches above the existing soil level will improve drainage.

For sandy, loam or clay soils incorporate 3-6 inches of organic matter such as compost. Compost improves the water holding capacity of sandy soils and improves water percolation in clay soil.

Mulch rose plantings with 2 to 4 inches of hardwood mulch to moderate soil temperature fluctuations and retain soil moisture. Decomposing mulch also provides nutrients for the roses and eliminates the need for supplemental fertilization.

Supplemental watering using drip irrigation is recommended during the first year of establishment. Never water plants at night, or use overhead irrigation.

## 2002 Earth-Kind® Roses

**Sea Foam**— creamy white shrub rose with double blooms throughout the growing season with a cascading growth habit on a 3 foot tall by 6 foot wide bush. USDA Zone 4a–9b

**Marie Daly** - a pink polyantha dwarf shrubby rose with semi-double fragrant blooms on an almost thornless bush. This variety is perfect for growing in containers and proved to be tolerant to spider mites. It blooms throughout the growing season on a 3 foot tall by 3 foot wide bush. USDA Zone 5a-9b

**The Fairy** - a light pink polyantha dwarf shrubby rose that has double blooms on bushes 3 feet tall by 4 feet wide. Blooms throughout the growing season. Use in containers, as a mass planting or as a low border. USDA Zone 4a–9b

**Knock Out®** - a cherry red semi-double shrub rose that blooms throughout the growing season on bushes that are 4 feet tall by 4 feet wide. This cultivar was named Rose of the Year in 2004, and is presently one of the candidates for the national Earth-Kind® trials. USDA Zone 4-9

**Belinda's Dream** - this medium-size shrub rose was the first rose to receive the Earth-Kind® designation and has been nicknamed "The Rose of the 20th Century". It has fragrant pink blooms throughout the growing season which resemble hybrid teas with a petal count of 114 and foliage that is a striking blue green color. The mature bush size is 5 feet tall and 5 feet wide. USDA Zone 5a-10b

**Else Poulsen** - a pink floribunda rose that blooms with semi-double flowers throughout the growing season. Because of its growth habit, it is best suited for use in background plantings with a mature size of 5 feet tall by 5 feet wide. USDA Zone 5-9

**Carefree Beauty** - a Griffith Buck rose producing fragrant pink double blooms throughout the growing season on bushes that are 5 feet tall by 5 feet wide. USDA Zone 4a–9b

**Mutabilis** - also known as the "Butterfly Rose", this China rose has single blooms which change color during their life cycle from yellow to pink to crimson. The bushes blooms throughout the growing season and reach a mature size of 6 feet tall by 6 feet wide. USDA Zone 5b-10b

## Timber Press Discounts for Master Gardeners

When it comes to the garden, Timber Press and Master Gardener programs have much in common. We are both committed to enriching the natural beauty and environmental stewardship in our homes and communities, we are both dedicated to educating the public on the best garden practices, and we both strive to remain on the cutting-edge of horticultural science.

To help you provide these services, Timber Press would like to extend to Master Gardeners a discount on all books.

Orders of 5-14 books receives 40% off the retail price.

Additional, this discount entitles you to order from the complete list of our publishing partner, Storey Publishing. Together with Storey, we offer the most extensive collection of gardening titles available. For specific information about our books you can visit:

[www.timberpress.com](http://www.timberpress.com)  
or [www.storey.com](http://www.storey.com)

*(Continued from page 11)*

### Steps for Planting Container Roses

1. Modification of the soil in the planting bed— same as for bare root stock.
2. Dig the hole a minimum of one foot wider than the container.
3. Fill the hole with a soil mixture so that the graft union is level with the soil surface or slightly above.
4. Remove the plant from the container without disturbing the ball of soil and fill the hole with soil. Tap gently but firmly to help remove air space from the soil.

**Note:** Soils in much of Nebraska are high in silts and clay. Be cautious in following instructions that call for firming the soil around a new plant by using your foot. Do this only when the soil is thoroughly dry and then only if necessary.

Use water rather than your foot to settle the soil and to eliminate air spaces.



*(Continued from page 5)*

Each year the bush must overcome the shock of being buried alive and then replanted before it can set new growth. With Iowa's 6 month growing season, this period of re-establishment could severely reduce a rose's productivity.

Since Dr. Buck could not control the weather, his mission in life was to create roses that would survive blistering northern temperatures without this radical treatment. By 1970, Dr. Buck's breeding program focused on using Buck-hybridized cultivars in new plants' pedigrees.

Most of the Buck cultivars are either grown in the Griffin Buck Garden at Iowa State's Reiman Botanical Garden or at the Buck home. Chamblee Rose Nursery, in Tyler, Texas, has been testing Buck roses for several years.

For a complete listing of Buck roses, visit the Buck Rose web site at <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/cad/rose1.html/>.

Despite efforts to continue the legacy of Dr. Buck's roses, eight cultivars

have been lost. A hunt is underway to try to locate these bushes in hopes of completing the Buck collection during Mrs. Buck's lifetime.

If you or anyone you know grows these roses, please contact [gayeh@oglaw.com](mailto:gayeh@oglaw.com).



**'Sea Foam' Rose produces creamy white, double, fragrant flowers all summer.**

# My Favorite Plants for Nebraska

By Rich Apking

Hello again, I'm finally back with my list of plants that I have grown over the past years. I left off with Annuals and Perennials, we'll continue with Bulbs, Groundcovers, Ornamental Grasses, Shrubs, Vines, and Trees. Keep in mind that this list is in no way conclusive, merely plants that have grown well in my gardens in the Fremont, Nebraska area.

Okay, here goes; as you might have noticed that this list isn't all the bulbs that will grow around here. These are just the ones that I grow and know about personally.

## BULBS

- Canna, esp. 'Wyoming', which overwinters most years
- Daffodil (Narcissus); 11 classifications based on flower characteristics
- Iris (I. danfordiae, I. histrioides, and I. reticulata); Rockgarden Iris
- Lily (Lilium); Asiatic hybrids bloom in early summer; Orientals in late summer
- Lily-of-the-Valley (Convallaria); can be invasive
- Tulip

## GROUNDCOVERS

- Carpet Bugle (Ajuga), A. 'Bronze Beauty'
- Sedum, esp. Sedum reptans 'Angelina', S. 'Kamtschaticum', or S. 'Acre'
- Thyme (Thymus), esp. 'Mother of Thyme', 'Woolly thyme', or 'Lemon Thyme'
- Vinca, (V. minor), species; esp. 'Illumination'

## ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

- Blue Fescue (Festuca glauca), esp. 'Elijah Blue'
- Feather Reed Grass (Calamagrostis), esp. 'Karl Foerster' and 'Overdam'
- Fountain Grass (Pennisetum); annual varieties include P. glaucum 'Purple Majesty' (purple ornamental millet) and P. setaceum 'Rubrum', perennial varieties include P. alopecuroides 'Hameln', 'Little Bunny', and 'Karly Rose' which gets a little shaggy later in the year
- Hardy Pampas Grass or Ravenna Grass (Erianthus ravennae)
- Lilyturf or Monkey Grass (Liriope), esp. L. muscari and L. muscari 'variegata'
- Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium); native, a good cultivar is 'The Blues'
- Maiden Grass or Japanese Silver Grass (Miscanthus sinensis); are numerous cultivars such as 'Autumn Red', 'Gracillimus', 'Variegatus', and 'Zebinus' (Zebra Grass)
- Pony Tails (Stipa tenuissima); and annual, but seems to be perennial here if sheltered somewhat
- Wind Dancer (Eragrostis)

## SHRUBS

- Barberry (Berberis); esp. B. thunbergii 'Rosy Glow' and similar cultivars
- Burning Bush (Euonymus) esp. 'Eastern Wahoo'
- Juniper (Juniperus); esp. Blue Rug
- Nandina, esp. 'Firepower' and similar dwarf varieties
- Ninebark (Physocarpus); esp. P. opulifolius 'Diablo'

- Russian Sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia) esp. 'Little Spire'
- Shrub Roses (Rosa); esp. all 'Knock Out' cultivars, 'The Fairy' and most of the David Austin and Buck cultivars
- Spirea (Spiraea); esp. the numerous cultivars of S. japonica, such as 'Little Princess', 'Crispleaf', 'Limemound', etc.
- Lilac (Syringa); esp. L. vulgaris, dwarf Korean, 'Miss Kim'
- Walking Stick (Corylus avellana 'Contorta')
- Yew (Taxus); esp. T. x media 'Densiformis', 'Hicksii', etc.
- Viburnum, esp. 'Cranberrybush', 'Blackhaw', 'Nannyberry', 'Arrow Wood', or 'Korean Spice.' Just about any cultivar will please you immensely

## VINES

- Clematis, esp. 'Sweet Autumn Clematis'
- Hyacinth Bean (Lablab); esp. L. purpureus, this is an annual, but well worth the trouble

## TREES

- Amur Maple (Acer ginnala)
- River Birch (Betula nigra)
- Kentucky Coffee Tree (Gymnocladus dioica)
- Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)
- Serviceberry (Amelanchier x grandiflora)
- Pawpaw (Asimina)
- Redbud (Cercis)
- Spruce (Picea) esp. 'Blackhills Spruce' and 'Colorado Blue Spruce'

## WORTH IT NO MATTER WHAT

- Gloriosa Daisy (Rudbeckia); short-

Mark your calendars  
**Saturday, April 25**

## Spring Affair Plant Sale

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Agriculture Hall, Nebraska State Fair Park  
Lincoln, NE  
402/472-2679  
<http://springaffair.unl.edu>

Spring Affair celebrates its long history at State Fair park with the 2009 "Blue Ribbon Event" April 24-25 in Lincoln. The largest volunteer-run plant sale in America, it is an April tradition for plant lovers from all over the state.

It has been held at Lincoln's State Fair Park since its beginning in 1987, a location that emphasizes the statewide heritage and fair-like atmosphere of Nebraska's biggest plant sale. The event will move to the Lancaster Event Center in 2010 when State Fair Park moves to Grand Island.

Over 1,000 plant varieties are available this year— many of them uncommon cultivars— at

reasonable prices. Plants are selected for the sale because of their suitability to local climates, their uniqueness, or because of popular demand and are provided by Bluebird Nursery.

**Educational Sessions** will be held in the Morton Building.

10:00 a.m. "Harlan's Highlights"  
Featuring Harlan Hamernik, Nebraska Certified Nurseryman and Co-Founder of Bluebird Nursery

11:30 a.m. "Practically Perfect Perennials"  
Jan Riggerbach, Garden Writer

1:00 p.m. "Landscaping for Wildlife— Providing Food and Shelter for your Backyard Birds!"  
Dave Titterington, Founder & Co-Owner of Wild Bird Habitat Stores of Nebraska

Sponsored by the Nebraska State Fair Park & Arboretum & UNL Botanical Garden & Arboretum

## My Favorite Plants for Nebraska, continued

lived perennial, gets bugs and mildew but the flowers are indeed glorious and it will reseed

- Iris (*Iris germanica*); short flowering season and foliage is really ugly later on in the year but the flowers are beautiful. Perhaps a saving grace, there now are reblooming cultivars esp. *I. germanica* 'Immortality' for one (Yea)
- Zinnia (*Z. elegans*); a plant for a cutting garden or hide the stems (see the daisy rant above) 'Purple Prince' is a favorite

### ADDITIONS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Some of the inspiration for this came from *The Undaunted Garden: Planting for Weather Resistant Beauty* by Laura Springer-Ogden.

[www.davesgarden.com](http://www.davesgarden.com) is a great website for checking on the best (and worst) mail order nurseries; click on the Garden Watchdog section.

[www.earthkind.tamu.edu](http://www.earthkind.tamu.edu) is the website for Texas A&M University's state-

wide testing and evaluation program. Thirteen roses have earned the Earth Kind designation, including the 'Knock Out' series and 'The Fairy'.

Well, now you have it, such as it is. This is my list of what has worked for me. It's not conclusive, I have a few new things ordered to try this spring, which incidentally is just around the corner.

Good luck with your choices and happy gardening. Rich

# Rose Classifications

By Betty Hamata

There are several classifications of roses that can be successfully grown in Nebraska, such as hybrid tea, English, grandiflora, floribunda, polyantha, shrub, climbing, rambling and miniature roses.

**Hybrid tea roses** are noted for their beauty, particularly their exquisitely formed buds, but take the highest level of care. Solitary flowers are produced on long stems making the excellent cut flowers. Plants are grafted on winter hardy rootstocks.

**English roses**, sometimes called Austin roses, although not recognized as a separate class of plants by the American Rose Society, is a popular group dominated in the last forty years by the efforts of English rose breeder David Austin. Austin's emphasis is breeding roses with the character and fragrance of old garden roses (Gallicas, Damask, Alba, etc.) with the reblooming characteristics and wide color range of hybrid teas.

Many have natural shrubby growth and have beautiful cupped blooms with many petals and are very fragrant. They are beautiful planted as specimens, as a hedge, or in mixed borders. The newer varieties are generally healthier and require much less care than hybrid teas.

**Grandiflora roses** resemble hybrid teas but flowers are produced in clusters

**Floribunda roses** result from the cross between a polyantha rose and

hybrid tea. They are hardy and vigorous, requiring less care than hybrid teas but producing masses of blooms over a long growing season.

**Polyantha roses** produce flowers in clusters and are used extensively for mass plantings in a border or for edging. 'The Fairy' is a soft pink polyantha rose that is very hardy.

**Rugosa roses** are named for the very wrinkled appearance of their foliage. They are noted for hardiness and the ability to withstand adverse conditions, requiring minimal care and practically disease and insect free. They can grow quite large and make excellent hedges and screens.

Roses of many diverse types are included under the heading "**shrub roses.**" Many shrub roses, especially the modern types like the 'Knock Out' series, bloom all summer. The require very little pruning, are highly disease resistant and very hardy.

**Climbing and rambling roses** grow 6-20 feet in height. They are not true climbers since they have no tendrils to support themselves but must be tied to a structure such as a trellis, arch or pergola. They may be ever-blooming or bloom once each year. Ramblers are particularly suited for covering rough banks.

**Miniature roses** are small varieties that differ only slightly from large roses in care. They are grown on their own roots and are more cold resistant than most hybrid teas. They require pruning to keep them small.

**Tree roses** make an interesting accent a formal garden setting. Plants are created by grafting a desirable flowering rose onto a vigorous, upright understock. They often require staking and must have winter protection.

## Rose Sources

Chamblee's Rose Nursery  
(800) 256-ROSE  
Tyler, Texas  
Www.chambleerose.com  
Features Earth-Kind® roses

David Austin Roses  
(800) 328-8893  
Www.davidaustinroses.com

Jackson & Perkins  
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# Planting Bare Root and Container Roses

By Don Steinegger

Rose plants are available in either bare root (wrapped and packaged, loose, or in plantable boxes) or growing in containers. Either type plant will produce good roses.

Roses are graded by a rating systems. They are given the number 1, 1 1/2 or 2 based on size and number of canes. If you are willing to pay the price for the best possible blooms, buy grade 1 plants with three or four heavy canes, each at least 3/8" in diameter. After a few season of growth, grade 1 1/2 plants may catch up, but you miss those first years of good quality blooms. Inferior grades- lower than 1 1/2- will not give you specimen flowers, and are not recommended for purchase.

## Selecting a Site

Roses perform better when they receive full sunshine all day. If this is not possible they should be planted where they will get a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight daily. Morning sun is essential; partial afternoon shade is acceptable.

There should be air movement to keep foliage dry and discourage disease.

Drainage is critical. If drainage is poor, consider raised beds. Build the bed to at least 12-15" above the normal soil level. In addition to providing excellent drainage you will find raised beds a pleasant way to do all your gardening chores.

Roses do well in a wide range of soils. They respond best in a slightly acid

soil with a pH of 6 to 6.5. Have your soil tested to determine the initial pH. For alkaline soils, add agricultural sulfur at the rate of 2lb/100 sq.ft. and work into the soil.

## Planting Roses

To insure a good start, either bury roses and tops in wet peat moss or sawdust for two-three days or completely soak the plants in water overnight. Don't let the roots dry out when planting.

If you can't plant right away because of weather conditions or time schedules, wrap the entire soaked plant in wet burlap or newspaper in a dark, cool spot between 33-66°F.

Plant dormant root stock in early spring as soon as soil can be prepared. Container grown roses may be planted anytime during the growing season, but early season planting is recommended.

## Steps in Planting a Dormant, Bare Root Rose

1. Cut off broken or severely injured roots and canes using a sharp shears.
2. Cut 1/4-1/2" off the ends of large roots to reveal white tissue.
3. Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the spread of the roots in a normal position. The hole should be from 18-24" deep.
4. Don't just improve the soil in the bottom of the hole. If you are going to modify the soil, modify the soil of the entire bed.
5. Build a cone of soil mixture in the center of the hole to support the root system and allow the roots

to spread out.

6. Find the bud union. This is the large grafted area just above the root system. Set the rose bush so the bud union will be at the soil surface or slightly above.

**Note:** This has not been the general recommendation for areas such as Nebraska, but current research and observation of roses grown in this area indicate that this is the best procedure for the experienced gardener but not for the novice. Most gardeners should still place the graft 1 1/2 inches below the soil surface.

7. After the rose has been planted, mound the soil at least 2/3 the height of the plant. You may have to get extra soil for this. Moisten again. This mound gives protection from drying winds and provides enough moisture for the developing plant. Leave the mound until new growth is 1-2" long. Then carefully remove back to ground level and add mulch.
8. A starter solution of water-soluble fertilizer may be added after the plant has been covered with soil. A starter fertilizer high in phosphorus aids in establishment of a root system.
9. Prune the rose immediately following planting to three to four strong canes, cutting about 1/4" above a good bud. Pruned canes will range from 8-10" in height.
10. Planting distances between bushes will vary with the type of rose. Hybrid teas, floribundas and grandifloras may be placed 2-3' apart. Climbing roses should be 5-6' apart.

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Click on 'Master Gardener Program.'



## Tropical Plants in the Garden

By Betty Hamata

More tropical plants are available each year, adding a wonderfully exotic flavor to patio containers with colorful foliage and spectacular flowers. While most tropicals are not hardy in Nebraska, we can still enjoy their beauty as annuals and overwinter them in the house.

Mandevilla, *Mandevilla sanderi*, is a fast growing vine that produces hibiscus-like flowers in white, pink or red. Grown it up a trellis during summer, then cut it back and bring indoors for winter.

Fuschia, *Fuschia spp.*, works well in containers and hanging baskets, preferring bright indirect light and humid conditions. 'Angel Earrings' is a great cultivar with white, double red or white and red flowers.

Creeping gloxinia, *Asarina lophospermum*, is a vine that can reach 7 feet or more and has richly colored blooms on all parts of the plants. Blooms all summer. 'Lofos Wine Red' features dark purple-maroon flowers.

Corkscrew vine, *Vigna caracalla*, has 1 1/2 to 3 inch, silvery white blooms touched with primrose and lavender pink. Flowers have coiled centers and curved outer

petals, making them look like a nautilus shell. Vines can reach 20-25 feet long.

Passion vine, *Passiflora spp.*, has spectacular 2-3 inch fragrant blooms. Look for the cultivar 'Coral Sea' with coral-orange flowers on a vigorous vine.

Fancy-leaf Rex begonias, *Begonia rex-cultorum*, can brighten up shady areas with their beautiful foliage and they make lovely houseplants during the winter. Begonia 'New York Swirl' features silver, pink and dark green leaves that swirl together in the center.

Angel's Trumpet, *Brugmansia spp.*, has large, fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers up to 20 inches long. Plants can grow up to 10 feet tall, but are usually 3-5' in Nebraska gardens. Plants produce many showy flowers.

Tropical hibiscus have beautiful large flowers in yellow, pink, orange or red, and glossy green leaves. They make beautiful pot plants during the summer and great houseplants during winter. Just cut them back before bringing indoors and check for whiteflies.

Try a few tropical plants this year and you can feel as if you are in the tropics without ever leaving home!