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## THE BEAUTY OF ROSES

By Arleen M. Kaptur

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For centuries roses have carried a certain mystique. They are a symbol for love, Valentine's Day, and are used in weddings, and for anniversaries. Their scent is a delicate fragrance that lets a passer-by stop and take notice. Colors vary and several varieties even have two or three shades in one bloom. Roses can be a creamy, delicate white all the way to a velvety, ruby red. Some varieties even have blue, orange, and "pearl". Mixing varieties and colors adds added delight and beauty to any garden, patio, or outdoor spot.

Putting roses along a pathway or by a door gives visitors an aromatic, beautiful way to enter your home. They will inevitably stop and smell the roses.

Planting and growing roses is discussed in garden books, magazines, and on television shows. What is the best way to have plants that are hardy, and bloom with bouquet value flowers?

Roses grow best in a location that is protected from north and east winds. They do need sun but partial shade does not deter their growth. The soil should be well-drained because one cause of loss of plant is a "swamp" subsoil. The soil itself should be a good blend – not too much sand nor too heavy of a base. Using compost will improve soil quality and should be worked into the soil to distribute it evenly.

The way you first plant your rose bushes is also of paramount importance. The commonest mistake is planting them too high. The crown of your plant should be covered with about 1-1/2 inches of soil. While planting too shallow is a problem so is planting too deep. A happy medium will insure proper plant growth. Fall planting is preferred to spring planting. After the first killing frost, mound soil around the plant for protection.

Rose plants should be pruned before planting and every year. Pruning is best done in early Spring. Follow-up care with careful note of disease or insect infestation will allow you beautiful blooms and healthy plants year after year. If a problem occurs, treat it as quickly as possible. Also deadhead any dead flowers or faded blooms. This gives added strength and vitality to new growth.

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A bouquet of roses in varying colors from your very own garden will take their breath away. Their scent will fill your home and their beauty will be noticed by everyone who has the opportunity to see them. Try growing roses and you will be most pleasantly rewarded.

ENJOY !

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Arleen M. Kaptur has written numerous articles, cookbooks, and the novel: **SEARCHING FOR AUSTIN JAMES** Websites:<http://www.arleenssite.com> <http://www.Arleens-RusticLiving.com> <http://www.webspawner.com/users/rusticliving.index.html> <http://topica.com/lists.simpleliving>

### **Mini Roses Are Going To Change The Look Of Your Home**

**By Dana Goldberg**

Your home needs some great flowers out front and there are no better flowers to choose than mini roses. These roses are fragrant as flowers get and they are pretty as well. They are easier to take care of than their larger varieties and they are just as pretty. There are tons of great things that can be done with these kinds of roses and as soon as you hear about them you will be able to use them yourself.

Mini roses make the perfect borders for driveways and flower patches. Since the roses are so tiny they can border just about anything and look fabulous. They do not grow very high and each little bush has many little bunches of flowers on it. This makes for a profusion of color and smell that will make any home more attractive to the eye.

There is no end to the colors that you can find mini roses in. They come in all colors and shades from white to red to peach to yellow. No matter what colors you choose they can be combined with others successfully. Having more than one color in your mini rose garden will add depth and beauty to the garden.

There is even more that makes mini roses so great. They are tough little flowers that will grow just about anywhere and that do not need a whole lot of pampering. They even come back year after year so you do not need to buy new ones.

No matter what kind of yard you have or what kind of style of gardening you prefer, mini roses are going to fit in with ease. These are going to take the look of your yard to a whole new level and that is why they are just the thing you have been looking for all of these years. The look and the lovely fragrance of these pretty little mini roses are going to fix your yard up right once and for all.

Dana Goldberg is the owner of Gardening Design Pros. On her website you will find a wealth of gardening information and resources including articles by top garden writers, seasonal tips and advice.



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