The Denver Rose Society would like to introduce you to Nancy Parker, a gardener who lives in the mountains above Evergreen, Colorado. Nancy gardens at an altitude of 7,800 feet.

High altitude climate conditions in Colorado include long winters, severe cold, snow, wind, and short summer growing seasons.

While there are many tough, hardy roses that might do well under her severe conditions (like the Canadian Hardy roses, and certain species (wild) roses), Nancy chooses to grow Hybrid Teas, which many of us would swear could not survive even a single winter under her tough conditions.

Guess what? Nancy does just fine! See Nancy’s photos and story below.

“I purchased these roses from [local] nurseries and they were in great shape when I planted them. The longest time that I have kept a rose is four years as of this spring. My altitude is 7,800 feet and except for one bush they have been in a raised bed” says Nancy. [A success hint for the rest of us, along with good winter protection.]

“This beautiful rose, Midas Touch (below), lasted two years and had its roots eaten by voles. Otherwise I think it would still be around” Nancy states.

The next rose, “from 2005, I had a couple of years” she says.

“The [deep pink] rose I have had for four years now, very vivid pink and white (name tag lost); the white spots on the leaves are Liquid Fence, a necessary evil in deer and elk country” Nancy explains.
Above: photo from 2003, name unknown

Above: Midas Touch

ROSES GROW GREAT IN COLORADO! Nancy Parker may be doing a special job high up in the mountains, but the Denver Rose Society can help you succeed with the Queen of Flowers in your yard!