

# CLASSIFICATIONS OF ROSES

Within the large plant **FAMILY ROSACEAE**, roses are members of the plant **GENUS ROSA**. Within that genus, roses are grouped into classifications (or types), each of which has its own characteristics. Your choice depends on how you plan to use the rose and on your personal preferences. All classifications are eligible for exhibition in rose shows. Refer to Denver Rose Societies list of recommended roses for particular named roses (varieties or cultivars {cultivated varieties}).

**HYBRID TEA** - Grown more than all other classifications combined. All repeat bloom, have large blooms varying in petal count from 5 to 100 and usually grow 1 bloom per long stem. For many, the ideal bloom has a high center with petals that unfurl in a symmetrical, circular form. Available in almost every color, many of the loveliest are bicolors or blends. Many are fragrant. Bushes typically grow upright from 3 to 5 feet tall. Good choice if you like large flowers with pleasant form, for arrangements and for cut flowers.

**GRANDIFLORA** - This one truly American classification offers tall-growing plants between 3 and 5 feet tall with blooms similar to, but smaller than, hybrid tea blooms. The blooms, which repeat, often grow in clusters, but the stems on each bloom within the cluster are long enough for cutting. Useful for background plantings and a good choice for lots of bloom and color in the garden with stems for cutting and arranging, all on the same plant.

**FLORIBUNDA** - Medium to small blooms in large clusters on 2-4 feet tall plants with continuous bloom. No rose will give more pleasure for less trouble than these useful plants with superb bedding habit, excellent cutting stems, fragrance and full range of color and form. An excellent choice for a massed effect of many flowers in large clusters, to brighten or highlight areas, for interspersing with perennials.

**POLYANTHA** - This forerunner to the Floribunda is usually a compact plant of 2 to 2 1/2 feet which covers itself almost continuously with massive clusters of small blooms, providing breezy, ethereal effects. Amount of bloom, clean looking foliage and ease of care make these excellent landscape plants, particularly when used in mass plantings, as hedges or edging and as companions with other roses and perennials. This is a small class of very hardy, extremely free-flowering roses which are ideal for small spaces and small gardens.

**MINIATURE** - Scaled down versions of larger roses, with all the colors, forms and, often fragrance of full sized roses, provide bright and constant spots of color. They range in plant size from 5 to 8 inches for the 'micro-minis' up to the larger 18 -24 inch bushes with the size of the bloom dictating the term "miniature". Smaller habit makes them ideal for containers; they also make excellent bedding plants, and their flowers can be cut for bouquets and arrangements.

**MINI-FLORA** - A new classification for roses intermediate in bloom and foliage size between the Miniature and the Floribunda.

**CLIMBING** -This diverse group grows long, arching canes which should be supported by a fence or trellis. Large Flowered Climbers and Climbing Miniatures produce clusters of flowers most heavily in spring with intermittent bloom thereafter. Ramblers grow vigorously and produce spring blooms. Climbing Sports of Hybrid Teas, Floribundas and Grandifloras are not recommended for this area. Climbers make economical use of vertical space, adding height to otherwise flat situations.

**SHRUB** - (Hybrid Musk, Hybrid Rugosa, Hybrid Kordesii, Austin English Roses, Buck Roses, Meidiland, Canadian Hardy). A very popular, diverse group with blooms varying from 5 to 100 petals and plant size varying from 6 foot giants to compact 3 foot plants, to sprawling plants. Some bloom once, others repeat bloom. In general, bloom and plant form are informal with masses of color. Their diversity translates into versatility in the landscape and their amount of bloom and relative ease-of-care translates into their popularity.

**SPECIES** - Often referred to as "wild roses", these usually have a single row of 5 to 12 petals, a spring crop of bloom and a bush size from 2 to 20 feet. Use in landscaping depends upon mature size of the bush. Many form colorful hips at the end of the season.

**OLD GARDEN ROSES** - (Alba, Bourbon, Centifolia, Damask, Gallica, Hybrid Perpetual, Moss, etc.). These preceded modern roses and are often referred to as Antique, Grandma's, Heritage or Heirloom Roses. Diverse in plant habit, flower form and fragrance, many bloom once a season with colorful hips at the end of the season. Some are disease prone; most are reliably tough and easy care. Vigorous types can be trained to a fence or arbor, or can be left to sprawl as a ground cover. They make excellent hedges and are good companions for perennials. It is best to allow them plenty of room to grow naturally. They provide excellent, fragrant cut flowers and bouquets.

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