

The rose reigns even outside the garden

Man has been cultivating the rose, the Queen of Flowers, for almost 2,500 years. Now, thanks to modern breeding techniques, the American gardener can choose from more than 1,000 varieties of this beautiful plant.

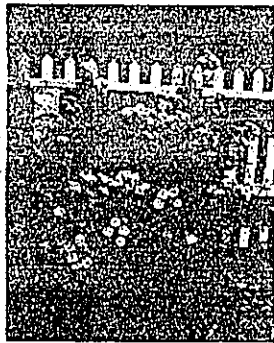
The rose not only grows in vast variety, but is extremely versatile. Many people think of consigning the plant only to a rose garden but, in fact, the plant can perform almost any landscaping job in the garden.

Roses range in height from less than a foot to 20 feet and can be used for edging flower beds or walks. They can form hedges, climb trellises, outline windows or doors and even stand alone in stately splendor.

No other plant produces so many flowers so reliably. Unlike some other perennials, a rose blooms the first year it's planted and comes in a wide variety of flower forms and growth habits.

ROSES ARE fairly easy to grow, but they do have certain requirements. The newly revised Ortho book, "All About Roses," offers the following suggestions for keeping roses healthy:

- Don't plant them in locations where they'll be exposed to constant wind. Wind will damage the blooms and dry the plants.
- Plant roses in well-drained soil that gets about six hours of full sun each day.
- Don't plant roses too near large



Roses come in more varieties than most other flowering plants, and they have just as many uses. A rose plant is versatile enough to perform any landscaping job you desire. Whether it's climbing along a fence, outlining a window or standing alone as a hedge, a rose adds beauty to any home.

trees or shrubs or the plants will compete with each other for water and nutrients.

Once you have picked your locations, you'll want to decide which plants to cul-

tivate. A good reference book will be a big help in making that decision.

Your range of choice is great, but there are a number of factors you should consider when choosing the best type of rose plant for your needs.

First, think about maintenance. All roses need some care, but some need less than others. You'll also want to consider how quickly a rose grows, so you can allow enough space for it in your landscape plan.

CLIMATE IS another factor. Severe winters, extremely humid summers, and other factors can make a big difference to the health of your roses. Try to choose varieties that do well in your climate.

The disease resistance of a given plant is also worth consideration. Certain areas often have their own special disease problems, so you may want to check with the local county agent, or friends and neighbors who grow roses about problems common to your area.

Other aspects of roses you may want to examine are the fragrance, appearance and longevity of the blooms as cut flowers.

Remember, too, that you'll want to weigh not only colors, such as red or pink, but also the variety of shades and intensities within a given color.

One of the simplest ways to incorporate roses into a landscape is to grow them in containers. Containers allow

gardeners to ignore the problems of existing drainage and soil and place the plants virtually anywhere.

Using containers of five gallons or more, a gardener can raise almost any variety of rose. Miniature roses can be grown exclusively indoors using a sunny window or artificial lights.

For versatility, try perennials

If there's one group of survivors in the world of gardens, it's the perennials. They are the most versatile of all plants and can grow in every type of soil — wet or dry, fertile or infertile — in any type of lighting from full sun to shade.

And, as their name suggests, perennials are long-lived as well as adaptable. Some peonies, for example, have outlived their owners.

Many gardeners have taken advantage of that longevity to help them create living works of art. The French impressionist painter Claude Monet spent more than 30 years developing the garden that he immortalized on canvas. "I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers," he said two years before his death in 1926.

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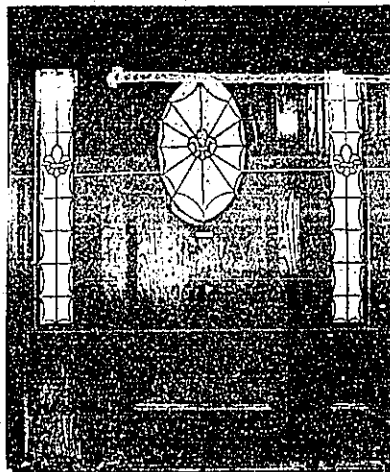
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