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roses

Choose right container to plant in small spaces

People with limited space balconies, terraces or decks who want to grow roses should consider container gardening. Growing roses in planters is not only easy but also gives you the freedom to change the design of a landscape just by moving around the containers.

Many small-space gardeners recommend buying rosebushes that are already growing in containers rather than bare-root plants. Roses in containers have been conditioned to grow in limited spaces.

When buying rose plants, don't feel you have to limit yourself to selecting miniature roses, even climbers and trees, in containers.

Floribundas and hybrid teas do well in pots. Floribundas are an especially good choice since their flowers are abundant and most are disease resistant, hardy and low-growing.

Almost any of the hybrid teas, floribundas or miniatures can be grown as tree roses.

CHOOSING THE right container for your rose plant is an important consideration.

You should select a container that gives the root system as much freedom as possible. It must be at least 18 inches in diameter and 24 inches deep.

If the container is too small, the plant will become root-bound, causing defoliation, no floral production or even death.

Wooden tubs and boxes are your best choice since the moisture can evaporate through the sides and the soil stays cool. Porous clay pots also make good containers.

It's also important that the container provide good drainage. Holes in the bottom of the container are ideal. Bricks and a wooden "X" placed under the pots can also help speed drainage.

WHEN YOU'RE ready to plant your rosebush, cover the drainage holes to keep the soil from washing through. Then fill



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