

The Rose; A Queen Among Flowers And Surprisingly Easy To Grow

Beauty, someone once said, blossoms best when left unattended.

The rose, one of nature's prize beauties, supports this observation.

Although rose fanciers spend many hours cultivating choice roses, most varieties will do well with a minimum of attention. They will bloom beautifully the first year you set them out.

Plant them close to a window, a door, or a patio, where you can appreciate their beauty from early spring until frost. Don't limit yourself to one type. Buy several different ones, to add variety to both your garden and to the dozens of bouquets you'll be able to make from them during the blooming season.

Unless you are familiar with specific roses that you'd like to have, rely on your nurseryman to advise you on the types that are best in your climate and for the purpose you have in mind.

If you are after perfect blooms to pick for indoor use, hybrid tea roses are the best. If your primary interest is in providing color for the garden, floribundas are preferable. Grandifloras, an offspring of the hybrid tea and the floribunda, are also good for garden use.

Roses should be grown in beds by themselves, rather than with other flowers, to ensure good air circulation and to provide access for regular picking and semimonthly dusting against disease.

If you have more room, however,

reserve a larger space for roses, to give you the opportunity to grow several colors and varieties. Since new varieties are introduced each year, you may want to start with three or four plants and add one or two new ones each year.

Vary the color as much as possible, including yellows, red, pinks, whites and the blended or intermediate shades.

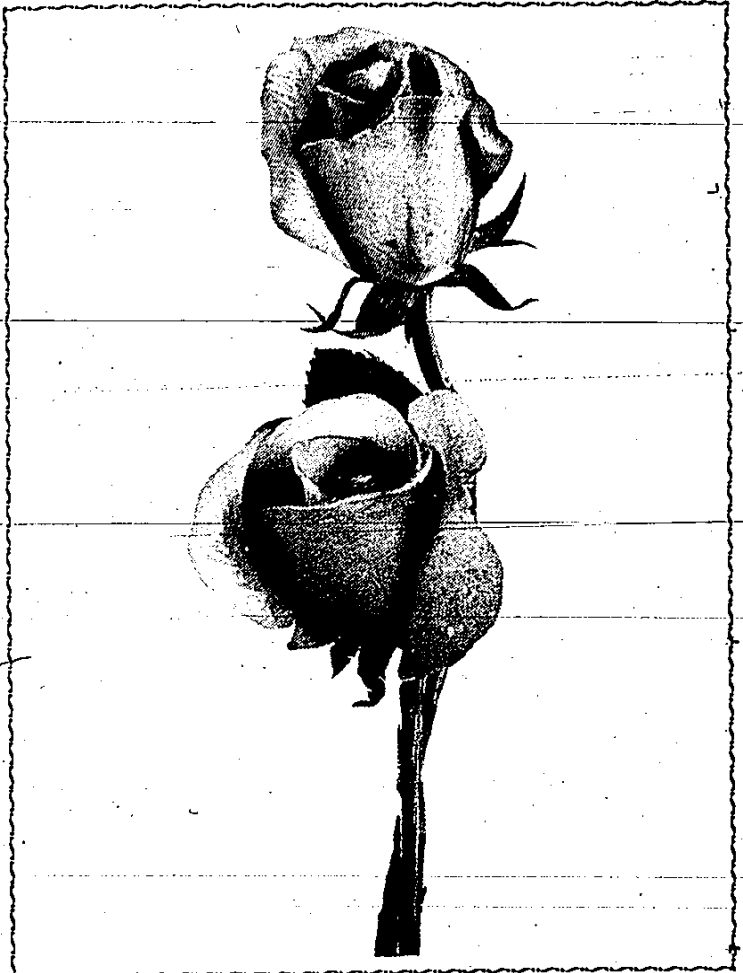
Most reliable new roses are tested for growth in various parts of the nation before being put on the market.

Sunshine is important to roses, but in hot regions they should not be exposed to sunlight constantly. If your lot is windy, locate them in a sheltered location, such as along a fence or a side of the house.

Roses need weekly watering and periodic feeding with packaged plant food, immediately after being pruned during the dormant season and after each flurry of blooms.

The blossoms should be picked frequently to assure continual flowering, preferably before the petals start to fall. When an entire cluster of flowers has finished blooming, cut the entire cluster off as though it were one large bloom.

Finally, buy rose bushes from trustworthy garden centers or mail order nurseries. No matter how much care you give the bushes, they will be only as good as the original plant.



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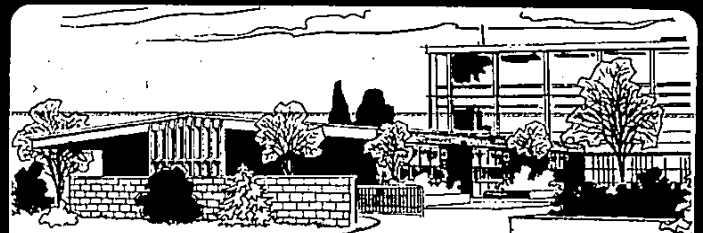
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