

Basics for Growing Good Roses in Our Area

The following tips will help your roses do their best. Please check with any of our Consulting Rosarians (CRs) for more information on these:

1. Have a soil test done by taking a sample to the Fayette County Extension agent. The sample will be sent to UGA for a \$9.00 fee and the report will be back in 7-10 days. The ideal pH for roses is 6.5 but our clay soil is usually acidic so pelletized limestone has to be added. The UGA test report will tell you the pH and levels of major and minor nutrients.
2. At the nursery buy only disease-free bushes with at least 3 thick canes. Avoid bushes packaged in plastic bags at big box stores.
3. Choose a planting site that gets 6-8 hrs of full sun/day, has soil that drains well, and is at least 10 feet away from competing tree roots.
4. Plant the bush by digging a 2 ft x 2 ft hole or building raised beds. Mix 1/3 native soil with 1/3 cow manure, and 1/3 soil conditioner or compost. Discard rocks and twigs. Crumble well. Add any other organics that you want to but NO fertilizer until the bush is well established (about 8 weeks later). Fill the hole about 1/2 way with prepared soil. Gently ease the bush out of its pot and plant with the bud union (graft) even with the top of the hole and canes about 2-3" above the top of the hole. Tamp soil down to form a saucer depression and water well every day for the first 10 days then as usual.
5. Fertilize your bushes regularly by amending your soil with organics such as manure, compost, etc each year. Supplement this with your choice of a monthly chemical fertilizer like granular 10-10-10, a liquid like Fish Emulsion or Miracle Gro, or a 4-month, slow release like Osmocote.
6. Spray with a fungicide every 1-2 weeks. Our CRs can help you design a spray program with chemical or organic products. Locally available products are: *Ortho Rose Pride Disease Control*, *Fertilome Systemic Fungicide*, *Infuse*, or *BioAdvanced Disease Control*.
7. Do NOT spray routinely for insects. This will kill off the beneficial bugs that help control the bad bugs.
8. Prune the bushes after Valentine's Day, removing dead wood, spindly growth, and any growth pointing toward the center of the bush. Reduce the size of the bush by 1/2 to 2/3. Once blooming roses are pruned AFTER they bloom.
9. Deadhead (cut off) spent blooms by cutting just above a leaf with 5 leaflets to stimulate re-blooming throughout the growing season until late October.
10. Water the bushes deeply and often at the roots with 2-3 gallons of water once a week in cool weather and 3 times a week in hot weather. Foliage can occasionally be washed down but must be able to dry by sunset to prevent fungal diseases.
11. Keep a 3" layer of mulch under and around the roses at all times to decrease weeds, retain moisture, and insulate the roots.

The South Metro Rose Society

Affiliated with the American Rose Society



Founded in East Point, Georgia in 1981, SMRS is dedicated to helping people grow and enjoy roses.



Meeting Information



The South Metro Rose Society (SMRS) is a local affiliate of the American Rose Society at www.rose.org.

SMRS meets the fourth Mondays of January-April, and August-October at **Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 870 Redwine Rd. in Fayetteville**. We meet at 6:30 p.m. for a social time. This is a great time to meet and talk with the members, ask questions of our ARS certified Consulting Rosarians, and enjoy refreshments.

The program starts at 7:00 p.m. and features different horticultural experts discussing various aspects of rose growing each month. A short business meeting follows. Annual society events are the May Rose Show, June picnic, and December Christmas party.

Our members range from novice to expert and everyone is welcome to attend meetings at *no charge*.

Call any of these people for assistance:

Master Rosarians:

Sara Coleman: 678-736-0889
Cindy Dale: 770-631-3885
Linda Reed: 770-632-9907
Linda Schuppener: 678-895-3945

Consulting Rosarians:

Steve Bell: 770-722-5395
Cathy LeBar: 678-698-7112
Mia Nichols: 912-996-3481
Betsy van der Hoek: 770-776-7123

**Why not join SMRS for only \$20/year
AND get a FREE four-month trial
ARS membership?**

Benefits of joining include:

1. 10 issues/year of our award-winning news-letter that has a column teaching you what care to give your roses each month and many other educational articles from all around the country.
2. A personal ARS Consulting Rosarian (CR) mentor for your first year of membership as well as continuing access to any of our CRs after that.
3. Monthly programs designed to arm you with the information you need to grow the healthiest, most beautiful roses in the neighborhood AND we have delicious refreshments, too!
4. Fun social events with other rose lovers such as the annual picnic and Christmas party.

Fill out the membership form below and bring it to the next meeting or send it to our Membership VP whose address is on the bottom of the form. For more information call any of our Master or Consulting Rosarians (listed in the first column).

South Metro Rose Society

New Membership/Membership Renewal Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Date of joining or renewal: _____

Make checks payable to: "South Metro Rose Society" Please bring this form to any SMRS meeting or mail to: **Mia Nichols, 115 Martin Ct.**

Fayetteville, GA 30215

Dues: \$20. \$5 discount if paid by Jan 31 each year.

Disease Tolerant Roses for Our Area

1. Apricot Candy - apricot Hybrid Tea
2. Savannah - orange/pink Hybrid Tea
3. Beverly - pink Hybrid Tea
4. My Hero - pink Hybrid Tea
5. Pink Promise - pink Hybrid Tea
6. Gypsy Soul - red hybrid tea
7. Sweet Spirit - red hybrid tea
8. Sunshine Daydream - yellow Grandiflora
9. Mother of Pearl - light pink Grandiflora
10. Super Hero - red Floribunda
11. Dark Desire - burgundy Shrub
12. Sweet Mademoiselle - pink Hybrid Tea
13. Princess Charlene de Monaco - pink HT
14. Carefree Sunshine - yellow Shrub
15. Golden Eyes - red Shrub
16. High Voltage - yellow Shrub
17. Home Run - red Shrub
18. Knock Out: Red, Double Red, Blushing, Pink & Double Pink - Shrubs
19. My Girl - yellow Shrub
20. Starry Night - white Shrub
21. White Dawn - white Climber
22. Pink Pet - pink China
23. Hansa - red Hybrid Rugosa

Please check with our Consulting and Master Rosarians on more roses that do well here. Go to www.helpmefind.com -> roses for rose sources.

We recommend the following nurseries as local and mail order sources for your roses:

1. **Mill Pond Gardens**, 105 Hwy 85S Connector at Starr's Mill, ph: 770-719-1764
2. **Autumn Hill Nsy**, Woodstock, GA www.autumnhillnursery.com, ph: 770-442-3901
3. **Roses Unlimited**, Laurens, SC, www.rosesunlimiteddownroot.com,
4. **K&M Nursery**, Buckatunna, MS www.kandmroses.com, ph: 601-648-2908
5. **Witherspoon Rose Culture**, Durham, NC www.witherspoonrose.com, ph: 800-643-0315
6. **Heirloom Roses**, www.heirloomroses.com
7. **Edmunds Roses**, www.edmundsrose.com