

How to grow good roses in Atlanta

Pick a good rose

Pick a variety from the list if possible or use the American Rose Society [Handbook for Selecting Roses](#). Buy disease-free bushes with at least three fat canes. Avoid bushes packed in plastic bags, especially those with heavily waxed canes.

Buy from a reliable nursery

- Autumn Hill Nursery in Woodstock
- Family Tree Garden Center in Snellville
- Pike Nurseries
- Antique Rose Emporium: antiqueroseemporium.com
- Roses Unlimited: rosesunlimitedsc.com
- K&M Nursery: kandmroses.com
- Cool Roses: coolroses.com
- Witherspoon Rose Culture: witherspoonrose.com
- Edmunds' Roses: edmundsroses.com

Location

Find a good location with full sun 6-8 hours per day, no root competition from neighboring trees and bushes, good air flow, and good drainage.

Test your soil

Test your soil by taking a sample to the UGA Extension Office in your county (extension.uga.edu/county-offices). Based on your results, add amendments to bring your soil to a pH of 6.5. Use pelletized dolomitic lime to raise pH level or sulfur to lower it.

Planting

Dig a hole two feet wide and 1½ feet deep. Mix the soil with an equal amount of cow manure and soil conditioner or compost, plus additional organics as desired, but NO fertilizer. Discard rocks, sticks, and trash, then mix. Refill hole with half of amended soil, then remove rose from pot and position it in hole. Use the rest of soil to refill hole and mound above soil level until soil is even with the bud union (graft). Tamp down and water well. Water daily for first 10 days.

Care

Water deeply on a regular basis. Use two to three gallons of water once weekly during cool weather, three times a week in hot weather.

Feed your roses regularly during the blooming season, March through September. Organics are rose favorites, like compost, manure, alfalfa, or commercial combinations like Mills Magic Rose Mix, Purely Organic, Rose Tone, or Milorganite. Use a chemical fertilizer like 10-10-10 monthly; a liquid fertilizer like fish emulsion or Miracle Gro every two weeks, and/or a slow-release fertilizer like Osmocote 4-, 6-, or 9-month.

Protect your rose against fungal diseases like black-spot. While there are some organic options, chemical fungicides are more effective. Use a soil drench, granules, or spray like BioAdvanced Rose and Flower Care, Bonide Infuse Systemic Disease Control, Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide II, or Ortho Rose-Pride Disease Control.

Do not spray regularly for insects. Insecticides will kill all bugs, both good and bad, and our roses need all the help they can get from beneficial bugs.

Prune your roses each year in late February or early March. Cut dead branches, diseased canes, canes that cross and rub against each other, spindly growth, and growth pointing toward the center of the bush. Reduce the size of the bush by one-half to two-thirds. Prune once-blooming roses after they bloom, in late May.

Deadhead by cutting off spent blooms after petals fade. Cut at an angle just above a leaf with five leaflets. This will stimulate new growth and more blooms. Continue deadheading through early October.

Mulch to subdue weeds, retain soil moisture, and insulate the roots from summer heat and winter cold. Organic mulches like wood chips, pine straw, bark nuggets, and ground leaves also decay and feed the soil. Keep a three inch layer of mulch under and around your bush all year long.

Greater Atlanta Rose Society

EST. 1957



The Greater Atlanta Rose Society was founded in 1957. For more than sixty years we have joined together to grow, learn, enjoy, and share our love of roses with others.

Come join us!

Our website: www.atlantarose.org
Facebook: Greater Atlanta Rose Society
Instagram: @greateratlantarosesociety

Come join us

The Greater Atlanta Rose Society (GARS) is affiliated with the American Rose Society (ARS). We meet at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on the third Tuesday most months.

Come at 7pm for socializing and refreshments; programs begin at 7:30pm. Programs are presented by knowledgeable speakers on different aspects of roses and gardening. We also enjoy pruning demonstrations, a rose show, a picnic, and a holiday party.

Our members range from rose novices to experienced, trained rosarians. Meetings are open to the public at no charge.

Become a member

NAME

ADDRESS + CITY + STATE + ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

GARS MEMBER SINCE (YEAR)

NO. OF ROSE BUSHES IN MY YARD

Select membership level

\$30 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$50+ TO BE A SPONSORING MEMBER

Make check payable to "GARS" and mail to:
Henry Everett, Treasurer, 2690 Gleneagles Drive,
Tucker, GA 30084

I'M A MEMBER OF AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

For the love of roses

Membership is open to anyone interested in growing roses. Annual dues are \$30 per household, with a discount for dues paid before February 1.

Membership benefits include

- Our monthly newsletter which includes information on monthly rose care and other articles
- Personal Consulting Rosarian Mentor during first year of membership
- Meetings with informative speakers and programs
- Opportunities to purchase rose-related products at a substantial discount

Consulting rosarians

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Hybrid Tea & Grandiflora

Beverly – pink blend
Fragrant Cloud – orange-red
Gemini – pink blend
Gold Medal – yellow
Mister Lincoln – deep red
Moonstone – white
Mother of Pearl – light pink
Pope John Paul II – white
Queen Elizabeth – pink
Sunshine Daydream – light yellow
Veterans' Honor – red

Floribunda & Polyantha

Cinco de Mayo – russet
Easy Does It – orange-pink
Grüss an Aachen – lt pink
Sunsprite – yellow
La Marne – pink blend
Our Lady of Guadalupe – pink blend
Perle d'Or – pink/apricot
Iceberg – white

Miniatures & Minifloras

Gourmet Popcorn – white
Green Ice – white
Hot Tamale – orange blend

Shrubs & climbers

Abraham Darby – apricot blend
Ballerina – medium pink
Belinda's Dream – pink
Carefree Beauty – pink
Coral Knock Out/Carefree
Celebration – orange-pink
Don Juan – deep red
Evelyn – apricot blend
Golden Celebration – deep yellow
Heritage – light pink
Knock Out – red
Lady of Shalott – orange blend
Paul Ecke, Jr. – orange blend
Peachy Knock Out/Peachy
Keen Rose – pink blend
Sea Foam – white
Sharifa Asma – light pink
Tahitian Treasure – red

Old garden roses

Duchesse de Brabant – light pink
Marchesa Boccella – light pink
Mutabilis – yellow blend
Pink Pet – pink
Rève d'Or – yellow
Souvenir de la Malmaison – white