



Rosa 'Gertrude Jekyll'



Rosa 'Ingrid Bergman'

# A rose by any other name...

Sunlight, garden space, maintenance requirements, and personal preference all play a role in making the best choice from the thousands of rose varieties available

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**T**here is a lot of terminology around rose varieties, but most fall under the following categories.

**Hybrid teas** – these are known for their large, elegant blooms and strong fragrance. There are thousands of colours and varieties available such as Rosa 'Peace' and Rosa 'Ingrid Bergman' best for growing on their own or in rose beds.

**Floribunda roses** tend to be smaller in height than hybrid teas and offer clusters of flowers, hence the Latin meaning 'many flowering'.

They are particularly hardy, making them ideal plants for your garden. Rosa

'Iceberg' and Rosa 'Trumpeter' are popular choices producing a massed colour effect.

Shrub roses are taller reaching a height of up to 5ft or 6ft. They add colour and powerful scent to borders, growing happily among mixed planting and shrubs. Usually disease-resistant, they include the popular David Austin's English Roses like Rosa 'Gertrude Jekyll' and provide continuous blooms and fragrance throughout the summer.

**Climbing roses** usually have larger flowers that are held in small groups or singly, with most having the ability to repeat flower. Perfect for sunny walls, pergolas, and trellises. Rosa 'Bantry Bay' and Rosa 'Dublin Bay' add colour and height to the garden.

**Rambling roses** tend to carry masses of small to medium sized flowers held in large bunches on long arching stems.

Flowering once a year, usually in early summer, they can withstand competition from trees and shrubs, making them perfect companions to taller plants, extending the flowering season and interest in the garden.

## Planting roses

Choose the right location – a sunny, open site with good air circulation helps prevent fungal diseases.

**Prepare the Soil** – roses prefer rich soil with plenty of organic matter such as well rotted farmyard manure or garden compost. Ensure the manure is at least a year old or it may burn the roots. **Planting** – soak the plant well before planting and make sure the graft union is just below the soil surface. This will reduce suckering and help stabilise the rose. Back fill with soil and firm in.

**Water and mulch** – Water deeply after planting and apply a good layer of mulch/compost to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

**Caring** for roses is not as difficult or labourious as people may think. A few days' work in later winter will be rewarded with a bounty of blooms, fragrance and colour to the envy of your neighbours.

**As the roses flower, remember to deadhead (prune) the old flowers from the plant. This will encourage new flowers to be produced extending the flowering season. Feeding your roses will maintain healthy plants and blossoms, apply well-rotted manure as a mulch in spring and feed a balanced rose feed in early spring and again in June or after the first flush of flowers.**

**Remember roses also make excellent cut flowers, so why not enjoy their splendour and infuse your home with their floral scents**



Rosa 'Bantry Bay' and Rosa 'Dublin Bay' add colour and height to the garden