



To Know a Rose

by Rosie Bonar, UC Master Gardener



Polyantha Rose

There are several types of roses that a gardener can choose for their garden. Polyantha, Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, Grandiflora, Climbing and Miniature Roses are a few modern types. Each of these varieties of roses has its own characteristics and uses. They each bloom at different times of the year, which will influence pruning styles as well as frequency of pruning. Because of this, you will need to identify the type of rose you have before you prune.

Polyantha Rose

Polyantha means “many flowered.” Polyantha Roses bloom so heavily that the foliage seems insignificant. They

have many canes and are usually low-growing. They can be used in a garden where a strong color impact is desired.

Hybrid Tea Rose

Hybrid Teas are the most popular modern rose. They grow taller than Polyantha Roses and have larger blooms, usually on a single stem. The flowers are well-formed with large, high-centered buds. Hybrid Tea Roses make nice cut flowers for a bud vase. The photo to the right shows a Hybrid Tea Rose growing in Visalia’s Tulare County Courthouse Rose Garden.



Hybrid Tea Rose

Floribunda Rose

The Floribunda Rose is a cross between a Polyantha and a Hybrid Tea. The intention in creating this combination of two varieties was to yield roses that bloom heavily like Polyanthas, but have the beauty and color of Hybrid Teas. The Floribunda is smaller and bushier than the Hybrid Tea, but less dense than the Polyantha. Additionally, the Floribunda contains clusters of flowers, rather than one per stem. The photo to the right features “Vintage Visalia”, a Floribunda rose located in Visalia’s Ralph Moore Rose Garden.



Floribunda “Vintage Visalia”

Grandiflora Rose

The Grandiflora Rose is a cross between a Hybrid Tea and a Floribunda. The shrub is often larger, and the flowers are typically found in long-stemmed clusters. They are often so similar to the Hybrid Tea, that they are difficult to distinguish. The photo at the bottom of the second page showcases the “Coretta Scott King” Grandiflora Rose, taken in the Gazebo Gardens in Fresno.

Miniature Rose

Miniatures have been developed from all types of roses. Think of each type as the larger variety's corresponding smaller cousin. For instance, the leaves, distance between nodes, and the blossoms are all smaller in Miniature varieties. Miniatures' plants are twiggy and a little less hardy. They can be used in small places, such as pots and hanging baskets. The photo to the right is of the Ralph Moore Rose Garden, located on the corner of Main and Millcreek in downtown Visalia. This garden showcases over 300 Miniature Roses.



Miniature and "Rena" Climbing Roses

Climbing Rose

Climbing roses are either natural Climbers, or Hybrid Teas trained to climb. Their canes are long and flexible, needing support from a wall or a trellis. The climbing rose, "Rena," is featured in the top right photo, on a trellis in the Ralph Moore Rose Garden.



Knock Out Rainbow Shrub Rose

Shrub Rose

Many of the Shrub Roses available today have been recently developed by breeders, attempting to combine various rose traits such as hardiness, disease resistance, flower shape and scent, continuous bloom, and natural flower drop. This is often done in order to create plants that are useful in the landscape with minimal maintenance. Shrub Roses generally bloom throughout the season without deadheading or pruning. This group of roses is very diverse; some grow very tall while others are compact. They can be upright, mounding or groundcovers, so always read the description or observe a growing plant before you make your purchase.



Grandiflora: "Coretta Scott King"