



# NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

## Types of Roses and their Summer Care (May 18, 2019)

by Anne Skinner, UCCE Master Gardener

We all know and love roses, appreciating their beautiful blooms in such a wide variety of colors. It's easy to recognize that tree roses and miniature roses are different from bush roses. But how many of us know that within the term "bush rose" there are many different types? These are differentiated by their varying sizes, shapes and growth habits. While basic rose care techniques are similar for all types of roses, the care required to keep them looking their very best does vary depending on the particular type of rose.

All rose types benefit from drip irrigation to avoid wetting the leaves and to promote moisture at the root level. A layer of mulch around the base of the plant aids in water retention and keeps the roots cooler on summer days. Avoid having the mulch right against the trunk, as this can promote rot. Instead, keep it back 2-3 inches.

Now let's look at the different types of roses and some of their specialized care.

### **Polyantha roses were first produced in 1873 by crossing wild roses.**

Polyantha roses have clusters of small blooms on bushes up to three feet tall, which can be either compact or rambling. One example is the Cecile Brunner Rose, which is also available as a climbing rose bush. Polyanthas are hardy, disease resistant, low care, and do well in either pots or in the landscape. Many varieties have a lovely fragrance. During the bloom season, this type of rose only requires deadheading, which can be performed with a hedge trimmer to encourage new blooms.

### **Hybrid tea roses are the most commonly recognized rose bush.**

A specific variety with desirable characteristics, such as bloom color or fragrance, is grafted onto a vigorous rootstock of a different rose. Hybrid tea roses produce a single bloom on the end of a rose stem or cane. Examples include Peace, Mr. Lincoln, and Double Delight.

Hybrid tea roses need deadheading (removing the spent blooms) regularly until late Fall. If the dead blooms are left on the plant, it signals the plant to create seed, which is found inside a rose hip at the site of the bloom. This puts a stress on the plant and will reduce future flowers. The spent blooms also are a haven where plant pests can hide from beneficial insects. When deadheading, look for the first stem of five leaves coming off of the cane and facing outward. Cut the cane at a 45-degree angle about ¼ inch above the point where the five leaves are attached. The reason for this detail is the plant will create a new stem from the bud right above the five-leaflet. This will produce a stronger cane to support a new bloom than if the cut was made further away from the plant.

### **Floribunda roses were developed by crossing polyantha roses with hybrid tea rose bushes.**

The name Floribunda is termed from the Latin "floribundus," which means "flowering freely." Floribunda roses produce clusters of blooms all season. The plant is relatively low and bushy -- usually 2-3 feet. Spent blooms can often be brushed off the plant. If the bushes are used as a hedge, a hedge clipper can be used to tidy up the tops and remove spent blooms. Two notable examples of floribunda roses are Sunflare and Iceberg.

### **Miniature roses produce small blooms, usually 1/2 - 2 inches in diameter.**

The height of a miniature rose bush may vary from 6-8 inches to a 3-foot shrub. The term "miniature" always refers to the flowers and leaves, not the size of the plant itself. Since the roots on a smaller plant are closer to the surface, these miniature roses usually need more frequent watering, especially during summer. They flower all season, and deadheading can be done the same as with floribundas -- snipping just below the bloom

**Shrub roses are hardy, disease resistant rose bushes from ground cover to hedge size shrubs.**

Shrub roses encompass a wide variety of roses that don't neatly fit into other categories. These roses tend to be robust and informal in shape. Some varieties bloom only once, and others are repeat bloomers, continuing to bloom throughout the growing season. The shrub rose will look best if deadheaded with a hedge trimmer and lightly pruned occasionally to maintain its shape. Some varieties will shed their dead blooms on their own, or they can easily be brushed off.

**Tree roses are created using a hardy rootstock for the leafless 3-4 foot trunk, with a desired rose grafted at the top.**

The rose blooms are deadheaded depending on the type of grafted rose. Any overly long canes are pruned back lightly to avoid breakage in the wind. Sometimes the trunk may need protection from sunscald with a trunk wrap. A sturdy stake or piece of rebar will be needed for support if the bush becomes too top heavy. Due to their height, tree roses can be easier for the gardener to tend.



**Climbing roses need a sturdy frame and are trained by attaching canes to the frame with plastic ties or coated wire.**

Most climbing roses develop blooms best on their horizontal canes. They should have faded blooms, weak canes, or dead canes removed. They benefit from deep and regular watering and a minimum of six hours of full sun daily. Some varieties bloom repeatedly, and others just once a season.

### **Summer Care**

Sometimes it's hard to get out in the garden during the hot summer months, but your roses will benefit from a few touchups here and there.

**Roses grafted onto the root stock of another rose need sucker growth removed.**

Suckers are growth from the root stock below the graft union at the base of the plant. The root stock is chosen because it is a vigorous, fast growing plant, and if given an opportunity, it will steal the water and nutrients meant for the grafted rose bush you desired and purchased. If left unchecked, the root stock can overtake the entire rose bush. These suckers are usually easily identified by the slightly different cane color and the larger cane size. Suckers are best removed by digging down at the base of the plant and breaking off the sucker. If you are not sure if the cane is a sucker or the desired rose bush, look at the leaves on the plant above the graft union. Usually the sucker leaves will be different. Also, the suckers always come from below the graft union, which looks like a knob of growth right below the rose bush before the stem enters the soil.

**Spend some time out in the garden in the morning or early evening.**

Checking up on your roses daily during the summer heat is good for both the rose and the gardener. Roses blooming in the garden are a lovely summer treat. Do check the rose bushes for water stress, pests and disease so you can catch problems early and provide a remedy. A magnifying glass may be needed to identify the pest culprit. The Master Gardener web site has a section on roses, integrated pest management resources and an archive of newspaper articles.

During the hot summer months, it's easy to get into a rut of staying inside in the air conditioning but getting out in the early morning before the afternoon heat is a lovely way to experience a little fresh air. Listen to the birds chatter, pick a lovely rose to put in a bud vase, and enjoy nature in your own backyard for just a few minutes!



For more information, you can download "Types of Modern Roses & Pruning Tips" at:  
[https://ucanr.edu/sites/UC\\_Master\\_Gardeners/files/23466.pdf](https://ucanr.edu/sites/UC_Master_Gardeners/files/23466.pdf)

**The UCCE Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions at the following venues in May:**

**Wednesday May 15**, 8:30 - 10:00 am - Tulare County Courthouse or the Ralph Moore Memorial Garden.

Master Gardeners maintain those two rose gardens on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month and are available for questions.

**Saturday, May 23**, 8:00 to 11:30 am - Porterville Farmer's Market at Sierra View Hospital

**Saturday, May 25**, 8:00 am to Noon, Woodlake Botanical Garden Berry Tasting

You can also find us every Saturday from 8-11 am at the **Farmer's Market** in the Visalia Sear's parking lot on Mooney.

*For answers to all your home gardening questions, call the Master Gardeners in Tulare County at (559) 684-3325, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:30 and 11:30 am; or Kings County at (559) 852-2736, Thursday Only, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; or visit our website to search past articles, find links to UC gardening information, or to email us with your questions: [http://ucanr.edu/sites/UC\\_Master\\_Gardeners/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/UC_Master_Gardeners/)*

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