

# *Choosing the Right Rose*

WITH THE WIDE ARRAY OF ROSE VARIETIES available, selecting the right rose to plant can seem like a daunting task. First, think about why you want you incorporate roses into your landscaping. Do you want a plant that will climb up the side of a fence or perhaps a brick wall? Are you looking to rose bushes as a hedge or border for your yard? Here are a few tips to consider when choosing the perfect rose.

Different species of roses will flower at different times. For example, ramblers will produce great showy blooms, but only once per growing season. Climbers, however, will typically flower multiple times during the season.

Maintenance is another factor in selecting your roses. Some varieties, such as modern roses, although beautiful, require high levels of attention, and will only grow with time and dedication. However, these plants are prone to diseases and are relatively fragile. Old garden roses and landscape roses are great options for those who may not be able to afford much maintenance time. While not as showy as modern roses, these plants have long blooming times and are easier to grow.

If you are looking for a more traditional rose bush, some of the most rose groups to choose from are large-flowered hybrid teas, cluster-flowered floribundas, and shrub and species roses. Keep in mind, each of these groups have different pruning and maintenance needs.

For those with limited space, growing roses in pots is one option. Growing roses in containers does require some attention, as the plants will be completely dependant on the potted soil for nutrients and fertilizer. While miniature roses are one option, hybrid tea roses and hybrid old garden roses also do well in pots.

Practical concerns aside, choosing the color, shape, and scent of your roses is dependant on personal preference. Whenever possible, visit a rose garden or nursery to see the rose bush in bloom before you purchase your plant.

